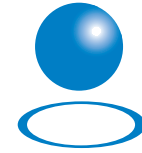
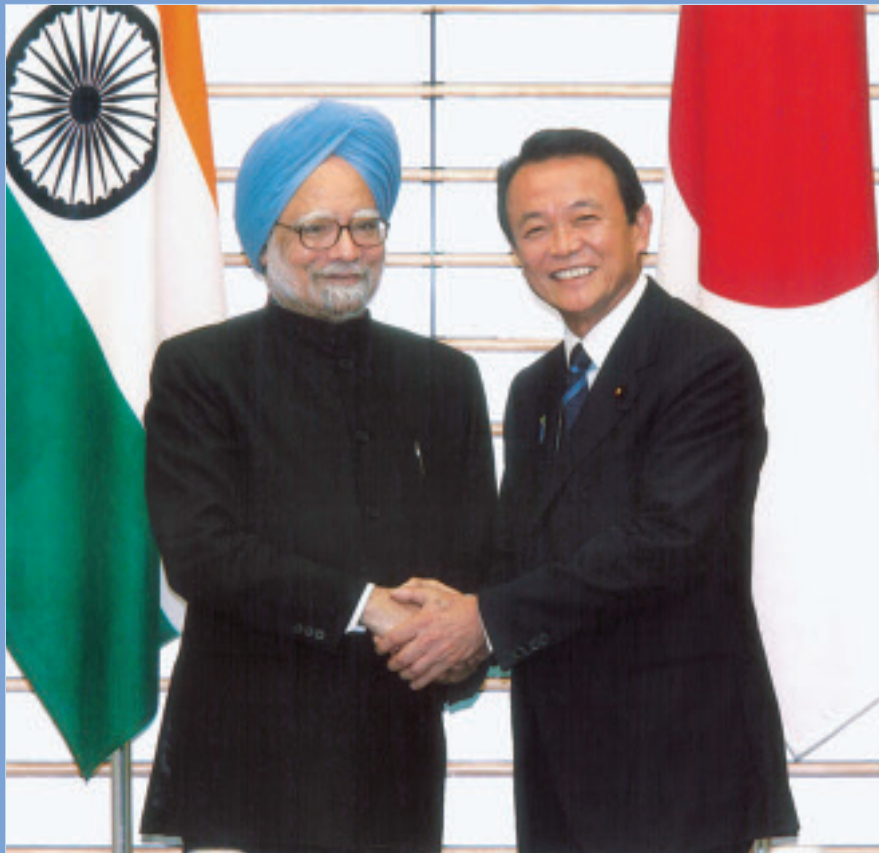


JAPAN

CALLING



January 2009



Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, with his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Taro Aso, during the Japan-India Annual Summit in Tokyo, Japan, on October 22, 2008

Photo Courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan

CONTENTS

• Prime Minister Singh visits Japan for Annual Summit	P. 2
• Children's Painting Exhibition	P. 3
• Japan Cultural Month 2008 ends successfully	P. 4
• Second Year of the JENESYS Programme kick-starts in India	P. 7
• Japanese Honour for Renowned Ikebana Instructor, Mrs. Veena Dass	P. 8
• A JET Participant's Experience	P. 9
• "Himalaya Ki Godh Mein": Japan-India Poetry Recital	P. 10
• 'Japan Festival' in Ahmedabad	P. 11
• Some Upcoming Events	P. 12

PRIME MINISTER SINGH VISITS JAPAN FOR ANNUAL SUMMIT

Relations between Japan and India have seen steady growth over the last few years in various fields. This is evident through the bilateral exchange visits of top political leaders and government officials of both countries at regular intervals.

Taking this process forward, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, together with his wife, Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, paid an Official Working Visit to Japan from 21 to 23 October, 2008. This was Dr. Singh's second visit to Japan during the year, following the one in July when he attended the G-8 Summit at Toyako lake in Hokkaido.

During their stay in Japan, Prime Minister Singh and Mrs. Kaur were received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

Mr. Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan, met Dr. Singh in Tokyo on 22 October 2008 for the Japan-India Annual Summit. During the meeting, they shared the view that Japan and India, as major countries in Asia that share common values and interests, must advance bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation in regional and multilateral areas with the objective of promoting peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world. They reaffirmed the importance of the Strategic and Global Partnership established in 2006 for this purpose and for harnessing the full potential of Japan-India relations.

In the **Joint Statement on the Advancement of the Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India** at the end of the meeting, the two Prime Ministers pledged to continue their bilateral cooperation in fields such as security, defence, environment, trade and investment, etc. The two Prime Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to the realization of the Western corridor of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project, as well as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project (DMIC) as the new flagships of Japan-India cooperation.

In addition, the two Prime Ministers emphasized the importance of exchanges at the cultural, academic, youth and people-to-people levels.



Chairman & Managing Director of Reliance Industries Ltd., Mr. Mukesh Ambani, and Chairman, Nippon Keidanren, Mr. Fujio Mitarai, presented the 2nd India-Japan Business Leaders Forum joint report to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Mr. Taro Aso in Tokyo

Photo Courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Mr. Taro Aso addressing a joint press conference in Tokyo

Photo Courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan

The two Prime Ministers confirmed their commitment to collaborate in the establishment of a new IIT in Hyderabad that will become a symbol of joint efforts in promoting educational excellence in India, through various contributions from Japan. They also acknowledged the need to make all efforts to take forward the collaboration for the development of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing at Jabalpur.

The two Prime Ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, reaffirmed that terrorism constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security, and welcomed efforts undertaken by both countries to combat this menace.

They also shared the view that the present world economy is facing uncertainty, including financial difficulties, and that it is important for the two countries to continue discussion for the stability and growth in the region and the world.

A **Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India** was separately signed between the two Prime Ministers on 22 October 2008, based on which Japan and India will develop an action plan with specific measures to advance their security cooperation.

The Prime Minister of India conveyed his sincere appreciation for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation by the Government of Japan. He invited the Prime Minister of Japan to visit New Delhi in 2009 for their next Annual Bilateral Summit, at mutually convenient dates to be decided through diplomatic channels.

CHILDREN'S PAINTING EXHIBITION

The “Ship for World Youth Alumni Association”, or SWYAA-India in short, recently organized a painting exhibition titled “**Children’s Impression of Mumbai Terror**”, which was sponsored by the India International Center, New Delhi, and held in its premises from 14th to 20th January 2009.

The opening ceremony for the exhibition was held on 13th January at the IIC Gallery where these paintings were on display. Among the Japanese and Indian guests present at the event were Mr. Arjun Asrani, former Ambassador of India to Japan, Mr. Pankaj Agrawala, President, SWYAA India, and Mr. Masashi Mizukami, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in India.

The paintings displayed in the exhibition were the outcome of a painting workshop organized by SWYAA-India and DISHA, a non-profit organization, in the Municipal Corporation primary schools in West Delhi, held in November and December 2008, in which 64 children participated and gave expression to their feelings about the recent unfortunate terror attacks in Mumbai. It was indeed remarkable for the children to have chosen the creative outlet of painting to express their anguish, and their hopes and aspirations for peace and tranquility in the world.



A creation by Pooja, Class-V, Municipal Corporation Primary School, DMS Colony, New Delhi

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mizukami said that, “All of us should take a lesson by looking at these paintings about the futility of terror and its destructive powers. On the other hand, we should focus on efforts to evolve ways to find peaceful solutions to all our problems and strive for a stress-free and happy society.”

Besides this event, SWYAA-India has collaborated with Japan Foundation New Delhi, for holding another exhibition of these paintings from 23rd to 28th of February 2009, in the gallery of the Japan Foundation.



A painting by Krishna, Class-IV, Municipal Corporation Primary School, Nangal Raya-I, New Delhi



Mr. Masashi Mizukami, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, addressing the audience at the exhibition.

JAPAN CULTURAL MONTH 2008 ENDS SUCCESSFULLY

As in the previous years, a Japan Cultural Month was held in the last quarter of 2008, with a variety of events being lined up, such as, Japanese Film Festivals, Exhibitions of Buddhist Treasures at National Museum, Japan Quiz Contest, Ikebana exhibition, Photo exhibition of World Heritages in Japan, etc., from October 17 to December 18, 2008. The cultural month was a resounding success, with many visitors attending the events to enhance their knowledge about Japanese art and culture.

Given here are a few glimpses of the major highlights of the Japan Cultural Month 2008:

FUKUOKA FAIR IN DELHI

The **Fukuoka Fair in Delhi** was held at The Oberoi Hotel on 18th October, in which the Fukuoka Prefecture of Japan presented the industry, tourism, education and traditional products of Fukuoka. There was also a performance by the Kokura Gion Daiko Festival Drum Group. The Drum Group also performed at the Japanese Ambassador's residence on 17th October in commemoration of the opening of the Japan Cultural Month and Fukuoka Fair in Delhi.



Kiyomizudera in spring
© Bon Colour Photo

JAPAN EDUCATION FAIR

MOSAI (Monbusho Scholars Association of India) and JASSO (Japan Student Services Organization) conducted a Japan Educational Fair on 30th October in New Delhi (Daulat Ram College, Delhi University), and on 1st November in Pune



Himeji Castle

© Kodansha

(Garware College, Karve Road), to disseminate information on opportunities for higher studies in Japan, focusing on the courses available, scholarship schemes of Japanese government and other agencies, for Indian students. Representatives of prominent Japanese Universities (9 universities and 1 Japanese Language Institute in Delhi, and 13 universities and 1 Japanese Language Institute in Pune) put up booths to answer the queries of the students.



Seigantoji Temple & Nachi waterfalls

PHOTO EXHIBITION OF THE WORLD HERITAGES IN JAPAN

An exhibition displaying the photographs of the World Heritages of Japan, captured by ace photographer, Kazuyoshi Miyoshi, was held at the Japan Foundation Gallery, New Delhi, from November 3 to 15, 2008. In 1993, the Shirakami-Sanchi Mountain Range, Yakushima Island, Himeji-jo Castle, and the Buddhist monuments of the Horyu-ji Temple Areas were registered as Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage sites. In the years since, Genbaku Dome in Hiroshima, Itsukushima-jinja Shrine, the historic monuments of Ancient Nara and Kyoto, the "Gassho-zukuri" villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama, the Shrines Temples of Nikko, and the Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu have been added to the list.

HIMALAYA KIGODHMEIN (In the lap of the Himalayas)

The Indian Council for Japanese Culture (ICJC) conducted a poetry recital session on Mt. Fuji and the Mt. Everest by Japanese and Indian poets on November 3, at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The event tried to identify the similarities in the poetry on these famous peaks and deepen the understanding of the people of both the countries.

Two books by Dr. Raj K. Buddhiraja, President of ICJC, namely, **Japan aur Bharat ke Lorigeet** (Lullabies of Japan and India), and **Japan ki Chuninda Kahaniyan** (Selected stories of Japan) were also released on the occasion.

THE ZENKO-JI SHONIN IN INDIA: THE EXHIBITION OF BUDDHIST TREASURES FROM JAPAN

Zenkō-ji is one of the oldest Buddhist temples, located in Nagano, Chūbu region of Honshū, Japan, which was built in the 7th century. The principal statue of the temple, Amitabha Buddha, is believed to be made in India and brought to Japan

in the year 552 AD during the introduction of Buddhism. The “Zenko-ji Shonin Exhibition” held from November 11 to 30, 2008, at the National Museum, New Delhi, was the first exhibition in India of treasures from a Japanese temple. The exhibits included the Amitabha Buddha statues, embroidered Kimono, Priests’ robes, Mandala, Japanese traditional screen, calligraphy, etc. A delegation of the Zenko-ji Temple led by its Chief Priest was also present at the Inauguration of the Exhibition.



Zenko-ji Temple in Nagano City

5th JAPAN QUIZ CONTEST

The inter-school quiz contest on Japan organized by the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi is becoming popular with every passing year. Teams from about 150 schools from not only the NCR of Delhi but also far away places like Dehradun, Mussoorie, Jaipur, Sikar, Moradabad, etc. participated in a written test about landmarks in the history, geographical features, prominent personalities of art, culture and sports, heritage monuments, and contemporary Japan, and the top teams with highest scores competed in the Finals held at the Kamani Auditorium on November 7.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST

The 21st Northern Region Japanese Language Speech Contest was conducted on November 8 at Carmel School, Anand Niketan, New Delhi, by the Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI). The contest was held at two levels, i.e., Seniors and Juniors, in which students from Japanese language institutions in Delhi and other cities in the region participated. The winners of this contest will now meet the winners of the Southern, Eastern and Western Region Contests at an All India Japanese Language Speech Contest to be held in March 2009.

BONSAI EXHIBITION/DEMONSTRATION (Nature in Miniature)

Members of the Indian Bonsai Association presented an exhibition and demonstration of Bonsai and its techniques at the Bonsai Park in Lodi Garden, New Delhi, on November 15 and 16.



Some Bonsai exhibits © Nippon Bonsai Association

IKEBANA WORKSHOPS/DEMONSTRATIONS/EXHIBITIONS

Several events on Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement, were held, as follows:

- **Ikebana Workshop (Arranging Leaves) by Mrs. Veena Dass** on November 12 at the Japan Foundation



Mrs. Veena Dass at Japan Foundation

- **Ikebana Exhibition (Vasudaiva Kutumbkam) by the Ohara School of Ikebana’s Delhi Chapter** on Nov 14 and 15 at Godrej Auditorium, WWF India, New Delhi
- **Ikebana Demonstration by Mrs. Jobst-Omata (Yuriko)** on November 21 at the Japan Foundation
- **Ikebana Exhibition (Line and Colour) by the Sogetsu School, New Delhi branch,** on December 18 at the Japan Foundation



Ikebana arrangement

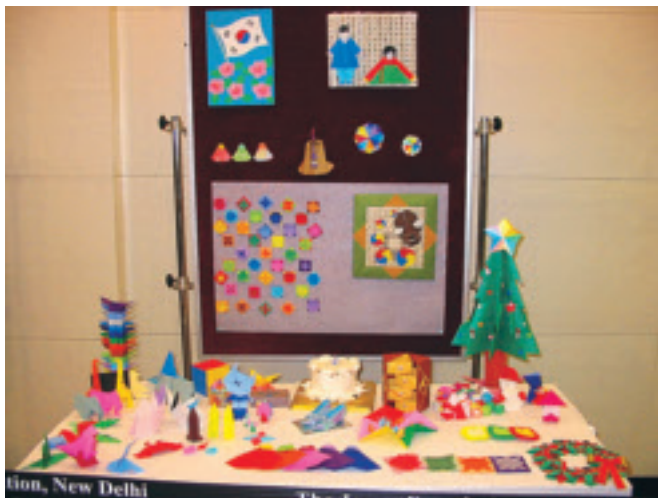


Ikebana arrangement

ORIGAMI CONTEST/EXHIBITION

Origami, the art of paper folding, is a traditional craft in Japan which has been practiced for centuries and has become increasingly popular throughout the world as a hobby for millions of people.

- An **Origami Contest** was held on November 14 at the Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, in cooperation with the Japan Information Centre, in which school students and teachers competed imaginatively and creatively to display their skills in folding paper.



Exquisite Origami works on display at the Japan Foundation

- An **Origami Exhibition** was held from November 19-25 at the Japan Foundation, where origami masterpieces created by members of the Delhi Origami Club were displayed.



School children and teachers participating in the Origami contest held on Nov. 14 at Tagore International School

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVALS

- The Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation, in collaboration with the Chandigarh Film Society, held a Japanese film Festival, in which classical films by Akira Kurosawa, Keisuke Kinoshita, animation films, and a new film were screened from November 15 to 21 at the Government Polytechnic for Women, Chandigarh.



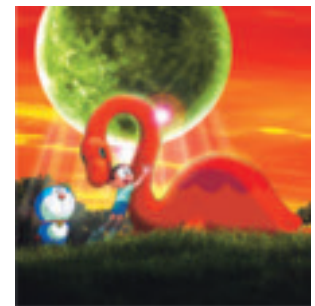
Always-Sunset on Third Street

- The Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation, in collaboration with the National Integrated Forum of Artists and Activists (NIFAA), also held a Japanese Film Festival at Karnal, during which Akira Kurosawa's classic 'Rashomon' and animation film 'Tombstone of Fireflies' (Dir: Isao Takahata) were screened on Nov.16 at the NDRI Auditorium, and on Nov.17 at the St. Theresa's Convent School.



The Giri Who Leapt Through Time

- The Japan Foundation held a **Documentary Film Festival**, "Exploring Japan" in its premises on Nov.7, 14, 19 and 26, in which films produced by NHK International, introducing Japanese culture, society and advanced technological innovations were screened.



Doraemon

INDO-JAPAN MEET ON ISHIKAWA TAKUBOKU

Scholars, poets and literary critics from Japan and India discussed various aspects of Takuboku's poetic aestheticism in comparative perspective over two days (Nov.28-29) at the Japan Foundation, New Delhi, and explored possibilities of translating Takuboku's Tanka in different Indian languages. The conference also included cultural performances and poetry recitation based on Takuboku's Tanka and Indian poetry. The meet was organized by Akogare no Kai and Indo-Japan Association for Literature & Culture.

SECOND YEAR OF THE JENESYS PROGRAMME KICK-STARTS IN INDIA

The Government of Japan launched the **Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme** in 2007 with a view to expanding youth exchange and to deepen mutual understanding among young people who will assume important roles in the next generation in each East Asian country. Under the JENESYS Programme, these youth are invited to Japan for a stay of approximately 10 days, during which they have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Japanese politics, diplomacy, economy, social and cultural affairs, as well as local communities. The activities during their stay in Japan include field visits to research institutes, museums, etc., as well as having cultural experiences such as home stay with Japanese families and visits to traditional cities and historical sites in Japan.

After a very successful first year during which around 550 Indian youths visited Japan, the second year of the JENESYS Programme was kick-started with the first batch of the year 2008-09 leaving for Japan on 8th December 2008. On its arrival in Japan, the batch consisting of 72 students, 7 teachers and 1 representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, was further sub-divided into 4 groups of 20 persons each, which headed for Nagano, Osaka, Okayama and Kumamoto respectively.

Upon their return from Japan on 18th December 2008 after an enjoyable trip, this is what some of the youth participants had to say about their experience:

Nagano Group

I loved the stay in Japan – Tokyo and Nagano. I will miss this very much when I go back to my country. This programme gave me a chance to learn about Japan and its tradition and the lifestyle of the people. It also enabled me to make friends – both Indian and Japanese. This has broadened my horizon and I am sure I will never forget this. Thank you JICE !!! The home-stay experience and exchange programmes were the best. I also loved the visits to the Japanese temples and historical sites and sports World Cup.



Mr. Kojiro Uchiyana, Director, Japan Information Centre, interacting with the JENESYS participants.

Osaka / Kyoto Group

Absolute fun, as well as a great learning experience! Was left awestruck at the level of development, standard of living and the scenic beauty at heritage sites. Home-stay experience was wonderful, and I think I can do a lot more than I thought I was capable of (independence, survival, leadership, etc.). Programme was very well-organized and we learnt so much in a fun package. Learnt about all aspects of Japan; the best experience ever. Don't want it to end and want to do it again.

Okayama Group

I consider myself lucky because I had a chance to exchange with Japanese people during the programme. I knew and learnt the advanced technology of Japan. Before this programme I had only heard about this. Before this programme, I only thought that



Japanese and Indian dignitaries with members of the Kyoto group at the send-off ceremony on 8 Dec. 2008

our country is the best and the culture is rich. But when I attended this programme, I knew that we should learn many things from Japan, such as punctuality, devotion to work, and equality. Japanese people are very active, advanced and appreciative. I want to come again to Japan and want to learn about its technology. I want to learn many more things from Japan.

Kumamoto Group

Participating in a programme like JENESYS is always like a dream came true and when the programme is conducted in such a nice way, it serves as the icing on the cake. Everything in this programme was perfect – be it the schedule, the JICE coordinators or the hospitality. Interaction with the people was most interesting as I found the people very polite, gentle and friendly. Lecture about Japan broadened our view about Japanese culture, education system and technology. Visiting the cultural heritages was great fun. Surrounded by greenery and serenity, the buildings stood well preserved and were awe-striking. Learning various handicrafts helped me improve my craftsmanship as I love doing crafts as many others.

JAPANESE HONOUR FOR RENOWNED IKEBANA INSTRUCTOR, MRS. VEENA DASS

Mrs. Veena Dass, renowned expert of Ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arrangement, was honoured with **The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays**, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Japan-India relations, by the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Akihito. The decoration was formally conferred upon Mrs. Dass in a presentation ceremony held on 4th December 2008, at the Residence of the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi.

The ceremony, which took place in the presence of a select gathering, commenced with the playing of the National Anthems of Japan and India, followed by the narration of a congratulatory message from H.E. Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, addressed to Mrs. Dass. Thereafter, Ambassador Domichi read out the Patent of Decoration and presented Mrs. Dass with ‘The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays’.

Mrs. Veena Dass, in her acceptance speech during the reception in her honour, expressed her deep gratitude to the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Government, and men-



H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, presenting "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" to renowned Ikebana Instructor, Mrs. Veena Dass

tioned that Ikebana was not just a hobby but an integral part of her life.

Mrs. Dass' tryst with Ikebana began during her stay in Japan in 1960. After studying at the Ikenobo and Ohara Schools of Ikebana in Japan, she became one of the founding members of Ikebana International - Delhi Chapter in 1965, and also the

Sogetsu School of Ikebana - Delhi Chapter in 1966. She has been the President of the Ikebana International (1990-1992) and the Director of Sogetsu School of Ikebana (1970-present). Besides demonstrating Ikebana for numerous exhibitions in and out of the country for decades, Mrs. Dass has also conducted a series of Ikebana lessons on Doordarshan Television, which immensely contributed to the popularity of Ikebana in India. Her Ikebana has been highly appreciated by not just Indians but also many Japanese dignitaries, and she has been awarded by two different prominent schools of Ikebana, Sogetsu and Ikenobo, which is an extremely rare distinction even for the Japanese.



Mr. and Mrs. Dass with Ambassador and Mrs. Domichi after the presentation ceremony.

A JET PARTICIPANT'S EXPERIENCE

The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme is one of the largest international exchange programmes which aims to enhance foreign language education in Japan, and to promote international exchange at the local level through fostering ties between Japanese youth and foreign youth. The Japanese Teaching and Exchange (JET) Programme was designed to help internationalize the youth of Japan while facilitating the country's English education program. Today, with over 5,000

participants from over 20 countries, the JET Programme has become the largest initiative of its kind. A JET participant stays in Japan either as an Assistant Language Teacher of elementary and high schools, a Coordinator for International Relations of the local government, or as Sports Exchange Advisor.

Ms Sheena Bhalla, who worked as an assistant English teacher in Oita prefecture from 2006 to 2008, shares her two years' experience as a JET participant with us.

CHANGE

(By Sheena Bhalla)

Change, a simple word that is so central to our existence and a catalyst for growth. When I get too comfortable, I knock on the doors of this beloved friend and await the new adventures to unfold.

Going for classes, acting, doing voice-overs and meeting friends to hang out was enough to keep me busy and make three years of university pass by in a blink of an eye. Before I knew, it was time to step out into the real world and start a new chapter in my life. Twenty-one years spent in the same city taunted me to look for a new platform, a new place and a new adventure to explore. That's when a friend of mine told me about the JET Programme. I was not only thrilled about the idea of living in new country, speaking a new language, but also having the opportunity to interact with the locals and teach students from a whole new culture and environment. After being selected, the initial excitement was over-whelming and kept me so involved that I didn't realize what I had taken up till the time I actually reached Nakatsu, a small town in the southern prefecture of Oita.

I had forgotten simple 'FACTS' like I didn't speak the language, I knew nothing about Japan except for Akira Kurosawa, Geishas and animation; and I will no longer have simple comforts like transportation, city life and home-cooked food, that I had taken for granted all my life. I knew the job would be challenging, but nothing had prepared me for what was to unfurl in the months to follow. Two years from my first day as a JET teacher, I can not only speak fluent Japanese but have fallen in love with the country, its culture and, most of all, its people. Two years as a JET were the most challenging, the most exciting and the most learning years of my life up till now. Learning to interact without sharing the same language or culture helped me to understand 'communication' and 'internationalization' in the true sense. Everyday was a challenge and a learning process. Everyday brought new adventures and new stories to pen down in my Japan memoirs. The JET community in Oita not only gave me new friends in Japan, but long-lasting friends from all over the world, who had come to Japan with the JET Programme. I lived and shared a life that was truly 'international' because of all the other JET teachers from all spheres of life, and all parts of the world.



My school and my town became my home away from home, a communal family, where everyone knew my name and greeted me at every given opportunity. The staff at the school or my 60-year-old neighbor, everyone went out of their way to not only take care of me but also make sure that I never felt homesick. The love and compassion I received from everyone around me lead me to extend my contract to a second year.

The JET Programme not only broadened my horizon but gave me the opportunity to realize a new 'Me', strengthen my abilities, discipline my caliber and discover a new world, transcending the barriers of race, language, cultures and borders.

This 'Change' that started as an adventure, inspired by curiosity has now developed into a new passion to strengthen the link between Japan and India through art, and the credit goes to the JET Programme that exposed me to the 'real' Japan and its people in a town with a little over 60,000 people.

“HIMALAYA KI GODH MEIN: JAPAN-INDIA POETRY RECITAL”

One of the main events of the ‘Japan Cultural Month’ celebrated in November 2008 was a Japan-India Poetry Recital session presenting the Japanese and India cultures in poetic forms that would not only help in rediscovering the age old cultural ties between India and Japan, but also strengthen them. The Japan-India Poetry Recital session titled “**Himalaya Ki Godh Mein**” was organized by the **Indian Council for Japanese Culture** on **3rd November, 2008, at the India International Centre**. The highlight of the occasion was the recital of poems on Mt. Fuji and Mt. Everest. Revered for centuries for their beauty and symmetry, these legendary mountains have inspired countless works of art and literature.

A large number of Japanese and Indian poets, scholars and translators were present on the occasion. These included Mr. A. Asrani, Former Indian Ambassador to Japan, Prof. Lokesh Chandra, and many others. Among them, T. Hoshina, Yoshio Takakura and Raj Buddhiraja recited poems on the sacred Mt. Fuji and Mt. Everest. Some poets also recited poems written during the eighth and twelfth



Dr. Raj Buddhiraja reciting a poem at the event

century on Mt. Fuji, followed by verses from Kalidas’s “Kumarsambhava”. Translations of renowned literary works of Hindi poets such as Dr. Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Jai Shankar Prasad, etc., were also presented on this occasion. Another highlight of the session was the recitation of Tankas by Mr. Takehiro Shimada, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan.

Further, in order to strengthen and deepen the cultural relations between Japan and India, three books by Dr. Raj K. Buddhiraja, President of Indian Council for Japanese Culture (ICJC), namely, ‘Japan aur Bharat Ke Lorigeet’ (Lullabies of Japan and India), ‘Japan Ki Chuninda Kahaniyan’ (Selected stories of Japan) and ‘Japan’ were also released on the occasion.

(Contributed by Dr. Raj K Buddhiraja)



Mr. Takehiro Shimada, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan, reciting 'Tankas' during the Japan-India Poetry Recital Session

‘JAPAN FESTIVAL’ IN AHMEDABAD

As a special initiative to further promote the friendly cultural ties between Japan and India, the Consulate General of Japan, Mumbai, in collaboration with the Indo-Japan Friendship Association, Gujarat, organised the ‘Japan Festival’ in Ahmedabad, from 10th January to 13th January 2009, at the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA). During the four day festival, events such as the ‘Exhibition of Japanese Kites & Tops’, ‘Photo Classics on Fall Colours in Japan’, and screening of ‘International Award Winning Japanese Films’ were held.

His Excellency Pandit Naval Kishore Sharma, Governor of Gujarat, inaugurated the ‘Japan Festival’. The Japan Festival took place at an opportune time as it coincided with the International Kite Flying Festival as well as the State’s most popular kite festival which is celebrated as ‘Makar Sankranti’ every year on 14th January.

The Exhibition showcased around 70 traditional Japanese kites and hand-painted tops. Around 40 Scintillating Photo Classics on Fall Colours of a Japanese Autumn, shot through the Lens Eye of Mukesh Patel, added further charm to the



His Excellency Pandit Naval Kishore Sharma, Governor of Gujarat, watching with interest the Japanese tops being shown by Mr. Mukesh Patel, President, Indo-Japan Friendship Association, Gujarat, as Mr. Hirotsugu Hagiuda, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, looks on.

festival. Seven International Award Winning Japanese Films - ‘Waterboys’, ‘The Face of Jizo’, ‘Hinokio’, ‘The Hidden Blade’, ‘Sumo Do Sumo Don’t’, ‘Sanjuro’, and ‘After the Rain’ were screened as part of this festival.

Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, along with 22 delegation members who were in Ahmedabad for the ‘Vibrant Gujarat Business Summit’, visited the Exhibition on the concluding day 13th January, 2009.

The ‘Kites and Tops Exhibition’ and the ‘Photo Exhibition’ was attended by 5,000 art lovers, and 2,200 film lovers watched the screening of the Japanese Films. The entire ‘Japan Festival’ received an overwhelming response from the people of Gujarat.

Mr. Hirotsugu Hagiuda, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, attended the inauguration of ‘The Centre for Japanese Studies’ established by the IJFA. The centre is set up in cooperation with Ahmedabad Management Association, with the purpose of promoting and learning of Japanese language and culture, and research on various aspects related to Japan.



Cheerful faces at the Exhibition of Japanese Kites rejoicing success of Japan Festival in Ahmedabad. (from left to right Mr. Ashutosh Raval, Secretary, Indo-Japan friendship Association, Ms. Tomo Kawane, IJFA Member, Mr. Mukesh Patel, President, IJFA, Mr. Hirotsugu Hagiuda, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, Mr. S. Iizuka, Managing Director, Hitachi Home & Life Solutions (India) Ltd., Ms. Malti Mehta, Director, University of Gujarat, and Mr. Teiichi Torikai, Consul of Japan in Mumbai.



Yokoso means welcome
www.visitjapan.jp

For more information, please see the website of
Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO) :
www.jnto.go.jp



SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1) Exhibition of children's paintings titled "**Children's Impression of Mumbai Terror**", organized by SWYAA-India, from 23rd to 28th February 2009, at Japan Foundation Gallery, New Delhi.
- 2) A **Wadaiko** (Japanese Drums) performance, organized by Japan Foundation New Delhi, on 13th March 2009, at LTG Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi, and on 14th March 2009 at (venue to be decided).
The Wadaiko performance would also be held in the following Indian cities:
Kolkata, on 17th March 2009, at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and **Chennai**, on 19th March 2009, at 314, T.T.K. Road, Alwarpet.
- 3) The **All India Japanese Language Speech Contest**, organized by Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI), would be held on 21 March 2009, in New Delhi
- 4) A **Japanese Festival** organized by the Centre for Japanese, Korean and North East Asian Studies (CJKNEAS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, would be held on 23rd ~ 24th March 2009, at the JNU campus, featuring **T.M. Hoffman's Shakuhachi Concert**.



WADAIKO (Japanese Drums) performance

Merger Between JICA and JBIC

On October 1, 2008, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) merged with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Operations (OECOs) of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and was inaugurated as the new comprehensive aid agency of Japan. Thus, starting from October 1, the information on overseas economic cooperation operations was relocated to the JICA website > (<http://www.jica.go.jp>). New Japanese and international websites for the merged organization, New JICA, were launched simultaneously, but website visitors should be aware that some areas of the sites are still being updated and on occasion texts and titles including policies and organizational names may still refer to those of the 'older' JICA and JBIC.

ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

DLF Centre (3F)
Sansad Marg
New Delhi 110 001
Tel: 2371-4362-3/7090
Fax: 2371-5066

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

4th Floor,
Eros Corporate Tower,
Nehru Place,
New Delhi 110 019
Tel: 4168-3006
Fax: 4168-3003

The Japan Foundation

5-A, Ring Road,
Lajpat Nagar-IV
(Near Vikram Hotel)
New Delhi 110 024
Tel: 2644-2967 ~ 68
Fax: 2644-2969

Key in "www.in.emb-japan.go.jp" to access the website of the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

Issued by: Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, 50-G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021, Ph: 24122970~73 Fax: 24106976. Consulate General of Japan, 1, M.L. Dahanukar Marg, Cumbala Hill, Mumbai-400 026, Tel: 23517101 Fax: 23517120. Consulate General of Japan, 55, M.N. Sen Lane, Tollygunge, Kolkata-700040, Tel: 24211970 Fax: 24211971. Consulate General of Japan, No. 12/1 Cenetoph Road, 1st Street, Teynampet, Chennai-600018, Tel: 24323860-3 Fax: 24323859. Printed at Ajanta Offset & Packagings Ltd., Delhi.

FOR SUBSCRIPTION OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The Consulate General of Japan

For Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chhatisgarh and M.P.—1, M.L. Dahanukar Marg, Cumbala Hill, Mumbai-400 026.

For West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa—55, M.N. Sen Lane, Tollygunge, Kolkata-700040.

For Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, No. 12/1 Cenetoph Road, 1st Street, Teynampet, Chennai-600018
For remaining states and territories: Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, 50-G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021.

FOR CHANGES

In case of change of address, please communicate the old as well as new address.

FEEDBACK

Please send us your comments on and inquiries about the articles in this issue to: jpembjic@bol.net.in