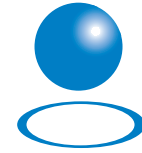


# JAPAN

## CALLING



June 2009



*H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India (2nd from left), being presented with a photo album of paintings from the **Our World, One World** Programme, by children and senior representatives of SWYAA-India*

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# JAPAN'S DIPLOMACY: ENSURING SECURITY AND PROSPERITY

Speech by H.E. Mr. Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan

30 June 2009

Organized by the Japan Institute of International Affairs

Good evening. I am Taro Aso.

Allow me to begin my address tonight with a somewhat abrupt question to you: how would you summarize the aims of diplomacy in a single phrase?

I assert that diplomacy aims at ensuring the security and prosperity of a nation and its citizens. This is not something that can be achieved by advocating self-serving ideals.

The security and prosperity of Japan cannot be realized without the security and prosperity of the international community. That is my starting point. It is imperative for Japan in particular to keep this firmly in mind, as we are heavily dependent on other countries not only for our supply of food, resources, and energy but also for markets.

I assumed office as Prime Minister last September. Immediately before that, on September 15, the failure of the major US financial services firm Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. occurred, and the world plunged into a severe financial and economic crisis. Most certainly, what were required were not abstract discussions but rather concrete policies and actions.

At the G20 Summit held in Washington in November, I called on the other world leaders to tackle this crisis through coordination among the developed nations. Specifically, I cautioned against becoming inward looking and instead called on the leaders to proactively uphold the global financial and economic order and control the situation. As one example, Japan announced its readiness to provide financing of up to 100 billion US dollars to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to reinforce the Fund's financial foundations. Since that time, my calls have been moving towards realization through the cooperation of various countries.

Before I assumed this office, some worried that if I became Prime Minister, relations with China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) would sour. Yet in fact the Japan-China-ROK Trilateral Summit Meeting held independently of other international meetings came to fruition for the first time this past December. I have already met with President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao of China eight times in total. I have also held eight summit meetings with President Lee Myung-Bak of the ROK, including the one on the day before yesterday. I believe that the relations with the leaders of these two countries are the closest they have ever been in the post-World War II era.

It is we ourselves who create a world that is secure and prosperous. When Japan takes proactive steps towards the realization of such a world, Japan truly furthers its own national interests.

While serving as Minister for Foreign Affairs in November 2006, I delivered an address at a seminar organized by the Japan Institute of International Affairs. On that occasion I articulated the concept of the "Arc of Freedom and Prosperity" as a new pillar to be added to the basis of Japan's foreign policy, which is reinforcement of the Japan-US alliance as the cornerstone of Japanese diplomacy and cooperation with neighboring countries.

There are nations now freed from the constraints of the Cold War that are exploring their futures with new hope. Japan will support the efforts of such young nations.

Japan will serve as an "escort runner" to those countries who are putting into practice the strong conviction that I have had for many years, namely "the pursuit of economic prosperity and democracy will lead to peace and happiness (peace and happiness through economic prosperity and democracy)." This is what I stated in the speech.

That conviction is the path that Japan has walked down and pursued consistently since the end of World War II. It is also the approach forming the backbone of Japanese diplomacy.

Two and a half years have passed since I delivered that speech. Yet with the threat of weapons of mass destruction from North Korea and others, frequently occurring acts of terrorism and piracy, and so on, the world in fact finds itself in an even more serious situation now than it did then. In addition, the financial and economic crisis has plunged countries around the world into very difficult circumstances.

Against the background of this challenging international situation, what is Japan doing, and what should it do? In my address today I would like to state my ideas in the concrete.

## 1. *The Security of the World and of Japan*

First of all, I would like to speak about the security of Japan and the world.

### (1) *North Korea*

Serious challenges now lie before us.

Since this spring, North Korea has in quick succession gone ahead with a missile launch and its second "nuclear test". This is an unambiguous threat.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1874, which was adopted unanimously by the Council, must be implemented steadily. Japan led the Council towards the adoption of this strong resolution. Japan will take concrete measures including financial measures and cargo inspection in order to implement it.

Moreover, it is imperative that we apply strong pressure on North Korea in close cooperation with the United States and the ROK, as well as with China and Russia. We must show that engaging in further provocative actions will not bring about any benefit. At the same time, we have not closed the door on resolving this situation through dialogue.

I once again urge North Korea to sincerely and fully implement the United Nations Security Council resolutions and take tangible steps towards the comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues, including the abduction, nuclear and missile issues.

As this issue clearly demonstrates, Japan's security and prosperity cannot be secured through the efforts of Japan alone. First of all, it is indispensable that the effectiveness of the Japan-US alliance be ensured. This alliance is a living arrangement and not something for which it suffices simply to have a piece of treaty document. We must constantly strengthen the Japan-US Security Arrangements through unremitting efforts by both Japan and the US.

At the same time, as Japan asserts its national interests and gains the cooperation of relevant countries, it must fulfill its international responsibilities in tangible ways.

## *(2) Anti-Piracy and Counter-Terrorism Measures (Afghanistan, Pakistan)*

Recently, Japan has taken another step forward in upholding its international responsibilities through the enactment of the Anti-Piracy Measures Law.

The security of maritime transport is of vital importance for Japan as a trading nation. Moreover, countering acts of piracy is an international issue, with many countries dispatching vessels.

Some 2,000 ships affiliated with Japan navigate the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia in the Middle East annually. In order to ensure the safety of these ships and protect the lives and property of our citizens, Japan too has dispatched Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) escort vessels and P-3C patrol aircrafts. With the enactment of this new law, it has become possible for Japan to respond to vessels requesting escorts regardless of their country of registry.

Japan has received thanks for these efforts from the captains of many ships that have been exposed to the threat of piracy. We also received the warm compliments of President Arroyo of the Philippines when she visited Japan the other day. In fact, more than 70% of the crews of Japan's ocean-going vessels are nationals of the Philippines.

Among our anti-piracy measures, the Government of Japan is of course expending its utmost efforts in support for security and people's livelihoods as means of remedying the underlying issues.

First, we are providing assistance towards the stabilization of Somalia. This includes the restoration of security, job creation, and improvement of the humanitarian situation, among other efforts in Somalia, where piracy is rampant. A civil war and a state of anarchy have continued in Somalia for almost 20 years and the people there are facing unimaginable hardships.

Second, we are working to enhance the maritime security capabilities of Yemen and Oman, which neighbor Somalia. Japan has already conducted training for personnel of the Yemeni and Omani coast guards and we will be providing further assistance.

In this way, we can say that activities by the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) and Japan Coast Guard on the one hand and assistance to Somalia and surrounding countries in the areas of security and quality of life on the other are two sides of the same coin.

We are also engaged in these same types of "two sides of the same coin" efforts in our fight against terrorism.

As one part of counter-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan, Japan has been conducting replenishment support activities in the Indian Ocean through the efforts of the MSDF. The Replenishment Support Special Measures Law was extended last December to enable the continuation of these activities. The MSDF has been continuing its activities every day in scorching heat that exceeds 40 degrees. The MSDF personnel's techniques are of the highest standard and are even referred to as "the hand of God" by the foreign navies being replenished. I would like to express my sincere appreciation and my respect to the members of our Self-Defense Forces and to the families awaiting their return.

The situation in Afghanistan is entering a critical stage as it prepares for presidential elections in August.

Japan has succeeded in amassing a number of achievements in Afghanistan to date, including constructing or restoring more than 500 schools, training 10,000 teachers, providing literacy education to some 300,000 people, and providing vaccines for a total of 40 million people, along with providing assistance equivalent to the salaries of the entire 80,000 Afghan police personnel for six months as support in the area of security.

We will be making even greater efforts in both security and improving people's livelihoods in the months and years to come.

Afghanistan's problems are deep-rooted and they should be approached in the context of the stability of the broader region including Pakistan and Central Asia in an integrated manner. The neighboring country, Pakistan, is currently dealing with well over three million internally displaced persons resulting from its battle with extremism. In order to assist Pakistan as it faces these circumstances, I convened a Donors Conference in Tokyo in April through coordination also with the Obama administration soon after it took office. As the result of vigorously approaching major countries around the world to cooperate, international assistance of over five billion US dollars was pledged, exceeding our expectations. Japan as the co-chair of the Conference was highly commended by countries all around the world. President Zardari, who attended the Conference, made firm commitment to take on Pakistan's challenges and expressed his gratitude to the Japanese people. Japan will continue to demonstrate leadership in support for Pakistan.

## *(3) The Responsibilities of the Government and the Ruling Coalition*

I take pride in the fact that the government and the ruling coalition have thus far protected Japan's security and prosperity by appealing to the Japanese people about the direction in which Japan should proceed—dispatching the Self-Defense Forces to Iraq, the Indian Ocean, and the coast of Somalia; reinforcing the Japan-US alliance that is the foundation of Japan's defense and of peace and stability in the Far East.

At the same time, unfortunately the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) has opposed or objected to all of these important choices for Japan.

All of the roles that Japan has taken on have been necessary ones. Is it that the DPJ wants some other country to carry out those roles? That would be unacceptable to the international community.

Even as we face the North Korean issue, a leader of the DPJ even said regarding the Japan-US alliance that the United States Seventh Fleet was sufficient for the US's military presence in the Far East. This means that the Japan-US Security Arrangements would be scaled back dramatically and the deterrence that the US provides to Japan would be considerably reduced.

This would make it simply impossible to protect Japan and the Japanese people.

I am making it a point to highlight this, as it is an extremely important issue for the security of Japan.

## 2. *The Prosperity of Japan and of the World*

Next I will discuss how to ensure prosperity through diplomacy.

### (1) *The "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity"*

I would like to introduce one example.

Japan has been moving forward with a symbolic project in the Palestinian Territories, named the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative. This is not simply an economic development project. In cooperation with Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Jordan, Japan aims to Jericho and other parts of the West Bank green using Japanese and Israeli technologies. The agricultural products made there by Palestinian people would be exported through Jordan to consuming regions such as the oil-producing countries in the Gulf. The relevant parties would work together, lowering the walls of distrust among them and sharing the benefits. This project will bring forth collective prosperity using Japanese ideas, technologies, and funding. The realization of peace in the Middle East is one of the most challenging diplomatic issues in the world. Japan wishes to be a mediator fostering confidence and trust, which are scarce resources in the Middle East. It is with such hopes that we have been promoting this project.

Last week the "Economic and Fiscal Reform 2009" was adopted by the Cabinet. The acceleration of strategic international contributions was identified one of "the top priority issues" among those basic policies. The key words of my policies have been "reassurance," "vitality," and "responsibility." This is also true in the international realm.

As with the project in Palestine, Japan will move forward in its undertakings with responsibility along with other relevant parties in order to foster peace of mind and vitality. I would like to firmly ensure the prosperity of the world and Japan through this type of international cooperation.

### (2) *The Initiative of a Eurasian Crossroads and the Concept of a Modern-Day Version of the Silk Road*

Today, I would like to discuss a new initiative with you.

I would like to draw your attention to Central Asia and the Caucasus region, which lie at the very center of the "Arc of Freedom and Prosperity" and enjoy abundant energy and other resources. Japan will engage in cooperation to bring the Eurasian continent together both north to south and east to west via this region.

I call this the initiative for a Eurasian Crossroads.

Running vertically will be the "North-South Logistics and Distribution Route," a route that will run from Central Asia through Afghanistan to the Arabian Sea. I envision the development of both roads and railways.

Horizontally there will be an "East-West Corridor," a route running from Central Asia through the Caucasus to Europe. I envision developing ports on the coast of the Caspian Sea, among other ideas.

The development of such regional infrastructure will unite resource-rich Central Asia and the Caucasus in one whole region that includes Afghanistan and Pakistan which needs a foundation for the economy.

I have in the past spoken of Asia's subregion-wide development such as the concept of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor in India and the Mekong Economic Corridors in Indochina. Through these projects, it will be possible for example to shorten the travel time from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to Chennai, India from the current roughly two weeks by sea to only eight days by developing infrastructure and making use of Japanese technology such as "one stop" services at border crossings.

We can envision a future in which we connect this series of initiatives to develop a route by which people, goods, and capital flow freely, traversing the entirety of the Eurasian continent beginning at the Pacific Ocean and ending in Europe.

This could also be called a modern-day version of the Silk Road and today I have shared with you this major initiative that contains just such a vision.

If stability and prosperity succeed in achieving synergistic effects in this region, it will result in a substantial boost for the global economy. China, India, and Russia are important partners towards this end. I would very much welcome the interest of these countries in these initiatives.

## 3. *A Message to the World*

I have spoken about my ideas in which Japan takes proactive steps to foster the security and prosperity of the world, but in doing so it is necessary to have a message being sent out to the world.

### (1) *Sending Out Japan's "Soft Power" (Content Offerings, Japanese Values, Japanese as a Foreign Language, Schools for Overseas Japanese Nationals)*

In promoting diplomacy, I consider it important for people within the context of their relations with others to share their ways of thinking and their values. Trust comprises a foundation for international cooperation that is irreplaceable.

Japan enjoys a large number of forms of "soft power" that are respected around the world.

*Anime, manga,* and other entertainment content, movies, and fashion are called "Cool Japan" and they are held in increasingly high regard around the world. A Japan Expo will be held in Paris from July 2. You might be surprised to hear that this event, which will be held for the tenth time, draws some 150,000 young fans of Japanese pop culture from both within Europe and beyond.

Yet that is not all. Japan boasts a vast and varied range of soft power that includes the Japanese work ethic by which this country

recovered from the ruins of defeat in war to become an economic superpower, such as the Japanese work style of always meeting deadlines for delivery and techniques for excellence in manufacturing products of value.

Contributions in which Japan excels include introducing these to the world and cooperating towards the fostering of human resources and the creation of systems in various countries.

In Cambodia, Japanese lawyers, including young female lawyers, have been playing an important role. They are compiling the civil code and code of civil procedure in the country's official language of Khmer as a joint undertaking with local specialists. They are also coaching Cambodian instructors who are cultivating judges and lawyers. They have been continuing with these patient efforts for several years now.

The Japanese language is also a form of soft power. Increasing numbers of people around the world have taken an interest in learning the Japanese language, against the backdrop of interest in Cool Japan. There are even young people who begin studying Japanese to be able to read computer game "walkthroughs" that show ways to boost your chances of winning.

There are approximately three million overseas learners of Japanese at present. This number has been soaring continuously, with the total jumping 30% over the past three years, up from 2.3 million. In Southeast Asia, there are a number of universities at which the primary foreign language taught is not English but Japanese. We must further enhance Japanese language education abroad to respond to the enthusiasm of these learners.

Many local residents in foreign countries are also looking with great interest at schools for overseas Japanese students. There are requests to enroll local children in schools for overseas Japanese, as people want their children to learn the good manners and the diligence of the Japanese students. We hope to be able to respond in some way to these expectations.

## (2) Reinforcing ODA

ODA is one of the most important diplomatic means and tools for Japan as a peaceful nation and as an economic power. It is imperative that we reinforce the ODA in our bilateral relations as well as the ODA extended to international organizations.

Japan's ODA budget had been on a downward trend in recent years. As a result, Japan's ODA, which had ranked first in the world, now ranks fifth internationally after the US, Germany, the UK, and France. This is not only an issue of amount; it is also an issue of Japan's stance regarding diplomacy. I reversed the declining trend in our ODA through a combination of the original budget for fiscal 2008 and its supplementary budgets. We will be certain to ensure ODA volume so that Japan unflinchingly implements the assistance it has pledged to the world and responds to the new challenges facing the globe.

## (3) Think Tank Exchanges

We are here today at a Japan Institute of International Affairs seminar. Intellectual exchanges through think tanks are also a critical diplomatic tool. In the process of formulating new international standards and rules, it is extremely important to be the first to generate ideas that are recognized the world over. It is necessary to take the lead in creating a new order by orchestrating Japan's

intellectual powers through cooperation among industry, government, and academia.

I very much hope that Japan's think tanks, including the Japan Institute of International Affairs, which will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its founding next year, continue to make solid efforts as a source of ideas for Japan's diplomacy.

## In Conclusion

Diplomacy aims to ensure the security and prosperity of a nation and its citizens. This is easily expressed in a single phrase. However, a look at world history makes it obvious that putting this into practice is far from a simple task.

However, I have discovered brightness in the future of Japanese diplomacy. This is because I myself have seen that the younger generation has taken a stance of demonstrating their capabilities as individuals and they intend to contribute to the international community.

When I was serving as Minister for Foreign Affairs, I pledged that Japan would create a *terakoya* learning center to foster human resource development for peacebuilding. This *terakoya*, namely the Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding, is still at a modest scale, graduating roughly 60 trainees over its two years thus far. However, through this course that was established in Hiroshima, participants from Japan and other Asian countries have gained knowledge and are now leaving the nest as peacebuilding professionals.

They have been launching their activities in peacebuilding field locations all over the world.

One woman from Timor-Leste who participated in this program was engaged in demining assistance operations in Laos as a member of an NPO organized by retired Japanese SDF personnel. People from Japan and Timor-Leste learning in Japan and then working together to build peace in Laos is something really wonderful, is it not?

I very much hope that the operations of this *terakoya* cultivating peacebuilders will be greatly enhanced in the future under the banner of Japan as a peaceful nation. I also have a dream that in the future our *terakoya* will foster prominent peacebuilders like JICA President Sadako Ogata, who served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Representative of the Government of Japan Yasushi Akashi, who has been working for peace in Sri Lanka.

The great ancient Greek poet Sophocles once said, "Chance never helps those who do not help themselves." Hope visits those who exercise strict self-discipline, accumulate learning, and take necessary actions. This is true both for individuals and for nations.

In diplomacy and security, if you focus only on idealism while constantly opposing or expressing reservations about practical approaches, you will have no chance against the harsh realities of international society.

In this important aspect, I will continue to uphold the security and prosperity of Japan and the Japanese people through to the end.

Having stated my determination in this regard, I would like to close my address here.

Thank you for listening.

# FIRST GOODWILL VISIT TO GOA BY JAPAN TRAINING SQUADRON (JTS) OF THE JAPAN MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE

The 'Japan Training Squadron (JTS) 2009' commanded by Rear Admiral Masao Kawamura, made a port of call visit to Goa from May 7 to 10, 2009. The visit by the squadron, comprising of three Japanese naval vessels, namely, *Kashima*, *Shimayuki*, and *Yuugiri*, was the 10<sup>th</sup> goodwill visit to India since September 1969, but the first such port of call visit in Goa. There are about 700 personnel in the squadron, including 167 training officers onboard the three ships, which left Japan on April 16 to conduct a 5-month long training cruise until September 8, 2009. During their voyage, they are scheduled to visit a total of 13 countries and 15 major ports, covering a distance of 23,834 nautical miles.

During the 4-day visit to Goa, the Japanese Training Squadron had various events, such as the Japanese Dinner Reception on the deck of *Kashima* on the 7<sup>th</sup> evening, with the attendance of the Honourable Governor of Goa, H.E. Mr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu, and the Ambassador of Japan to India, H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi; an Official Lunch hosted by Rear Admiral Sudhir

Pillai, Flag Officer Commanding - Goa area; exchange programmes between the JTS and the Indian Navy, such as a visit to the Indian Naval Station, *INS Hansa*; friendly sports games, and other activities which, interestingly, also included a special music concert at the St. Andrew's Church at Vasco, Goa, performed by the JTS training squadron band consisting of 20 professional musicians, who gave a spectacular performance with a range of blowing instruments, which was greeted with a standing ovation by the music loving audience of Goa.

Before the arrival of the JTS, H.E. Ambassador Domichi paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu, Governor of Goa, on 6<sup>th</sup> May, and had discussions with him, not only on Japan-India relations but also Japan-Goa relations. Actually, Goa is a familiar place for the Japanese people owing to its connection with St. Francis Xavier, a Portuguese Missionary who came to Japan in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to spread Christianity. Later, Ambassador Domichi also paid a visit to Old Goa, notably to the Basilica of Bom Jesus which holds the



H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan, and H.E. Mr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu, Governor of Goa, performing the Kagamiwari (a typical Japanese opening ceremony to wish happiness and success to everyone) at the Dinner Reception on the deck of the *Kashima*.



*Ms. Chitra Gawas, Vice Chairperson, Marmugao Municipal Council (MMC), presenting a traditional Indian brass lamp to Rear Admiral Masao Kawamura.*

mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, and the Se Cathedral, the most imposing church at Old Goa, dedicated to St. Catherine.

Rear Admiral Masao Kawamura, accompanied by the Defense Attache in the Embassy of Japan to India, Col. Masakatsu Tamaru, also paid a visit to the Marmugao Municipal Council (MMC) on 7<sup>th</sup> May, where he was received by former MMC Chairperson Mr. Carlos Almeida and Vice Chairperson Ms. Chitra Gawas. The function included a 'Plaque Exchange Ceremony' in which Rear Admiral Kawamura presented a plaque and memento to the MMC Vice Chairperson, Ms. Chitra Gawas, who, in turn, offered a traditional Indian brass lamp to him as a memento. In her welcome speech, Ms. Gawas said that the council was privileged by the visit of Rear Admiral Kawamura and Colonel Tamaru, and added that "this visit will build a strong bond of relationship between the two countries and the state". In his address, Rear Admiral Kawamura said that through its activities, the Japan Training Squadron wishes to build good friendship with the Indian Navy and the people of Goa. Giving details about the training programme, he fur-

ther said that "the overseas training has been planned to develop the newly commissioned officers' seamanship through the training at sea to cultivate the minds of the officers as future leaders, and enhance mutual understanding and goodwill with each of the countries". Rear Admiral Kawamura expressed his appreciation to the Marmugao civic chief and all the people present for the warm welcome they received during their stay.



*Members of the JTS Music Band acknowledging audience applause at the music concert performance at St. Andrew's Church, Vasco, Goa.*

# “OUR WORLD, ONE WORLD”

Photo Albums presented to the Japanese Ambassador

Well-known Japanese Digital Imaging Company, Canon India Pvt. Limited, recently hosted ‘Our World, One World’, a photo exhibition of pictures taken by underprivileged children, at the Canon Image Lounge in Atria Mall, Worli, Mumbai. While Mr. Kensaku Konishi, President and CEO, Canon India, inaugurated the exhibition, Mr. Teiichi Torikai, Consul at the Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai, was also present at the event, which took place on 9th April 2009.

This photographic workshop and exhibition, sponsored by Canon India, was organized by the *Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India)* with children living in the slum clusters in Delhi. SWYAA-India has been working since the last two years for education of street and working children, who live in the slums adjacent to the industrial areas of Mayapuri, Naraina and Kirti Nagar in West Delhi. For this project, SWYAA-India’s endeavour was to bring out the creativity and latent talent of these children and, by exhibiting their work, to make people aware of their plight, so that they can contribute for the education of slum children for achieving their aspirations and hopes of a brighter and safer future.

Mr. Ravi Chopra, General Secretary, and Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive, as well as other team members of SWYAA-India conceptualized, designed and executed the ‘Our World, One World’ photographic workshop and exhibition. The one month long workshop was held in January 2009, with forty underprivileged children in the age group of 10-14



H.E. Ambassador Domichi (centre, back row) and Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Director Japan Information Centre (1st right, back row) with the children and SWYAA-India delegates

years, who live and work in slum clusters of West Delhi. These children were trained in the workshop and took photographs inspired by the Oscar winning film ‘Slumdog Millionaire’, which captured the stark reality of their life, surrounding habitation, friends and family, in order to share it with the rest of the world.

In a function held on 21 April 2009, a group of some of these children, accompanied by senior representatives of SWYAA-India, visited the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, to formally present two photo albums of their photographs and paintings to H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India.



H.E. Ambassador Domichi welcoming the children and SWYAA-India representatives at his residence

The function commenced with an introduction of the children, followed by the presentation of a peace message from children of India and Japan to the Ambassador. Thereafter, one photo album each of paintings and photographs was presented to Ambassador Domichi. A book of photographs from the ‘Our World, One World’ programme, jointly published by Canon India and SWYAA-India, was also presented to the Ambassador on this occasion. In his address to the children and representatives of SWYAA-India, Ambassador Domichi, while praising their efforts, encouraged them to continue with their good work, and wished for their bright future.



# JAPAN EXTENDS SOFT LOAN PACKAGE TO INDIA UNDER THE SECOND BATCH OF FY2008

Exchange of Notes for Rs. 7,159 crore loan package concluded on March 27, 2009

The Government of Japan agreed to extend a package of Official Development Assistance to India, in the form of soft loan assistance totaling 137,028 million yen (approximately Rs. 7,159 crore). The Exchange of Notes to formalize the agreement to this effect was concluded on March 27, 2009, at a ceremony held in the Ministry of Finance in New Delhi. The Notes were signed and exchanged between Mr. Masashi Mizukami, Minister and Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Japan in India, and Mr. Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of their respective Governments.

## Marking the largest-ever yen loan assistance to India with the first batch of FY08 package

For the last five consecutive years since Financial Year 2003, India has been the top recipient of Japanese soft loan assistance. Since the Government of Japan had already committed the loan package in October 2008 as the first batch, the total amount of Japanese soft loan to India for the financial year 2008-09 adds up to 236,047 million yen (approximately Rs. 12,332 crore). With the Yen loan commitment to India going up by five percent over the previous year's commitment, the Japanese assistance has attained a new peak again.

Even though Japan is facing a difficult fiscal condition, the assistance to India has been increasing year by year. This reflects the growing Japan-India development partnership and the importance Japan attaches to the bilateral ties with India.

The loan package covers 4 large-scale projects in the areas of transportation and water supply. These concessional loans will be made available through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the interest rate of 1.2% per annum, with the repayment period of 30 years including the grace period of 10 years. (A brief outline of all the 4 projects is given below.)

### JAPAN'S ODA LOANS TO INDIA FOR 2008-2009 (Second Batch) LIST OF PROJECTS

PROJECT	AMOUNT (in million yen)
1. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 2)	77,753
2. Guwahati Water Supply Project	29,453
3. Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Phase 2)	17,095
4. Kerala Water Supply Project (III)	12,727
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137,028</b>

The main objectives of Japanese loan assistance to India are to support India's efforts to establish infrastructure to boost and sustain economic growth, alleviate poverty, and improve environmental issues. With the projects supported under the second batch of FY2008, the Japanese government expects to achieve these goals successfully.

## Brief Outline of Yen-Loan Projects for FY 2008 (Second Batch)

### 1. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 2)

This project aims for the construction of a total length of 414km of subway and elevated, and above-ground railway in Delhi. This will help to activate the economy and improve the environment by relieving congestion and reducing the emission of exhaust gases in the capital city. In Phase 2, the target is approximately 83km.

### 2. Guwahati Water Supply Project

This project aims to provide a safe and stable water supply service to the city of Guwahati, which is the biggest city in the north-east region with one million population. The coverage of the water supply system is 30%, and water is provided for only two to three hours per day. With this project, the water supply facilities will be established using Brahmaputra River as a water source. The project ultimately aims to improve the living environment of the inhabitants of Guwahati.

### 3. Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Phase 2)

This project provides water supply facilities and alleviation of the health damage caused by fluorine in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri region in Tamil Nadu. These areas have been suffering from less rainfall compared to other regions, although the water demand is surging owing to the increasing population. Furthermore, the groundwater is contaminated with fluorine. With this project, adequate water supply will be provided using Kaveri River as a water source. In addition, educational activities about fluorine contamination will be also conducted.

### 4. Kerala Water Supply Project (III)

This project aims to improve the water supply facilities in five cities and villages in Kerala. The coverage of the water supply system in the cities of Kerala is insufficient and needs to be developed without delay. With growing population in the region, the establishment of a safe and stable water supply is an urgent issue. The project is expected to contribute to solve the agenda and improve the living environment of the inhabitants of these areas.

# INDIA-JAPAN ICT SEMINAR HELD IN NEW DELHI

The India-Japan ICT Seminar was held in New Delhi from 21 to 22 May 2009. The seminar was co-organized by the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of India, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, with the objective of accelerating the bilateral cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies, in particular - telecommunications.

H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and Mr. V. K. Shukla, Member(S), Department of Telecommunications of India, were present at the inaugural session and made the Opening Address of the Seminar.

In addition to high-level officials from both governments, this seminar was attended by many telecommunication operators and manufacturers from Japan, such as NTT, KDDI, Willcom, Kyocera, Sony, Fujitsu, NEC, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., NEXCO, etc., as well as major telecommunication carriers in India, such as BSNL, MTNL, etc.

During the two-day seminar that took place at The Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi, participants from both countries exchanged information and views on matters of mutual interest in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), which included the Current Status and Perspectives of the Development of Information and Communications Technologies, Transition to Next Generation IP-based Network (NGN), ICT Security, Home Networking (Telework), and Mobile Communications.

At a post-seminar press briefing held on 22 May at The Oberoi Hotel, Mr. Toru Nakaya, Director of International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan, provided details on the background and objectives of the seminar and its outcomes, along with brief summaries of presentations made by the Japanese speakers.

It is expected that the seminar would facilitate better understandings of current status and perspectives of ICT in both countries and future bilateral cooperation.

## OPINION SURVEY ON THE IMAGE OF JAPAN IN INDIA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan commissioned a research company in India to conduct an opinion survey on the image of Japan from February 4 to 25, 2009. The following is the summary of survey results:

1. 76% of respondents perceived the current state of Japan-India relations either as being very friendly or friendly, showing that a positive image of Japan has been established in India.
2. Asked about which countries are important partners for India, 48%, 30%, and 14% of respondents chose the United States, Russia, and Japan, respectively. 92% of survey participants responded positively when asked whether Japan is a reliable friend of India.
3. Respondents perceived Japan as a technologically advanced, economically powerful and peace-loving country, in descending order of the number of responses, demonstrating that there are strong public images of Japan as a country with the most advanced science and technology, and a peaceful, developed nation. In terms of the image of the Japanese people, highly ranked characteristics were: diligent, efficient in management practices, and inventive.
4. Asked about Japan's international contributions, 61% of survey participants responded positively on the questions of whether Japan is playing an international role commensurate with its economic power. 79% of respondents perceived Japan's economic assistance to India as beneficial, and 94% of respondents welcomed the presence of Japanese companies in India. It thus can be said that Japan's international contributions, including economic cooperation projects, and its business activities in India, are highly regarded among the Indian people.
5. More than 60% of respondents expressed interest in learning the Japanese language, and responded affirmatively to the suggestion that more young people should study in Japan in order to gain higher education. 78% of respondents said that they followed Japan-related media reports regularly or occasionally. Overall, these figures illustrate the Indian opinion leaders' strong interest in Japan and the Japanese language.

*Note: 2007 opinion leaders were interviewed on an individual basis in 12 major cities in India for the opinion survey on Japan. Under the commission by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the opinion survey on Japan was also conducted in India in 1986 and 2000.*

# Public Opinion Poll on Japan in India



Research Agency: Center for Media Studies (Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

Target: Opinion leaders in India (2007 respondents)

Methodology: Interview Period: February 4 to February 25, 2009

## 1. Relations with Japan

76% of Indians believe the relations with Japan is excellent or good

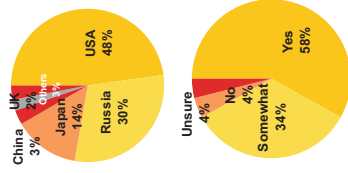
Q. What do you think of the current states of relations between Japan and India?



## 2. India's Most Important Partner

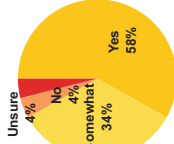
(1) Japan is the third most important Partner to India following U.S. and Russia

Q. Which of the following do you think is the most important partner of India?



(2) Japan is a reliable friend of India

Q. Do you think Japan is reliable friend of India?



## 3. Image of Japan

The majority of Indian opinion leaders recognize Japan in a positive way, as a technologically advanced and economically strong country.

(1) Images Associated with Japan (top3)

Q. How strongly do you associate each of the following images with Japan?

- A country with advanced technology
- A country with economic strength
- A peace loving country

(2) Images Associated with Japanese People (top3)

Q. And how strongly do you associate each of the following images with the Japanese people?

- Diligent/Hard working
- Efficient management practice
- Inventive

## 4. Japan's International Contribution

Indians think Japan's contribution to the international community is commensurate with its economic strength.

(1) Perception about Japan's role

Q. Do you think that Japan is playing a role in the world commensurate with its economic strength?



(2) The Recognition of Japan's ODA

Q. To what extent is Japanese economic and technical assistance helping India?



(3) Japan's Investment in India

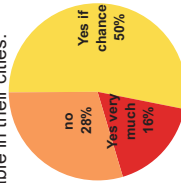
Q. What is your view about Japanese investment in India?



(1) Interest in Japanese language

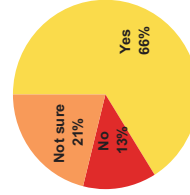
Q. Would you like to study Japanese language?

There is a relatively high interest in learning Japanese language among opinion leaders in India provided that there is an opportunity and facility available in their cities.



(2) Japan as a destination for higher education

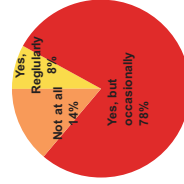
Q. Do you think more Indian students should go to Japan for higher education?



(3) Interest in information on Japan

Q. Do you follow news and information about Japan?

More than 80% of opinion leaders in India follow information on Japan.





● BULGARIA

## 1 | Objectives

Grant assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP) provides nonrefundable financial assistance to support the implementation of cultural and higher education projects conducted by non-profit organizations (including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local authorities, research and higher education institutions, etc.) that are active at the grass-roots level in developing countries.

GCGP directly supports the promotion of culture and higher education at the grass-roots level in each country, while also acting as cooperation which encourages understanding of and cultural exchanges with Japan.



## 2 | Eligible Countries

As a general principle, developing countries with a per capita gross national income (GNI) of US\$6,275 or less (for FY2008) are eligible to receive GCGP (79 eligible countries as of December 2008).

## 3 | Eligible Recipients

Any type of non-profit organization is eligible to be a GCGP recipient. The requirement is that it be a non-profit organization implementing projects for the promotion of culture or higher education (including sports) at the grass-roots level in eligible countries (individuals and profit-making companies are not eligible). The following are examples of potential recipients: NGOs that are active in the local region (regardless of their nationalities), local authorities, and non-profit organizations such as universities. In particular cases, governmental institutions may also be eligible for assistance.

## 4 | Project Areas

(1) As long as a development project for the promotion of culture and higher education in an eligible country is geared to grass-roots assistance, it is eligible for financing under the GCGP. The following types of projects are being implemented.

Some examples (not an exhaustive list) of eligible projects are :

- Japanese language education equipment (LL equipment, etc.) for the Japanese language departments at universities
- Sound and lighting equipment for theaters
- Sports equipment for sports facilities and organizations (including martial arts)
- Audio-visual equipment for art galleries and museums

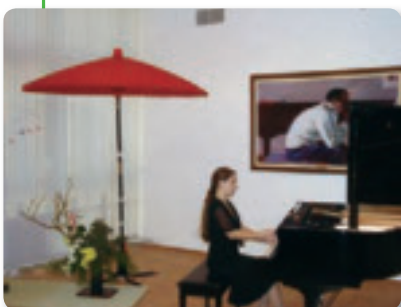
(2) Priority areas and detailed conditions shall be determined by the Japanese embassy or consulate in each eligible country according to the specific needs for cultural or higher education areas.

## 5 | Available Funds

GCGP funds are provided to the recipient organization after an examination and evaluation of each application by the Japanese Government on an annual basis.

The grant amount per project is generally under 10 million yen. Prospective applicants should note that the following budget items cannot be financed: consumables, operating and maintenance costs of facilities and equipment, and the administrative costs of the recipient organization.

● AZERBAIJAN





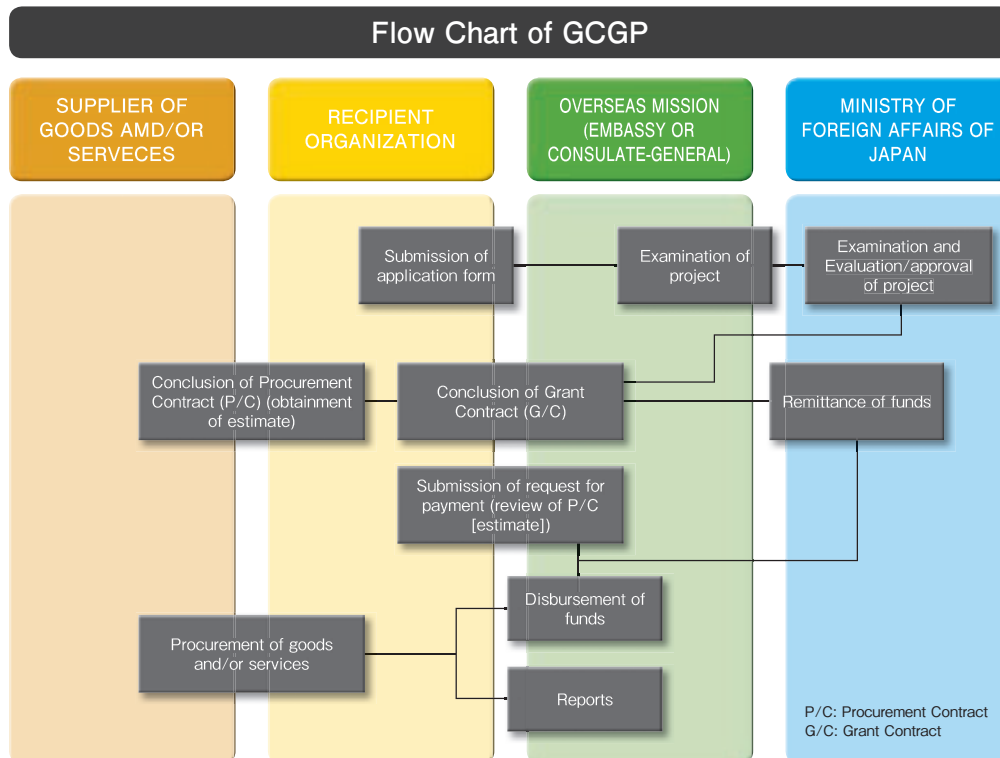
● INDONESIA



● GUATEMALA

## 6 | How to Apply

If your organization satisfies the conditions described above and you want to receive GACGP funds in order to implement a project for the promotion of culture or higher education in an eligible country, you should submit an application form to the Japanese embassy or consulate in said eligible country. The application form must be accompanied by a detailed breakdown of the budget for the project, a map showing the project site, a feasibility study for the project, estimates for the goods and services that will be purchased by the grant (from three different suppliers), document introducing the applying organization (such as brochures) a copy of its regulations, and the annual budget of your organization.



When submitting your application form, please note the following points :

- (1) In selecting projects for funding, the Japanese Government places a high priority on the impact and sustainability of the project. You must convince the Japanese embassy or consulate that your organization can manage the project well. A detailed description of the past achievements of your organization would therefore be appreciated.
- (2) The Japanese Government cannot provide funds for salaries and other recurrent operational expenses. The recurrent costs from the implementation of the project shall therefore be independently financed by your organization. In order to convince the embassy that you can maintain the project, you must show that your organization has sufficient funds to cover running expenses.
- (3) Pro forma estimates must be supplied for each budget item so that we can ensure value for money. Wherever possible, you should submit estimates from three different suppliers.



● POLAND

## 7 | Approval Procedures

The Japanese Government cannot support every project that is submitted. Funds are provided to appropriate projects after detailed examination and evaluation by the Japanese Government.

After a Japanese embassy or consulate receives the application form and accompanying documents from the applying organization, the embassy or consulate will take the following steps :

- (1) **Examination of the project** : When the application is received, the project is examined by embassy or consulate staff, who pay particular attention to the objectives, impact, and cost of the project. On this basis, potential projects for grant assistance are selected.
- (2) **Site visit** : The embassy (or consulate) staff will visit the site of the potential project.
- (3) **Approval of the project** : The embassy (or consulate) will send an application for the potential project to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will conduct further examinations and issue its approval.
- (4) **Grant Contract** : The Japanese embassy (or consulate) and the recipient organization will then sign a Grant Contract. The Grant Contract contains the title and objectives of the project, the name of the recipient organization, the rights and obligations of each party, the maximum amount that will be provided for the implementation of the project, the submission date of interim/final reports, and the completion date of the project.
- (5) **Disbursement of funds** : The recipient organization must submit a request for payment with the relevant documents to actually receive the funds.
- (6) **Implementation of the project** : The grant should be used properly and exclusively for the purchase of the products and/or services specified in the application form of the approved project. Once the grant funds have been disbursed, implementation of the project is expected to proceed in a timely manner and in conformity with the agreed-upon timetable (in principle, within one year).
- (7) **Changes from the original plan** : If the recipient organization needs to modify the project plan for any reason, it must consult with the embassy (or consulate) and seek its prior approval (both the consultation and approval must be in written form).
- (8) **Reports** : An interim report during implementation and a final report at the end of the project are required (in certain cases, the recipient organization may be asked to submit additional interim reports).
- (9) **Auditing** : Outside auditing is required for all grass-roots grant assistance above 3 million yen.

## 8 | Miscellaneous Requirements

- (1) Funds received must be used exclusively for the implementation of the project. The Japanese embassy or consulate reserves the right to claim a refund of the grant if the funds are used for any purpose other than for the implementation of the project.
- (2) It would be preferable if the recipient organization could manage the funds for the project separately, such as by setting up an exclusive bank account, in order to facilitate auditing of the grant.

- *For further information on the scheme in India, please contact the Japanese Embassy or Consulates in India whose contact details are given on the back page of 'Japan Calling'.*
- *Application Form for the Grant assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects of Japan can be downloaded from <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/category/cultural/application.pdf>*

# JAPAN HABBA IN BANGALORE

“JAPAN HABBA 2009”, an Indo-Japan cultural exchange program, was held in Bangalore on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009. ‘Habba’ in Kannada means Festival, and the first Japan Habba (Japan Festival) in Bangalore was organised in the year 2005 by the students and teachers of the Department of Foreign Languages, Bangalore University.

One of the major objectives of Japan Habba, then, was to provide the non-native students of Japanese language with an opportunity to have better understanding of various aspects of Japanese culture.

Over the years, Japan Habba gained considerable momentum and expanded in stature due to the growing support and participation of the ever-increasing Japanese community in Bangalore, and also due to the response it is generating from the people of Bangalore.

Now, Japan Habba is not merely confined to the objective of introducing Japanese culture to the students of Japanese language, but is also providing a solid platform for the development of a very strong friendship between the Kannada and the Japanese residents in Karnataka. Therefore, from this year, the Consulate of Japan in Bangalore decided to further strengthen its association with Japan Habba by becoming a member of the organizing committee of the event.

Screening of the Oscar Award winning Japanese movie ‘Samurai’ was the opening event of Japan Habba ’09, followed by many dance sequences like Bharatanatyam and Bollywood dances by Japanese ladies. Among the many programs of dances and songs, the Karaoke competition, wherein Kannada



*Japanese and Indian participants performing together a music item at the "Japan Habba"*

songs were sung by the Japanese, and Japanese songs by the Indian singers, was enjoyed the most by everyone.

The Demonstrations included Kimono wearing, Origami, Ikebana - the art of Flower arrangement, Tea Ceremony, Judo and martial arts, Calligraphy, etc.

The Consulate of Japan in Bangalore has started issuing visas to the residents of Karnataka planning to visit Japan. The office address and office timings are as follows:

## **ADDRESS :**

Consulate of Japan  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, ‘Prestige Nebula’  
8-14, Cubbon Road,  
Bangalore 560001  
Phone : 91-80-40649999 Fax: 91-80-41660114  
E-mail : japanconsulate\_blr@yahoo.co.in

## **OFFICE HOURS :**

**Monday thru Friday :**  
08:30 - 12:30 & 13:30 - 17:15

## **Passport and Consular Services for Japanese Nationals**

**Monday thru Friday :**  
09:00 - 12:00 & 14:00 - 17:00

## **VISA HOURS :**

**Monday thru Friday :**  
Submission : 09:00 - 12:00  
Delivery : 14:00 - 16:00

**Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays : Closed**



*Some enthusiastic Indian participants learning ' Origami' techniques from their Japanese counterparts.*

Discover manga, anime, J-pop, and much more in this section showcasing the latest pop culture phenomena to capture the imagination of Japan's young people.

Web Japan <http://web-japan.org/>  
Trends in Japan <http://web-japan.org/trends/>



Hiko-nyan.  
(Photo courtesy of Hikone City, Shiga Prefecture)



Sento-kun.  
(C)Association for Events to Commemorate the 1,300th Anniversary of Nara

## MASCOTS MAKING WAVES

### “Loose” Characters Employed to Boost Local Development

Local governments and other organizations are increasingly turning to mascot characters to boost regional development. Certain of these beloved yuru kyara (literally “loose characters”) are even transcending their home regions to become popular nationwide.

According to the results of the “Yuru Kyara Popularity

Survey” conducted by Oricon Research, Inc., the most popular yuru kyara is Hiko-nyan, while the character Sento-kun ranked second. Hiko-nyan is a maneki-neko (a cat that beckons happiness with its paw) adorned with a red samurai helmet. It was created as a mascot for an event held in 2007 to mark the 400th anniversary of the construction of Hikone Castle in Hikone City, Shiga Prefecture. Even now, Hiko-nyan plays a part in attracting tourists by appearing on the grounds of Hikone Castle three times a day on weekends. Now a popular character throughout Japan, Hiko-nyan received over 7,800 New Year’s greeting cards in January 2009, including some from overseas.



The Yuru Kyara Festival in Hikone.  
(Photo courtesy of Hikone City, Shiga Prefecture)

## 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. Consulate of Japan, 1st Floor, 'Prestige Nebula', 8-14, Cubbon Road, Bangalore 560001, Tel: 40649999 Fax: 41660114. Printed at Ajanta Offset & Packagings Ltd., Delhi.

### FOR SUBSCRIPTION OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

For Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh and M.P.: The Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai.  
For West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa: The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata.  
For Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh: The Consulate General of Japan in Chennai.  
For Karnataka: The Consulate of Japan in Bangalore.  
For remaining states and territories: Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

### 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](mailto:jpembjic@bol.net.in)