


Japan Calling

January 2013

☐ A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan, India 



2012 – Celebrating 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India
‘Resurgent Japan and Vibrant India: New Perspectives, New Exchanges’



A Spectacular Fireworks Show and Projection Mapping was held at the India Gate Lawns, New Delhi, on 7th December 2012, to mark the Grand Finale of the 60th Anniversary of Japan-India Diplomatic Relations.

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MESSAGE BY H.E. MR. TAKESHI YAGI AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO INDIA

Greetings to all friends of Japan in India!

I took over my assignment as the Ambassador of Japan to India on 17th October 2012 and feel extremely honoured to be engaged in the bilateral relationship with India, such a significant player in the international community, at this important juncture of the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations.

Japan and India have established a solid and friendly relationship. Being strategic and global partners sharing universal values such as democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights, the two countries are committed to a close dialogue and cooperation.

Both countries have been intensifying their ties through annual reciprocal visits of their Prime Ministers since 2005, besides conducting frequent Ministerial-level visits and dialogues. In the security area, we have built up strong bonds of cooperation through the ‘‘2+2’’ Dialogue at Secretary/ Vice Minister level, joint works on anti-piracy measures and bilateral exercises carried out between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.

In the economic field, the number of Japanese companies operating in India has increased rapidly over the past few years, making Japan the fourth largest foreign investor in India. With the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) coming into force

in August 2011, an even closer bilateral economic relationship is expected. As part of our economic cooperation, we are actively participating in important infrastructure projects such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), with a view to supporting India's economic development.

In addition, in 2012, we organized 170 cultural and intellectual exchange events, which include introduction of Japanese technology, under the theme of ‘‘Resurgent Japan, Vibrant India: New Perspectives, New Exchanges’’. With these events, I hope that exchanges in culture and arts as well as other kinds of people-to-people exchanges will be more intensive so that mutual understanding will be further deepened.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to express once again the heartfelt gratitude of the Japanese people for the kind and warm support offered by India in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake on 11 March 2011. The Japanese people will always remember these gestures of true friendship demonstrated by the Government and the people of India

I am determined to make utmost efforts to further promote and expand the Japan-India relations. I would like to sincerely seek the continued support of the people, organizations and Government of India.

Takeshi Yagi
Ambassador of Japan to India

INAUGURATION OF THE SECOND ABE CABINET

On December 26, 2012, the Second Abe Cabinet was inaugurated.

Upon the formation of the new Cabinet, Mr. Yoshihide Suga, the new Chief Cabinet Secretary, announced the list of Cabinet members at the Prime Minister's Office.

Later, the investiture ceremony of the Prime Minister and the attestation ceremony of the Ministers of State were held at the Imperial Palace, marking the official inauguration of the Second Abe Cabinet.

In the evening, new Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a press conference, which was followed by the first Cabinet meeting and the taking of commemorative photographs.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaking at the press conference

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE

Wednesday, December 26, 2012

Today, I was once again designated as the Prime Minister, and a new Cabinet was launched through a coalition between the Liberal Democratic Party and The New Komeito.

I believe the result of the general election of the House of Representatives reflects the strong expectations across all generations of the people to put a stop to the political confusion and for the Government to move forward with "proper politics" under a responsible and stable administration.

The Abe Cabinet is resolved to regain the trust in politics that has been lost, and to make collective efforts to tackle the mounting issues in domestic and foreign affairs and to meet the public mandate.

Japan is currently in a critical situation. The reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake must be accelerated. Meanwhile, this sense of crisis must be leveraged to steadily rebuild Japan's economy, diplomacy, and education as well as restore peace of mind to the daily life.

I will resolutely set forth bold policies to promote the creation of a "new Japan" led through true political leadership which is founded on mutual trust between politics and the public sector.

In this endeavor, I would like to ask for the understanding and cooperation of the Japanese people.



Members of the Abe Cabinet

(Photos and text courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan)

Latest Developments in Japan-India Bilateral Relations and Japan's Diplomacy

JAPAN EXTENDS OVER RS. 7800 CRORE ODA LOAN TO INDIA

The Government of Japan agreed to extend soft loan assistance to four projects, totalling 132.645 billion yen (approximately Rs.7,802 crore) under the second batch of Financial Year 2011. The Exchange of Notes to formalize the arrangements to this effect was concluded on 28 September 2012 at a ceremony held in the Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi. The Notes were signed and exchanged between Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Charge de' Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan to India, and Mr. Prabodh Saxena, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, on behalf of their respective Governments.



Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Charge de' Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan to India (left), and Mr. Prabodh Saxena, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (right), at the Exchange of Notes ceremony

Outline of the projects receiving Japan ODA assistance

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Loan amount Rs. (Crore)
1.	Campus Development Project of Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad	313.62
2.	Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Project	3572.73
3.	Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Nagaur)	2211.52
4.	Delhi Water Supply Improvement Project	1704.30
	Total	7802.17

India is the largest recipient of Japan's ODA for FY2011, making itself as the top recipient partner for nine consecutive years since FY2003. This reflects the growing Japan-India development partnership and the importance Japan attaches to the bilateral ties with India. With this Exchange of Notes the cumulative commitment of ODA from Japan to India has reached JPY 3587.302 billion (approximately Rs.211,005 crore).

JAPAN AND INDIA SIGN AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY

On November 16, 2012, the Agreement between Japan and Republic of India on Social Security was signed in Tokyo between Mr. Koichiro Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Mrs.

Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Japan.



(Photo & Text courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

The Japan-India Social Security Agreement is aimed to solve problems causing duplicable payments of social security contribution. Upon the entry into force of this Agreement, those employees temporarily dispatched for a period of five years or less to the other country will, in principle, join only the pension system of the country from which employees are dispatched. It will also be able, based on the Agreement, to establish eligibility of receiving a pension in each country by totalizing the periods of the coverage in both countries.

It is expected that the conclusion of this Agreement will reduce the burden imposed on companies and employees as well as further promote economic and human exchanges between Japan and India.

JAPAN-INDIA SUMMIT MEETING



Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda held a meeting with Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, on Tuesday, November 20, 2012, during his visit to Cambodia to attend the ASEAN-related Summit Meetings. The overview of the meeting is as follows:

1. Prime Minister Noda stated that he was delighted that the relations between Japan and India have been expanding and developing based on their “Strategic and Global Partnership”. In response, Prime Minister Singh made similar remarks on the development of the bilateral relations. The two Prime Ministers agreed to further strengthen their cooperation in areas of political affairs and security, economy, as well as people-to-people and academic exchanges.
2. In the political affairs and security area, the two Prime Ministers agreed to further strengthen the relations between the Coast Guards of both countries as well as the relations between Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy.
3. In the economic area, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Agreement between Japan and India on Social Security and the memorandum between the authorities of the two countries on cooperation in the rare earth industry in India. With regard to high-speed railway in India, the two Prime Ministers agreed to pursue more detailed consultations, with the introduction of Japan’s Shinkansen system in mind.
4. With regard to ODA, Prime Minister Noda stated that Japan had decided to extend loans totaling 184.810 billion yen to two projects, namely,

“Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 2) (II)” and “Chennai Metro Rail Project (III)”. In response, Prime Minister Singh expressed his profound appreciation.

5. Concerning infrastructure development, the two Prime Ministers agreed to continue to cooperate for the concrete progress of infrastructure projects, including the “Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor” and Infrastructure Development in the southern region of India. In this regard, Prime Minister Noda expressed Japan’s expectations that India make further efforts to improve the investment and business environment, including relaxation of financial regulations.
6. On civil nuclear cooperation, Prime Minister Singh expressed hope for sharing in Japanese nuclear technology and experience, including nuclear safety. In response, Prime Minister Noda stated that Japan wished to advance consultations in a productive and cooperative manner so that both sides may reach a mutually satisfactory agreement.

The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views on the international affairs during the gala dinner hosted by H.E. Mr. Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on November 19, where the two Prime Ministers sat next to each other. The outline is as follows:

1. Prime Minister Noda explained Japan’s position concerning relations with China, saying that the relationship between the two countries was one of the most important bilateral relationships for Japan, that despite the difficult present situation involving the two countries, Japan had consistently acted calmly from the beginning, and that as a responsible country in the Asia-Pacific region, it would continue contributing to regional peace and prosperity.
2. Concerning the East Asia Summit (EAS), Prime Minister Noda mentioned that it was important to further promote regional growth by connecting ASEAN and India more closely. In response, Prime Minister Singh expressed gratitude for Japan’s efforts to make India a closer country to East Asia.

(Photo & text courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan)

MOU OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN FUKUOKA PREFECTURE AND NCT OF DELHI

From 21st to 24th November 2012, a delegation of the Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, visited New Delhi. During this visit, the signing ceremony of MOU of friendship between Fukuoka Prefecture and NCT of Delhi, which was signed in 2007, was held to extend another 5 years of cooperation. In addition, a Fukuoka Business Promotion and Fukuoka University Fair was held in New Delhi during the visit.



Hon'ble Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi (seated right), and Mr. Hiroshi Ogawa, Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture (seated left), signing the MOU in the presence of Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India (centre)

At the signing ceremony on 22 November 2012, Hon'ble Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of NCT of Delhi, and Mr. Hiroshi Ogawa, Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, signed the MOU at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

Fukuoka is the first local government in Japan to start its cooperation with a state in India, and is seeking the possibility of continuing its cooperation with NCT of Delhi in various avenues.

NOTE:

The Government of NCT of Delhi has three main focus areas, namely,

- housing,
- management of traffic, and
- improvement of the urban environment including waste disposal, recycling, improvement of water quality, and cleaning up of roads.



Fukuoka Prefecture is mainly cooperating in the environmental aspects, such as recycling, waste disposal, and so on. Apart from this cooperation, Fukuoka Prefecture regularly holds a “Fukuoka Japan Fair” in New Delhi every year to introduce Fukuoka and Japanese culture, and a “Fukuoka Study Fair” to invite Indian students to study in Universities of Fukuoka.

The 60th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India

SPECTACLE

SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW HELD AT INDIA GATE LAWNS, NEW DELHI, ON 7TH DECEMBER 2012

As the largest event of the 60th anniversary was a Spectacular Fireworks Show held at the India Gate Lawns of New Delhi, on Friday, 7th December 2012, from 9pm to 9.20 pm, which marked the Grand Finale of the 60th Anniversary of Japan-India Diplomatic Relations.

The event started with **projection mapping against the backdrop of India Gate**, in synchronization with music, from approx. 9.00pm to 9.10pm, depicting 3-dimensional images showing the scenes and cultures of Japan and India expressing the friendship between the two countries. This was immediately followed by a **dazzling fireworks display** from 9.10pm to 9.20pm, during which about 2200 fireworks were launched in the sky, some of which never seen before in India. These fireworks can be termed as the true product of the collaboration between Japanese fireworks craftsmen and their Indian counterparts.

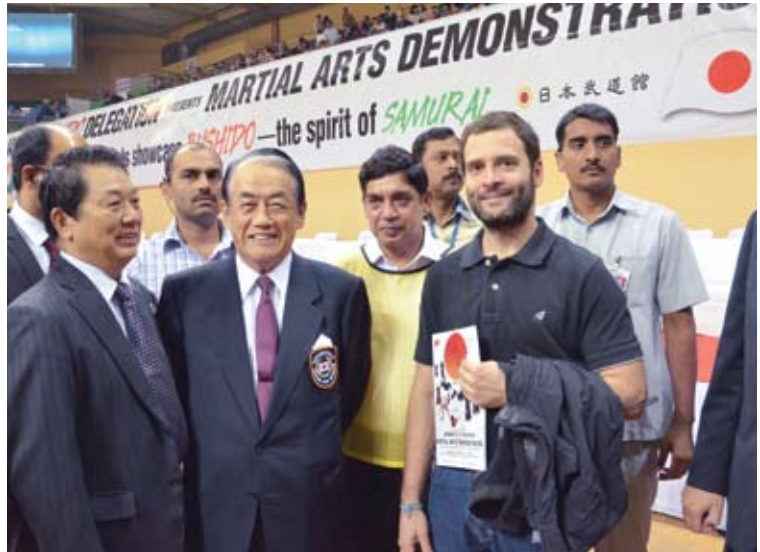
The design concept of the entire event was laid out by Ms. Junko Koshino, renowned international fashion designer.

About 5,000 people gathered at the India Gate and appreciated the projection mapping and fireworks display, which was also broadcasted live by Doordarshan - Bharati television channel.



JAPANESE BUDO DELEGATION PRESENTS MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATION

The Nippon Budokan Foundation dispatched a 71-member martial art experts delegation to India to hold a Japanese Martial Arts Demonstration on 3rd November 2012, at K.D. Jadhav Wrestling Stadium, Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, New Delhi. The delegation was led by Mr Yoshinobu Shimamura, former Minister of Education, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. Mr. Onkar Kedia, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mr. Sidharth Birla, Vice President, FICCI, H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and Mr. Yoshinobu Shimamura inaugurated the event. A surprise guest at the event was Mr. Rahul Gandhi, MP, and General Secretary of the Indian National Congress.



Mr. Rahul Gandhi, MP, and General Secretary of the Indian National Congress, was a surprise visitor at the event



Sumo demonstration

The demonstration comprised of 12 disciplines, namely, Judo, Karate, Kendo, Sumo, Aikido, Shorinji Kempo, Naginata, Kyudo, Jukendo, Shibukawa-ryu Jujutsu, Enshin-ryu Iai Suemonogiri Kenpo, Kingai-ryu Karate Okinawa Kobujutsu. During the demonstration, some Indian children were invited to practice Judo and Sumo with the experts. The goodwill gesture was greatly appreciated by the audience. Around 6,000 audience members gathered at the Stadium.

The largest-ever martial arts event could be materialized only with the whole-hearted cooperation of the Ministry of

Youth Affairs and Sports, and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and FICCI. Besides the above, the delegation conducted special demonstrations at Delhi Police's Special Protection Unit for Women and Children, and the Japanese School in New Delhi. The visiting Karate experts, Judo experts and Aikido experts also conducted special workshops for dojos in Delhi.



Enshin-ryu Iai Suemonogiri Kenpo demonstration

IWAMI KAGURA SACRED DANCE PERFORMANCE FROM SHIMANE PREFECTURE JAPAN



The Japan-India Association, AOTS Alumni Society, Delhi, and Indian Council for Cultural Relations presented a wonderful Iwami Kagura dance performance at FICCI Auditorium on 3rd December 2012.

The origins of Iwami Kagura are unclear, but it is believed that performances began in the early part of the Edo Period. Iwami Kagura is a series of dances that are performed as a form of prayer to gods, and are accompanied by flutes, drums,

and hand clapping. Originally, only Shinto priests performed Iwami Kagura, but in the Meiji Period ordinary townspeople began to perform on such occasions as annual festivals, various public events, and celebrations. There are different forms of Kagura in Japan, but Iwami Kagura is distinguished by the gorgeous and heavy costumes the performers wear, which are manually sewn with gold and silver threads, as well as by its last tempo known as “hacchoshi”, 8-beat rhythm.



SCINTILLATING DANCE AND MUSIC PERFORMANCE BY PERFORMERS FROM TOYAMA PREFECTURE

The Toyama Delegation Project of Cultural Mission to India presented a 'Scintillating Dance and Music Performance' by the Kasai Dancing Company and Kurokawa Hogakuin, on 16th December 2012, at FICCI Auditorium, New Delhi.

The Toyama-India Association was founded in September 2011 with the aim to deepen the mutual understanding between the people of Toyama Prefecture and India. To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Japan-India Diplomatic Relations, it undertook the Delegation Project of Cultural Mission to India to introduce the rich art and culture of Toyama Prefecture, Japan. The all-girl Kasai Dancing Company started their performance with "Sakura" accompanied by Mari Kurokawa on Koto.

It was followed by "Ran-byoshi" by Mari Kurokawa. It is a unique piece of fusion of Noh theatre yells and Koto sounds.

Dancing to the Sounds included energetic performance of New Dance with Drums (Akebono), Matsuri (Shishi, Hanagasa, Okame Hyottoko), three popular folk songs of Owara, Kakiriko, Mugiya were performed.



The artists not only wore beautiful costumes but also used colourful props like, sakura flowers, lanterns, umbrellas, folding fans, etc. The fusion of the powerful drums sound to the graceful movements of traditional and modern dance enthralled the audience and took them to another world.

Kitanippon Shimbun, Toyama Prefecture, Toyama Prefectural Artistic and Cultural Association, and Toyama Television Broadcasting Co. Ltd., partnered with Toyama-India Association in hosting the event. It was supported by FICCI and Embassy of Japan in India.

ANIMATION

3RD ANIME CONVENTION 2012 HELD

The third Anime Convention took place from 9th-11th November 2012, at Marwah Studios, Film City, Noida, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, the Japanese Association, and Marwah Studios.

A step forward to explore into the world of Anime, Manga, Movies, Visual-Effects and Design, the convention sought to create trans-cultural dialogue between the mediums through its Workshops, Trans-cultural Sessions, Technical Sessions, Kids Corner, Manga Talks and Gamers Paradise, along with Merchandise and Performances.

The Kids Corner - a special section for the kids, featured Character Design Competition with Kazunori Hamao, Director, Wall Art Project; Video Game Contest; Storyboard Making Session with Mr. Avhiroop Mazzumdar, filmmaker, and a session on giving voice for anime/becoming a voice-over artist with Mr. Rajkumar, theatre artist. There was also an exhibition put up on The Wall Art Project, which saw a lot of appreciators.



The convention also showcased the latest movie 'Children who chase lost voices from deep below' of internationally renowned animation auteur Makoto Shinkai, along with other animation movies from Japan, France and UK.

Anime Convention, like previous year, featured a Japanese Fighting Console Game Competition, Children Gaming Competition and Retro Gaming Challenge, and held Open Gaming on all three days of the Convention.



LAUNCH RECEPTION OF THE ANIMATION SERIES SURAJ – THE RISING STAR



A reception was held on 4 December 2012 at the Residence of the Ambassador of Japan to India, H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, to announce the launching of SURAJ: THE RISING STAR, a cricket remake of the Japanese baseball anime hit *Kyojin no Hoshi* (Star of the Giants), to be aired on popular Hindi General Entertainment Television Channel COLORS every Sunday at 10 am, starting 23rd December. Ambassador Yagi, accompanied by Mr. Yoshio Irie, Vice President and Board Member - Kodansha Inc., Mr. Ryota Kato, Corporate Officer and Deputy Division Director - TMS Entertainment Co. Ltd., Mr. Raj Nayak, CEO - Colors/Viacom18, and Ms. Sumedha Saraogi, Vice-President - DQ Entertainment, formally performed the launch ceremony with the breaking open of the Kagami wari (sake barrel) with cricket bats.

Mr. Noboru Kawasaki, depicter of the original manga, Mrs. Atsuko Kajiwara, wife of the original author, Mr. Ikki Kajiwara, and Bollywood actress Ms. Karisma Kapoor were also present at the event as special guests.

Cricket is perhaps the only sport that enjoys unparalleled attention in India. In a country where the sport is

almost considered a religion, it is every young boy's aspiration to be the idol leading his team to victory. Facilitating this dream, KODANSHA Inc. and TMS Entertainment have joined hands to present SURAJ: THE RISING STAR, a cricket remake of the Japanese baseball anime hit *Kyojin no Hoshi*. This collaborative effort brings together content creators such as KODANSHA Inc., TMS Entertainment, COLORS and DQ Entertainment to mark the 60th anniversary of bilateral ties between India and Japan.

SURAJ – THE RISING STAR is the first official Japan-India animation co-production that comes at the timely juncture of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This legendary masterpiece from Japan portrays the life of a 16 year old boy, Suraj, set on his journey to be trained as a young cricketer, and the hardships and challenges

he faces towards attaining this goal. Adapted for the Indian audiences, 'SURAJ-THE RISING STAR', craftily integrates Indian culture and Japanese animation, highlighting common characteristics like the importance of family ties, friends, and a 'never-say-die' attitude.



KOKYO HATANAKA JAPANESE STYLE PAINTINGS EXHIBITION

To celebrate the 60 years of relationship between India and Japan, Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited took the initiative of organizing the Kokyo Hatanaka Japanese Style Paintings Exhibition at the AIFACS Gallery, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, from October 09 – 31, 2012. The paintings were created in the ancient Nihonga style, whose techniques and traditions go back over a 1000 years. The display put together by Ranbaxy for this Kokyo Hatanaka Japanese Style Paintings Exhibition in New Delhi gave an opportunity to the Indian audience to ac-

quaint themselves with the intricacies of nihonga. Interlaced with modern Indian themes, it was an excellent example of the ties between our two countries; the ancient and spiritual ties between our two cultures.

H.E. Kumari Selja, Honourable Minister of Culture of India, inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Japan, Dr Tsutomu Une, Chairman, Mr Arun Sawhney, CEO & MD, Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited, and Prof Kokyo Hatanaka.



Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of Japan, addressing the guests at the inauguration of the exhibition, in the presence of H.E. Kumari Selja, Honourable Minister of Culture of India (seated, centre).

Profile of Professor Kokyo Hatanaka: Hatanaka (1947), an artist and historian, was till recently working as a professor of modern nihonga painting at the Kyoto University of Art and Design. Besides creative work, he is also dedicated to studying the aesthetics and history of Japanese nihonga-style painting. Presently he is a visiting faculty at Otani University. Kokyo Hatanaka has been painting for nearly half a century now. Kokyo Hatanaka is a full time artist and an Indian Art Researcher. He has a special affinity towards India and its people. He has been visiting India for the past 38 years, and has observed Indian paintings, textile-dyeing, and sculptures, and collected many of those from both inside and outside of India.



One of the works by the artist on display at the exhibition

12TH ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF DELHI IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL HELD IN NEW DELHI



The 12th Asian Regional Conference hosted by New Delhi Chapter # 77 of Ikebana International was held in New Delhi from the 21st to 25th of November 2012, at The Lalit, Cannaught Place. About 210 participants from all over the world attended the conference. There were various functions and demonstrations presided over by many dignitaries like Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, wife of the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Kumari Selja, Honourable Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Honourable Chief Minister of the Government of NCT of Delhi, H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India & Madam Akiko Yagi, Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan & Madam Haruko Hayashi, and Mr. Katsuma Doi, Director-General, The Japan Foundation New Delhi.

The Principal Guest Master Demonstrator was Mr. Rishi Otsuka, Iemoto (Headmaster) of Koryu Katabami Kai School, Tokyo. Mrs. Veena Dass, Director of Sogetsu School, Delhi, also presented a demonstration at the Kamani Auditorium. Mr. Christopher Lim, AIFD Komon from Singapore, was the main demonstrator and displayer at the Sayonara Dinner.

The New Delhi Chapter also invited Mrs. K. Meenakshi Devi, Mrs. Mona Pingle, Mrs. Indira Misra, Mrs. Nalini Doongursee, and Mrs. Mala Agrawal, to present their Ikebana demonstrations. Iemoto Otsuka also conducted a workshop for the participants. All the participants had a great time enjoying and learning Ikebana.



“ODE TO UKIYO-E” - AN ART EXHIBITION INSPIRED BY UKIYO-E “JAPANESE ART THROUGH THE AGES” A SERIES OF 4 ILLUSTRATED TALKS BY DR. ANU JINDAL



At the inauguration of "Ode to Ukiyo-e": (left to right) Mr. Arjun Asrani, Former Indian Ambassador to Japan; Mr. Ryoji Noda, Counsellor–Information and Culture, Embassy of Japan; and Ms. Anu Jindal

Among the numerous events held to mark the year 2012 as the 60th Anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations, two events were conducted by Art Historian and Artist, Dr. Anu Jindal. Dr. Jindal,

Ph.D. in Japanese Art and Japan Foundation fellow at Doshisha University, Kyoto, has extensive teaching and academic experience, including at NIFT, SPA and NGMA, New Delhi, and as Professor at Nichibunken, Kyoto.

"Ode to Ukiyo-e" was held from 17-25 Nov. 2012 at Purple Streak Centre for Arts.

The exhibition featured oil paintings and digitally created art works inspired by Ukiyo-e practiced in the Tokugawa period in Edo (modern-day Tokyo). Concurrent with the show the Artist conducted "Joy of Japanese Motifs" - an Art Workshop for children, introducing them to Japanese designs, e.g., maple leaf, cherry and plum blossoms, and bird forms.

"Japanese Art through the Ages" was held at the India International Centre (8 and 15 Oct. 2012), and India Habitat Center (20 and 27 Nov. 2012), New Delhi. A visual feast of the visual arts of Japan, the talks covered four key aspects - Painting, Sculpture, Gardens and Contemporary Art.

STUDENTS

JAPAN QUIZ 2012



The ninth inter-school Japan Quiz was held at the Sri Sathya Sai Auditorium on 7 November 2012, where 60 schools in the Delhi-NCR competed for the honour of lifting the glittering trophy and being crowned champions.

The teams and accompanying teachers were welcomed to the quiz by Mr. Ryoji Noda, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in India, who mentioned that the winners of the 2012 Japan Quiz would be invited to Japan on a short-term visit under the 'Kizuna Project', sponsored by the Government of Japan, to encourage and acquire first-hand greater awareness and understanding of the country and people of Japan.

The teams sat for a written preliminary test, from which the top 12 teams were selected for two Pre-Final quizzes, which were both like multimedia trailers leading up to the grand finale - the Final Quiz - which featured the top 3 teams from each of the Pre-Finals. The questions for the preliminary test, like the later rounds, were drawn from a variety of fields, like history, geography, sports, culture and arts, literature, science and technology, and other fields of human endeavour in which Japan and the Japanese people have made their mark.

The final was a keenly contested affair, with the team from Apeejay School, NOIDA (comprising Saqib Javed, Saksham Kapur, and Siddhant Misra) finally winning the title.

NIHON NO KAORI-2012

ANNUAL INTER-SCHOOL JAPANESE LANGUAGE FESTIVAL



A beautiful cultural programme was put up by the students of DPS Dwarka

Delhi Public School – Dwarka, under the aegis of DPS Society, organized *Nihon No Kaori 2012* – Annual Inter School Japanese Language Festival on Wednesday, 17 October 2012. Twenty five renowned schools from Delhi NCR and U.P. participated in this event.

The valedictory function was attended by Mr. Yugo Horikawa, Third Secretary, Information & Culture, Embassy of Japan, and Mr. Katsuma Doi, Director, Japan Foundation New Delhi, among other distinguished guests. Mr. Ashok Chandra, Chairman, DPS

Society presided over the function.

A beautiful cultural programme put up by the students of DPS Dwarka enthralled the audience, who highly appreciated the Japanese Dance and the Japanese Welcome Song presented by the students.

Various competitions like Calligraphy, Painting, Poetry Recitation, Kimono Bookmark Making, Origami, Just a Minute, and Ikebana were organized to test the language skills of the students.

The team from DPS Moradabad was adjudged as the Overall Winners of Nihon No Kaori 2012.

ANNUAL ORIGAMI COMPETITION HELD



Judges evaluating the competition entries

The 10th annual Inter-School Origami Competition was organized on Thursday, 11 October 2012, by Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan. 313 students across Grade III to XII from 35 schools participated in the competition this year, in categories of ‘solo’, ‘group’, and ‘teachers’ with different themes, and displayed their skills in paper-folding art innovatively.

The panel of judges awarded the best creations, with the prize distribution ceremony taking place at Japan Foundation on 26 October.

Origami is a traditional Japanese pastime where a single square of paper is folded in different ways to create interesting shapes.



SYMPOSIUM ON INDIA-JAPAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



(From left to right) Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General - CII, Mr. S. Gopalakrishnan, President Designate - CII & Executive Co-Chairman - Infosys Technologies Limited, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman - Planning Commission, Mr. Yoshiji Nogami, President - Japan Institute of International Affairs, and Mr Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India

A Symposium on India-Japan Strategic Partnership, co-hosted by the Embassy of Japan in India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), was held on 21 November 2012, in New Delhi.

Business leaders of the two countries from key sectors of infrastructure, manufacturing, services and SMEs exchanged their visions on how the two countries can and should build a wider and deepened business partnership.

The inaugural session of the Symposium, moderated by Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, discussed the macro environment surrounding the two countries in the coming decades. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India, highlighted the important outcomes of the recent bilateral meeting of the Prime Ministers of Japan and India, on the side-lines of the East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh. He also expounded on the strategic and global nature of the bilateral relationship in the contest of the changing geopolitical environment and the complementarities of our economies which could be exploited to ramp up the bilateral trade and investments.

Mr. S. Gopalakrishnan, President Designate of CII and Executive Co-Chairman of Infosys, made a broad review of the bilateral relationship and acknowledged the positive trend in trade and investment.

Mr. Yoshiji Nogami, President of Japan Institute of International Affairs, and Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, provided their views of the prevailing global economic order. Mr. Nogami mentioned the emergence of the “Indo-Pacific Community” in the region, which makes the Indo-Japanese strategic partnership even more pertinent both in the economic and security areas. Dr. Ahluwalia assessed the India-Japan economic relations in contrast with the two countries’ relationship with China and ASEAN countries, and exhorted to exploit the full potential of the strengths of India-Japan partnership and tap the business opportunities.

In the second session, business leaders representing promising sectors presented their views on the value and opportunities on India-Japan collaborations. Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO & MD

of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, pointed to the unique Japanese industrial prowess that needs to be emulated and that Japan should be the strategic partner for India to build a fundamental high-quality infrastructure that will stand India in good stead for the next 100 years.

Other eminent speakers in the second session were Mr. Yoshiaki Tsukuda, Senior Executive Vice President of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries; Mr. Vikram Kirloskar, Vice-Chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Ltd.; Mr. Shigehiro Nishimura, President of Denso International Asia Private Ltd.; Mr. Richard Rekhy, CEO of KPMG India; and Mr. Atsushi, Horiba, Chairman, President, CEO of Horiba Group.



Mr. Tamaki Tsukada, Minister - Economic in the Embassy of Japan to India, addressing the audience

INDIA-JAPAN BILATERAL PORTRAYALS: MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS AND IMAGE FORMATION



H.E. Mr. Manish Tewari, Honourable Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting of India (2nd left), and H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India (2nd right) at the Symposium

A Symposium on “**India-Japan Bilateral Portrayals: Mutual Perceptions and Image Formation**” took place on 6 December 2012, at the Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi. The symposium was co-hosted by the Embassy of Japan and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

Mr. Vikram Sood, Vice President, Centre for International Relations, ORF, started the proceedings with his welcome remarks, followed by opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India. H.E. Mr. Manish Tewari, Honourable Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting of India, was the chief guest at the event and delivered the Keynote Address.

The event was divided into two sessions, as detailed below:

Session I: “National Portrayals: Reflection in the history and its evolution”

Moderator: Mr. Arjun Asrani, former Ambassador of India to Japan

Panelists:

- Dr. Chiharu Takenaka, Professor, College of Law and Politics, Rikkyo University
- Ms. Janashruti Chandra, Assistant Professor, Centre for Japanese, Korean and North East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Prof. Takenori Horimoto, Visiting Professor, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University
- Prof. K.V. Kesavan, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for International Relations, ORF

Session II: “People’s Images: Lively impressions in businesses and media”

Moderator: Mr. H.K. Singh, former Ambassador of India to Japan

Panelists:

- Mr. Go Yamada, Senior Economist, Asian Research Department, Japan Centre for Economic Research
- Mr. Prमित Pal Chaudhuri, Foreign Affairs Editor, Hindustan Times
- Mr. Anjan Roy, Economic Advisor, Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd.

The event ended with Concluding Remarks by Mr. H.K. Singh, and a Vote of Thanks by Prof. K.V. Kesavan.

Through the symposium, the eminent speakers took a look back on the long-standing history between Japan and India, and contemplated how the relationship between Japan and India should be in the future. The analysis of image formation and recommendation for the relationship between Japan and India through the symposium led to the emergence of important suggestions on how Japan and India should proceed towards developing their relationship in the future.

TOHOKU REGION TOURISM PROMOTION EVENT

An event was jointly organized by the Japan Tourism Agency (JTA), Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), and the Embassy of Japan in India, at the India International Center (IIC), New Delhi, on 16 October 2012. Ms. Dia Mirza, Miss Asia-Pacific 2000 and popular Bollywood actress, was also present at the event to promote Japan tourism in India.

The event also featured spectacular performances by traditional dancers from Morioka and Sendai regions of Tohoku in Northern Japan, a region often referred to as a "treasure chest" of folk arts. The centuries-old folk music and dance tradition survived the ferocious earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011. The region is now on the road to recovery and efforts are being made to continuously revive the tourism in affected areas.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan in India, said, "2012 is a landmark year which marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India. As the ties between two countries grow and strengthen, we sincerely look forward to welcoming and supporting an increasing number of Indian visitors to re-discover the beauty of Japan."



Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan in India (extreme right) with Ms. Dia Mirza and officials from JNTO and JTA

Mr. Norifumi Ide, Commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency, commented, "We take this opportunity to express our gratitude and show appreciation towards Indian visitors for their continuous support to Japan, especially after the twin disaster of earthquake and Tsunami last year. We are confident that we would achieve our goal of welcoming 18 million foreign tourists to Japan by 2016 through our sustained promotional activities and tourism friendly policies."

Mr. Motonari Adachi, Executive Director- JNTO, Singapore Office, while felicitating Ms. Mirza, added "We appreciate Ms. Mirza's valuable support to our promotional campaign in the Indian market. India is one of the key focus markets for us to attract tourists to Japan and we have witnessed a remarkable recovery from the Indian market."

Japan has made tourism as one their key priorities in uplifting the country's economy out of the calamities of 2011. JNTO is actively promoting the destination in the Indian market as part of its emerging markets strategy to inspire leisure travellers to visit Japan. In first eight months of 2012, the number of total Indian visitor arrivals stood at 45,200, which is an impressive 18.4% growth compared to the same period in the year 2011. Apart from traditional marketing strategies, Japan is also leveraging on the social media platforms like a dedicated "Visit Japan from India" Facebook page, targeted specifically for its Indian fans.



Traditional dancers from Tohoku region presenting a musical performance at the event

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL AT JNU



Mr. Ryoji Noda, Director – Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, addressing the audience while inaugurating the film festival.

A Japanese Film Festival, co-organized by the Embassy of Japan, Japan Foundation, and Jawaharlal Nehru University, was held on the 21st and 28th of September 2012, at Auditorium-I, Convention Centre, JNU, New Delhi.



On the occasion, a 'Lucky Dip' game was also held during the intermission, in which Japanese promotional gift items were distributed among the JNU students attending the film festival.

The following films were shown during the film fest:

- **Swing Girls** • **Summer Days with Coo**
- **ALWAYS-Sunset on Third Street** • **ALWAYS-Sunset on third Street-II**

FUKUOKA KYUSHU FILM FESTIVAL



Mr. Ryoji Noda, Director – Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, addressing the audience at the inauguration of the film festival

The Embassy of Japan, in collaboration with Fukuoka Prefecture, the Japan Foundation, and India International Centre (IIC), held the FUKUOKA KYUSHU FILM FESTIVAL from 16-19 October 2012, at the IIC Auditorium. The four films screened

during the Festival were created by eminent Japanese directors, and won several awards at international film festivals.

I Wish (Kiseki) Director: Hirokazu Koreeda

Glasses (Megane) Director: Naoko Oigami

Sad Vacation Director: Shinji Aoyama

Tokyo Tower: Mom and Me, and Sometimes Dad (Tokyo tawa: Okan to boku to, tokidoki, Oton) Director: Joji Matsuoka

Matsuoka

The festival got a very good response and, encouraged by the success of the event, the screening of these films was repeated at the Japan Foundation Auditorium.

DONATION OF BOOKS RELATED TO JAPAN

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of Japan-India Diplomatic Relations, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCII), in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, donated a set of books related to Japan, to prominent Indian economic organizations and departments teaching Japanese language and Japanese studies in universities and institutions associated with Japan.

The recipients of the donated books are as follows:

- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- India International Centre
- University of Delhi
- Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Visva-Bharati University
- Banaras Hindu University
- Tilak Maharashtra University
- University of Pune
- English and Foreign Language University
- Bangalore University
- Indian Institute of Foreign Trade



FICCI



CII

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The Japan Foundation

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