

# Japan Calling

March 2013

🇯🇵 A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan, India 🇮🇳



H.E. Mr. Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister of India (left) with H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the Seventh Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue held in Tokyo on 26 March 2013

(Photo courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

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# H.E. MR. SALMAN KHURSHID, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, VISITS JAPAN



*The Strategic Dialogue in progress*

*(Photo courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)*

H.E. Mr. Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister of India, paid a visit to Japan from March 26 to 28 as a Guest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On March 26, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, held the **Seventh Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue** with H.E. Mr. Khurshid. *(Note: The Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue has been held in Japan and India alternately each year since 2007. Last year, the dialogue was held in Delhi in April.)* The overview of the meeting is as follows:

### 1. Political and Security Issues, Exchange Program

- (1) Minister Kishida noted that he would like to continue preparing for a successful visit to Japan by H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. Minister Kishida stated that he was satisfied with the progress being made in dialogues and cooperation in the political and security fields, and in this regard stressed that he would like to enhance such political dialogues. In response, Minister Khurshid stated that India also would like to further deepen political dialogue with Japan.
- (2) With regard to Japan-India defense cooperation and exchanges, Minister Kishida expressed his expectation that the second joint naval exercise between the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy would be carried out. In response, Minister Khurshid stated that

he was satisfied with the deepening of security cooperation between Japan and India.

- (3) Regarding youth exchanges, Minister Kishida expressed his intention to invite approximately 1,200 Indian youths to Japan through the "JE-NESYS 2.0" programme. Minister Khurshid expressed his deep gratitude referring to the importance of youth exchange.

### 2. Economic Relations and Cooperation

- (1) In the area of economic cooperation, a signing ceremony was held for the Exchange of Notes (E/N) for four yen loans totaling around 220 billion yen. Minister Khurshid expressed his profound gratitude for these loans.

#### **Outline of the projects receiving Japan ODA assistance:**

No.	Name of the Project	Loan amount Rs. (Crore)
1.	Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 2) (II)	7868.15
2.	Chennai Metro Project (III)	2814.50
3.	Bihar National Highway Improvement Project (Phase 2)	1238.50
4.	West Bengal Piped Water Supply Project (Purulia)	822.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>12743.41</b>

*(Rs.1=Yen 1.73)*

- (2) Additionally, Minister Kishida expressed his intention to contribute a total of 71 billion yen towards the Mumbai Metro Rail Project as a yen loan in the coming fiscal year. Minister Khurshid expressed his heartfelt gratitude explaining that this was a long-awaited project by India.

### 3. Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation

The two Ministers affirmed that Japan and India will continue to move forward with talks on this issue.

The Indian External Affairs Minister also paid a courtesy call on Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe.

# THE FIRST JAPAN-INDIA MARITIME AFFAIRS DIALOGUE HELD IN NEW DELHI

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Japan-India Maritime Affairs Dialogue was held in New Delhi on January 29, 2013.

From the Japanese side, Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki, Deputy Director-General (Ambassador), Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the representatives from the Secretariat of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy of the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Coast Guard, and the Ministry of Defense, attended the meeting. From the Indian side, Mr. D.B. Venkatesh Varma, Joint Secretary (Disarmament & International Security Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs, and the representatives from the Ministry of Defence, the Coast Guard, the Ministry of Shipping, and the Ministry of Earth Science, attended the meeting.



*Photo courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan*

In this meeting, Japan and India exchanged views on maritime issues in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as regional and multilateral initiatives, security, port infrastructure and marine science and technology.

## HIGH SPEED RAIL SEMINAR HELD IN AHMEDABAD

A High Speed Rail Seminar was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on 11 February 2013, which was jointly organized by the Government ministries and organizations of both Japan and India respectively.

Mr. Hiroshi Kajiyama, Senior Vice Minister of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), attended the Seminar as head of the Japanese delegation.

The participants comprised of representatives from Japan Railways (JR) and some Japanese manufacturing and trading companies, as well as Indian central and state government officials, related agencies, and private companies. The Seminar Programme included presentations by Japanese companies and Panel/DVD exhibition on Japanese railway technology.

High Speed Rail (HSR) has attracted worldwide atten-

tion as an environmentally friendly mass transportation system. HSR projects have been planned or carried out in many countries including India. The purpose of this seminar was to demonstrate how Japan's 48 years of experiences in the HSR operation can contribute to the development of the HSR network projects in India and to enhance partnership in railway fields between India and Japan. The seminar was held in Ahmedabad, as Gujarat is the state where the first high speed railway route is proposed.

In this seminar, leaders in the field of the Japanese transportation introduced operational experiences and measures for safety about the HSR. The topics of the seminar also included social and economic benefits derived from the HSR, such as the regional development and the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



*Opening Remarks by Senior Vice-Minister, MLIT, Hiroshi Kajiyama*



*A section of the audience*

*(Photos courtesy: Japan International Transport Institute)*



# THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE – TWO YEARS ON

Two years after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, Japan is determined to accelerate the “revitalization process” by focusing on three pillars, namely:

(i) Economic Revival - More than US \$106 billion to be set aside for stimulating the economy through job creation, enhancing innovation, reconstruction efforts, strengthening domestic demand, etc.

(ii) Reconstruction - Budget of approx. US \$266 billion secured for FY2011-2015, to accelerate the reconstruction work of disaster-affected areas in Tohoku region

(iii) Crisis Management - Investment of US\$23.4 billion for strengthening social infrastructures to ensure readiness for any future crises or disasters

## BEFORE



*Drowned runways of Sendai Airport*



*Collapsed roofs of Sendai station*



*Subsided Joban Expressway*



*Displaced family*

## AFTER



*Restored runways of Sendai Airport (April 2011)*



*Restored Sendai station (April 25, 2011)*



*Restored Joban Expressway (March 17, 2011)*



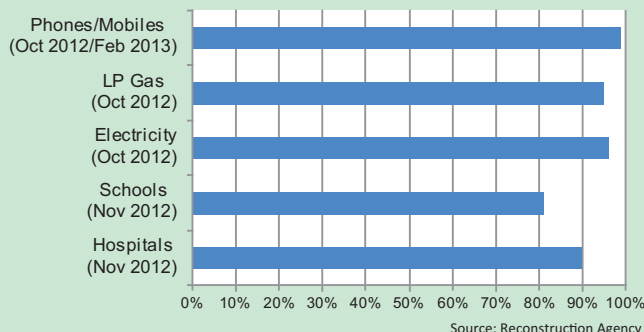
*Family moves to a temporary house*

## 1. Progress made towards Reconstruction

Steady progress is being made in the post-earthquake reconstruction process. Some 470,000 people were evacuated, and public or temporary housing has been made available to all of the 320,000 people displaced.

Vital infrastructure such as major roads, rail networks, etc., quickly restored and essential public services re-established, including 90% of affected hospitals and 81% of schools.

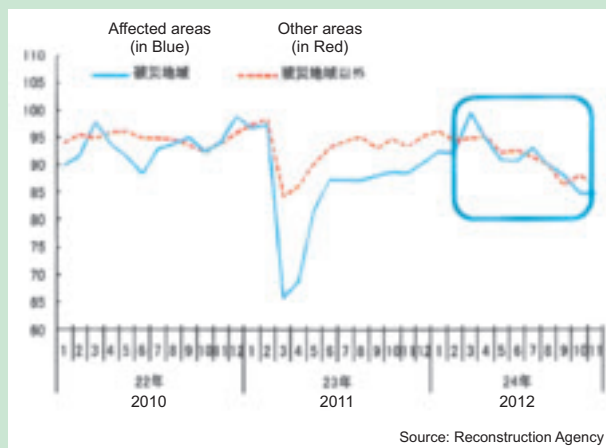
**Restoration status**



Japan is committed to incorporating advanced technologies and new methods into reconstruction initiatives to ensure sustainability and energy-efficiency.

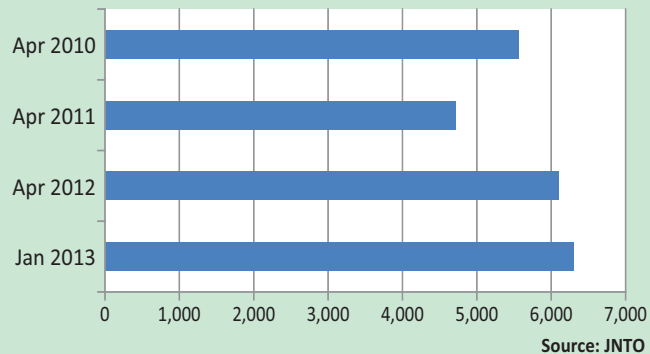
Businesses that were damaged in the earthquake, including automobile companies, are now back on their feet and set to return to globally competitive status. According to the overall indices of mining and manufacturing of Japan, there is only a slight difference between the affected areas in comparison with the non-affected areas.

**Indices of mining and manufacturing between the affected area and non-affected areas**



Tourist numbers have also bounced back. The number of Indian tourists visiting Japan were 6,300 in Jan 2013, compared to 6,100 in Apr 2012, 4,715 in Apr 2011 and 5,557 in Apr 2010.

**India tourists visiting Japan**



Many countries and areas have now lifted or eased restrictions on the importation of foods from Japan, which had been imposed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster. Nine countries (Canada, New Zealand, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Columbia, Myanmar and Serbia) have completely lifted radionuclide-related restrictions on food products from Japan.



Indian guests enjoying SAKE (Japanese rice wine) from Japan including Daishichi Sake Brewery Co., Ltd. (Fukushima Prefecture) at a promotion event held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in New Delhi





*Relief materials - Blankets*



*Relief materials - water bottles*



*Relief materials - Biscuits*

## 2. Assistance from Indian government & its people

Japan expresses its heartfelt gratitude for the continued support and friendship of its international partners, especially India.

India sent relief consignments of 26,000 blankets, 13,000 mineral water bottles and 10 tons of high-calorie biscuits, all of which were truly appreciated by the evacuees in the disaster-struck areas.

India dispatched a 46-members team of the National Disaster Rescue Force of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to assist relief efforts in the tsunami-ravaged Onagawa town, Miyagi Prefecture, from 28th March to 8th April 2011. The team, braving severe climatic conditions, helped in recovering dead bodies and also several important documents of the residents. Their efforts were highly appreciated by the local people.

Donations of approx. Rs.28 crores were received from the people of India belonging to different walks of life.

With the prayers and support of our generous friends in India and all over the world, Japan has managed to recover in record time and emerged even stronger as a nation. Japan will continue to contribute actively to addressing global challenges, and hopes to



*Indians observing silence at the memorial event to remember the victims of the earthquake (March 11, 2012)*

return the favour through its on-going commitment to development aid programs, human rights and human security.



*Indian NDRF rescue team at Onagawa town, Miyagi*

### 3. Japan's commitment towards global disaster management

Japan is committed to sharing knowledge and lessons learned from the earthquake and subsequent recovery process with the international community. To this end, Japan organized conferences on Disaster Reduction and Nuclear Safety in 2012. Japan will also host the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in early 2015.

Japan faces a number of challenges and is proactively addressing immediate issues such as post-earthquake reconstruction, economic revitalization and disaster prevention, as well as long-term challenges such as demographic change and the transition to a 'green' economy.

Based on the instructions of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Japan will conduct a review from scratch the Strategy for Energy and the Environment adopted by the previous DPJ administration, and set out responsible energy policies that take into



*Prime Minister Shinzo Abe*

account a range of perspectives, including stable energy supply and energy cost reduction. The previous administration's policy, which aimed to "enable zero operation of nuclear power plants in 2030s" will be reviewed.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BY JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN INDIA - 2013

The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCII) has submitted "Suggestions for the Government of India 2013" to the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, on 6 March, 2013. The "Suggestions - 2013" contains about 30 items in 9 major categories, that is, 7 on-going issues such as Tax System, Banking Sector, Insurance Sector, Logistics and Distribution, BIS on Steel products, Visa/Residential Permit and Infrastructure, and 2 new issues, namely, Japanese Lawyers and Intellectual Property Rights.

The Suggestions by JCCII is the most important representation of opinions of Japanese companies operating in India for the improvement of business environment in India. JCCII has been submitting the Suggestions every year since 2009, and this is the fifth in the series of Suggestions. In terms of the "Suggestions - 2012" submitted last year, significant strides have been made which would help improve the investment and business environment in India. The conclusion of the Japan-India Social Security Agreement, improvement of the Visa-on-Arrival system, elimination of the re-entry restriction on Tourist Visas, and introduction of Advance Pricing



*(left to right): Mr. Tamaki Tsukada, Minister - Economic, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Saurabh Chandra, Secretary - DIPP, Mr. Makoto Suzuki, President - JCCII, Mr. Keiichi Nakagaki, Chairman of Suggestions Promotion Committee - JCCII*

Agreement scheme, are some of the important breakthroughs that were realized over the past months. We sincerely hope that the implementation of the "Suggestions - 2013" would contribute not only to better business environment and employment opportunities in India, but also to further advancement of our bilateral relationship.



### CHENNAI

#### JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL



The Japan Foundation and the Madras Film Society co-hosted a Japanese Film Festival of Director Keisuke Kinoshita's 6 films, from Jan.21st to 24th, at the M.M. Preview Theatre. A total of 300 audiences joined during the 4 days of the film festival. Participants appreciated the Japanese films

by expressing that the screened films were excellent, and that they could understand the real hearts of the Japanese people through these films. The presence of renowned actress Ms. Viji Chandrasekhar and film director Mrs. Lakshmi Ramakrishnan cast a good impact not only on the participants but also the media who covered the film festival.



#### LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION ON JAPANESE SWEETS

On Feb.2, 2013, the Consulate-General of Japan at Chennai and the Japan Foundation co-hosted a Lecture and Demonstration on Japanese Sweets, for diplomatic corps, businessmen and media, at the Accord Metropolitan Hotel in Chennai. Two Japanese Sweets experts coming from Japan, Mr. Noriyuki Myojin and Mr. Shogo Shimada, performed the Lecture and Demonstration. On Feb.3, 2013, the Lecture and Demonstration was again held at the residence of the Consul-General of Japan at Chennai, inviting about 40 participants including intellectuals, academia, members of Japanese- related organizations, and others.



The events, which were the first Japanese Lecture and Demonstration in Chennai, were highly appreciated by the participants. They expressed that it was a very successful demonstration, and that Japanese Sweets are a work of art through which they understood Japanese cultural sensitivity, and modesty through Japanese Sweets making. They added that they were amazed by the Japanese Sweets making technique and recognized Japanese people as very skilful.



## WAGASHI – A SWEET GIFT FROM JAPAN FOR KOLKATANS

Kolkata has always been famous for its *mishti* (traditional sweets in Bengal). In February, the Kolkatans were given a special treat by two specialists in confectionery from Japan - Mr. Noriyuki Myojin and Mr. Shogo Shimada - very ably assisted by Mr. Masato Takahashi. This programme was organised by the Consulate-General of Japan in Kolkata. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, this delegation shared their expertise

and secret of making the traditional sweets of Japan - “WAGASHI” - at a workshop for more than 30 very enthusiastic and young participants from the Institute of Hotel Management in Kolkata, including students and faculties from Patna and Hajipur representing Bihar, and Bolangir and Bhubaneshwar from Odisha, of the same institute.



On 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, at the Oberoi Grand, Kolkata, about 80 guests had an unforgettable experience of seeing the awe-inspiring sculptured sweet delicacies - taking form in front of their eyes. The people of Kolkata thank the trio from Japan for sharing the art of making the sweet delights of Japan and will wait eagerly for more such heart-warming sessions in the future.

## KUROSAWA TODAY - VIEWS & REFLECTIONS

### An International Seminar on films directed by Akira Kurosawa

The four day screening of 8 famous films directed by Akira Kurosawa along with discourses by reputed faculties of film institutes in Kolkata, titled “KUROSAWA TODAY – VIEWS & REFLECTIONS”, was a tribute to the artistic genius in the realm of film-making. The people of Kolkata – the city of Satyajit Ray – another international icon of the film fraternity, were spellbound by the bouquet of 8 rare and spectacular films directed by Kurosawa, screened at Nandan in Kolkata, from 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2013. The seminar was organised by Neo Films Foundation, in collaboration with the Consulate-General of Japan in Kolkata, and sup-

ported by the Japan Foundation New Delhi. This festival to celebrate the creativity of the wizard of Japanese films, Akira Kurosawa, was inaugurated by Mr. Mitsuo Kawaguchi, Consul General of

Japan in Kolkata, in the august presence of Justice Shyamal Kumar Sen, the former Governor of West Bengal, Dr. Sujit Kumar Basu, former Vice Chancellor of Visva

Bharati University, and of course the people of Kolkata, who always have an insatiable appetite for world-class cinema.

The wide array of films included *Rashomon*, *Seven Samurai*, *Sanjuro*, *Ikiru*, *The Lower Depths*, *Scandal*, *Idiot & Dodeskaden*.



## MUMBAI

### S.P. GODREJ JAPANESE ART CONTEST & EXHIBITION

From the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of February, the Joint Contest & Exhibition of Japanese Arts (Ikebana, Bonsai, Origami, Sumi-e, Japanese Language, Post Card Collection and Japanese Artifacts) was organized by the Indo-Japanese Association in Mumbai, at Cama Hall, Near Lion Gate, S. B. Singh Road, Mumbai.

Mr. Vinaya Mehrotra, President of the Indo-Japanese Association in Mumbai, welcomed the gathering. Mr. Suresh Kotak, Trustee, briefly introduced the organization to the gathering. Mr. Kiyoshi Asako, Consul General of Japan, Mumbai, inaugurated the exhibition. Mrs. Pheroza Godrej, a representative



of the illustrious Godrej family, thanked the Indo-Japanese Association in Mumbai for organizing this event in the birth centenary year of Late S.P. Godrej, who was the President of the Indo-Japanese Association in Mumbai from 1977 to 1980, its Trustee from 1993 to 1999, a lover of art, and a very humble person. She gave away the prizes to the winners of the contest.

Mr. Nikunj Parekh, Vice President, thanked the Consul General and Mrs. Asako for gracing the function by their presence, and Mrs. Pheroza Godrej for sparing her time and sponsoring this function.

### WALL ART FESTIVAL 2013

During February 16 and 18, the “Wall Art Festival 2013” organized by the Wall Art Project, was held at the Jivan Sikshan Mandir Ganjad School in Ganjad Village, on the outskirts of Mumbai, in which the native tribe “Warli” resides.

This is the 4th festival in India and the 1st in Maharashtra State to inspire the power of art to the

villagers, including children, and build up bonds between Japan and India.

Warli artist, Mr. Rajesh Chaity Vangad, Indian artist Mr. B. Manjunath Kamath, as well as Japanese artists, Ichiro Endo, Hiraku Suzuki and Maki Ohkojima stayed at the site and depicted artworks on the walls of the school. In addition, people enjoyed kite flying and contemporary dance, too.





## JAPAN WEEK

The Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai and the Indo-Japan Association in Pune celebrated "Japan Week" from March 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Yashwantrao Chavan Kaladalan in Pune City, for the purpose of Japanese cultural exchange with people in Pune. In the event, Hina Dolls, celebrating Hina Festival in Japan on March 3, were exhibited. Boys' Day Dolls, replicas of Japanese foods, old-fashioned Japanese toys, etc., were also exhibited. The Ikenobo School participated with its Ikebana exhibition.



About 40 photo panels on the disaster caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami two years ago were exhibited. In addition, a video recording of the Fireworks and Projection Mapping event held last December in New Delhi, as the Grand Finale of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations, was also screened for the audience there.

## BANGALORE

### JAPAN HABBA



*Opening and Inauguration*

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Japan Habba (Japan Festival) was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> February at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium of the Bangalore University. It was organized by the following organizations:

- The Bangalore Japanese Association
- The Bangalore Sakura Association
- The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- The Japan Foundation
- Bangalore University

- Consulate of Japan in Bangalore
- Bangalore Nihongo Kyoshikai
- Indo-Japan chamber of Commerce
- Koyo Nihongo Group

The main programmes of Japan Habba this year were, among others, Kyogen (Japanese traditional comedy), Sado (Tea ceremony), The Bon dancing, Japanese movie screening, Yakshagana (Traditional South Indian Drama), etc.



*Kimono dressing*

### JAPANESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT INDIA UNDER THE KIZUNA PROJECT

A group of 59 Japanese university students visited India from 20th to 26th February 2013, under the Kizuna Project Youth Exchange Programme by the Government of Japan. Some of these students belonged to the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake of 11 March 2011. This was the first such visit by Japanese university students to India under the JENESYS or KIZUNA Project.

During their stay, the delegation visited the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi on 20th February, to learn about the India-Japan relationship and the relief assistance received from India after the earthquake. They paid



*Visit to JNU*



*Visit to Delhi University*

a visit to the Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, and had a workshop and discussion with Indian students on disaster-prevention and recovery from earthquakes. On 26<sup>th</sup> February, a wrap-up workshop was held, in which the students reported about their impressions and outcomes of the visit.

The delegation also visited the Delhi Metro, a project which came up with Japanese ODA assistance, as well as an NGO taking care of poor children.

### 25<sup>TH</sup> ALL INDIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST



*Ambassador Yagi addressing the audience*

The 25<sup>th</sup> All India Japanese Language Speech Contest, supported by the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, and the Japanese Association Delhi, was organised by MOSAI on 12 January 2013, at Lecture Hall 2, Convention Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The Chief Guest was H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan. The audience of about 120 comprised of Japanese residents, officials from the Embassy of Japan, teachers of Japanese language from various

institutions, MOSAI members, and students.

22 participants (10 in Senior Category and 12 in Junior Category), who were the winners of the North, South, East and West regional contest, delivered their speeches.

The first, second and third winners in each category received shields and cups from H.E. Mr. Yagi, and other prizes from Mr. Hironori Kanayama, President, Japanese Association Delhi. Dr. Ashok Jain, President, MOSAI, gave away participation certificates along with Japanese calendars provided by the Japanese Embassy.



*Winners of the contest (front row) with the dignitaries*



# SAKE TASTING AND PROMOTION EVENT



The Embassy of Japan and \*Sake Samurai, Japan, organized a SAKE TASTING & PROMOTION EVENT on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013, at the Varq Restaurant, Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road, New Delhi, which featured the pairing of Japanese Rice Wine ‘Sake’ with Indian cuisine. Sake is a rice-based alcoholic beverage of Japanese origin with a 2000 years history of production, and can be paired with cuisines from all over the world, regardless of the foods or cooking styles used.

Five leading producers of Sake, namely, Kamoi-zumi Shuzo Co. Ltd., Yaegaki Sake & Spirits, Inc., Sekiya Brewery Co. Ltd., Yamatagawa Sake Brewery and Akitaseishu Co. Ltd. came to New Delhi to introduce their products and to have business meetings with

even entered into a tie-up with an Indian distributor. Encouraged by its success, this time, five Sake breweries and the Sake Samurai Secretariat not only introduced their products but also had intense discussions with Indian importers and distributors.

Indian importers/distributors for possible future tie up arrangements for marketing their products in India. Around 60 prominent people from the wine/hotel industry in New Delhi were invited to this exclusive event. Sake Samurai’s international representative Mr Keisuke Irie conducted the event and made a presentation on the Japanese sake culture, brewing techniques and sake drinking etiquettes.

In March last year, a “Sake Introduction Event” was held as one of the commemorative events of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-India Diplomatic Relations. The event was a huge success, and one of the four participating Sake producers from Japan



According to reports, India has a large market for alcoholic drinks, and its consumption is increasing by 30% annually. However, only a fragment of the total alcohol consumption is Sake. India has a rich food and beverage culture and Sake can be introduced into the Indian cuisine as a delightful accompaniment.

*\*Sake Samurai is a part of the activity of Japan Sake Brewers Association Junior Council, which is a National Industry organization. It was set up in 2005. (Website: [http://www.sakesamurai.jp/project\\_english.html](http://www.sakesamurai.jp/project_english.html))*

*(Photos courtesy: Sake Samurai Secretariat)*



# ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL GURGAON - CHAPTER # 255



*A group photo of some chapter members with dignitaries*

The Annual Exhibition of Ikebana International Gurgaon Chapter # 255 was held on 19 January 2013 at the Patio, Hotel Westin, Gurgaon. 45 arrangements representing three prominent Ikebana schools, viz., Sogetsu, Ohara and Ikenobo were displayed. The members of the chapter participated with great enthusiasm, adhering to the theme of the exhibition, i.e., "Elegance". Different flowers of the season and



*A Morimono arrangement*

the foliage were used in the flower arrangements. Both classical and modern arrangements from Sogetsu, Ohara and Ikenobo School were shown.

Mme Akiko Yagi, wife of the Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. Katsuma Doi, Director of the Japan Foundation New Delhi, and Mr. Ryoji Noda, Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan, opened the Exhibition by lighting the traditional Indian oil lamp.

## EXHIBITION BY OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

The Delhi Chapter of the Ohara School of Ikebana held its Annual Exhibition at the Godrej Auditorium of WWF, Lodi Estate, New Delhi, on January 21 and 22, 2013. The event marked the 23rd anniversary of the founding of the Chapter. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Komala Varadan, eminent Bharatanatyam dancer and painter, and Mrs. Akiko Yagi, the wife of H.E. the Ambassador of Japan to India. Mrs. Yagi spoke about the excellent relations in the field of culture between the two countries and the many activities organised during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2012.

Members of the Chapter presented around 50 Ikebana arrangements incorporating almost all the special features of Ikebana according to the Ohara style, which was established as a separate School by Unshin Ohara in the late 19th century. It stresses naturalistic presentation of Ikebana and made many innovations like the use of flat containers and the use of pin-holders. The Ohara School was the first to train women as teachers of Ikebana.



*Mrs. Yagi (in peach coloured dress) flanked by Mrs. Meena Iyer, President - Ohara Delhi Chapter, on her right, and Mrs. Komala Varadan on her left, with other members of the Ohara School*

The arrangements in the Exhibition covered the entire range of Ohara like traditional and realistic landscape, *bunjin*, *hanakanade*, *moribana*, *heika*, *yosoi*, and *rimpa*. The Chapter has been very active in teaching and exhibitions. They had arranged for the visit of a professor from Tokyo for workshops last year, a program supported by the Japan Foundation.



## IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION BY SOGETSU SCHOOL

Ms. Nirmal Nehra, a senior teacher of the Sogetsu School, gave a very interesting demonstration titled 'Something Special' on 11 February 2013.

She made eleven innovative arrangements using locally available material. She added some unique element to each arrangement to make it special. The flowers used were varied - from anthuriums, to lilies, to heleenias. The flowers and greens were complimenting each other. The Ikebana displayed



*Some of the exhibits on display*



*Mrs. Yagi (centre) with Mr. Katsuma Doi, Director General - Japan Foundation New Delhi (left), and Mrs. Veena Dass, Director - Sogetsu Centre Delhi*

various colours, hues, and textures in the flower arrangements.

Madame Yagi, wife of H.E. the Ambassador of Japan, was the Chief Guest at this programme. There were about forty-five ladies who attended the demonstration, which was held at the Japan Foundation New Delhi.

## INDIA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT BLUEBELLS SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL

The India Day celebration was held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in Bluebells School International (BBS), New Delhi.

The India Day celebration is an event held around February - March every year. During this event, around 150 students of NDJS visit Bluebells, present their culture and various performances, and then participate in activities like Indian sports, cooking classes, Vedic Maths classes, science clubs, arts, crafts, etc. The event culminates in playing Holi with their Bluebellian friends, with flower petals.

The event was special this year due to the presence

of Mrs. Yagi, wife of the Ambassador of Japan to India, whose presence was a source of inspiration to the students of both the schools.

Mrs. Suman Kumar, Principal - Bluebells School International, welcomed Mrs. Yagi. The programme included events such as Japanese Song, Folk Dance and Yoga by the students of BBS, and Wadaiko, Ohayashi, and Song by the NDJS students. There was also an exhibition organised on the occasion.

The event concluded with Holi played with flower petals by students of both schools in the skating rink area of BBS.



## JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL “KIZUNA 2013” AT JNU

The Kizuna Festival 2013 was presented by students of the Centre for Japanese, Korean and North-East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on March 22 and 23, 2013. The event, which was supported by The Embassy of Japan, The Japan Foundation, and The Japanese Association, New Delhi, has been running every year since 2007, except 2011, when it was cancelled at short notice due to the earthquake in Japan.

This year, the exciting event included various activities such as Japanese movie screening, workshops on origami and calligraphy, demonstration of Yukata-

wearing, etc. Other interesting programs featured many dance and music performances by students of JNU, J.P.M. Senior Secondary School For Blind Boys, DPS Vasant Kunj, DPS Dwarka, MOSAI Institute, Nihongo Centre, Delhi University, etc.

The venue, Jhelum Lawns of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, also had Japanese Food Stalls serving many Japanese delicacies, such as “Maccha (Green Tea) Cookies”, “Udon (Japanese Noodle)”, “Rolled Sushi” and “Miso soup”, “Yakitori” and “Yaki Tomorokoshi”, etc.

Over 1000 visitors enjoyed the festival over two days and experienced various facets of Japan.



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