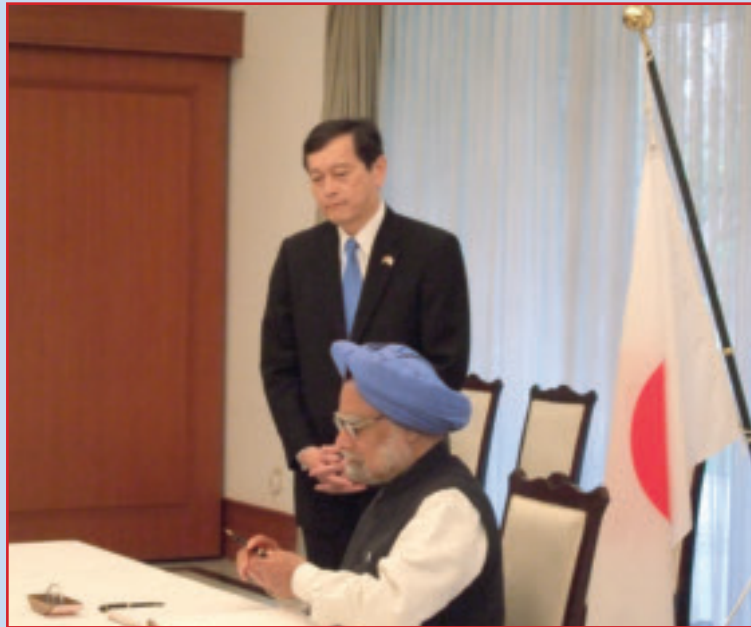


Japan Calling

March 2011

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



Honourable Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, signing the Book of Condolence for Japan Earthquake Victims, at the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, on 17 March 2011

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AMBASSADOR SAIKI'S MESSAGE TO THE READERS OF 'JAPAN CALLING'

Dear Readers,

I was really happy when I first learnt of my appointment as the next Ambassador of Japan to India. There are mainly two reasons for this: the first one being, this is the first time in my 36 years long career as a Japanese diplomat that I have been given a chance to work on Japan-India relations. I have always had a lot of interest in India, and finally got this opportunity to work in the country. The second reason is a more personal one. My father was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Mission in the Japanese Embassy to India during 1967 to 1969. My elder brother and I visited New Delhi in the summer of 1967 for about 45 days and travelled extensively by car together with my sister and parents. We visited Jaipur and also saw the Taj Mahal in Agra. I was greatly impressed by the historical heritage and culture of India. Interestingly, I still remember the names of some of the Indian staff working in my father's residence at that time, and also the name of the Doctor (Dr. Chopra) who treated me for some stomach problem. So, I have very fond memories of those days I spent with my family here in India.

Now, talking about Japan-India relations in the political, economic, cultural, and other spheres, I totally agree with the importance of increased presence of Japan and India in each other's country. During his visit to Japan last October, I clearly remember the expression, "the sky is the limit", which was used by the Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. I believe this phrase is very apt to describe the potential of Japan-India relations, because the two countries are strengthening their ties as strategic partners, not just in this part of the world but also in various arenas globally, and emerging as true "Global Partners". Political dialogue between our leaders is happening at a regular frequency and the two countries are moving towards becoming quasi-allies. Though Japan does not have a military alliance with India like with the US, we are very close as partners.

Economically, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has been signed this February between Mr. Seiji Maehara, (former) Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan, and Mr. Anand Sharma, Commerce and Industry Minister of India. While it is currently pending approval in the Japanese Diet (Parliament), upon coming into force in the near future, the CEPA would open more business opportunities for both Japan and India in each other's country. Already, interest in India is getting stronger among Japanese business circles, and we have been witnessing a rising presence of Japanese companies in India with each passing year. I am sure this will remain the trend in the years to come.



Though political and economic ties are two of the most important pillars of our relations, I would like to especially stress upon the vital role played by our cultural connections. Historically, India is the place from where Buddhism came to Japan almost 1500 years ago, via China and Korea, and, therefore, occupies a very special place in the hearts of the Japanese people. Many temples all over Japan have Buddha statues installed in their premises. Interestingly, there are also some Sanskrit words which have been adapted in the Japanese language, and most people use them without realizing their Indian origin. (For example, the Japanese word "shari" (シャリ), usually used for small grained Japanese rice for sushi, originally means rice in Sanskrit. Another meaning of this word, which comes from the Sanskrit word "sharira" (शरीर) denotes the pieces of bones or ashes of the Buddha's body.)

So, during my term of posting in India, I also wish to highlight the spiritual basis which connects our two people, particularly in light of the fact that the year 2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-India diplomatic relations. I hope to elevate the level of awareness about our strong and unique historical relations at the grassroots level in both countries. We are also fortunate in that no negative historical legacy exists between Japan and India, and we have only had positives in our relationship. I believe that, even though it might take about 8 to 9 hours to travel between Japan and India by plane, and geographically we may be located at a long distance from each other, the psychological distance between the people of our two countries is only going to get much closer in the years ahead.

Shortly before coming to New Delhi, I visited several places in Tokyo to search for symbols of our cultural ties: such as, the Ueno National Museum, where there are hundreds of small Buddha statues lined up on display in the Annex of the Museum. These golden statues, which were made in the Asuka era (7th -8th century), are indeed a remarkable sight to behold, and I was very impressed with them. I also took a half hour subway ride to visit the Nishikasai area in the suburbs of Tokyo, which is well known for its huge Indian community. However, I apparently chose the wrong hour to visit, as most of the men had already left for their work by that time. Nevertheless, I got the opportunity to interact with some of the Indian womenfolk and children, from whom I learnt that most of the Indians here are working in the Information Technology and Financial Services sector. I was happy to know that so many Indians are demonstrating their amazing skills and contributing to the Japanese economy through their services.

After arriving in New Delhi early March, I had an opportunity to get taken around to places related to Indian culture. I first visited the Rajghat, Mahatma Gandhi's memorial, where a young man volunteered to explain to me the history of the place. I was really struck with the environment of tranquility pervading the environment there. Then, I went to see the Qutub Minar, which can be equated with the Sky Tree building currently under construction in Tokyo, followed by a visit to the National Gallery of Modern Art, where I saw many paintings and works of art by Indian artists. I rounded off the tour with a ride on the Delhi Metro, which I found to be very smooth, impressive, clean and safe. I felt very happy with my experience in the Delhi Metro, which is a fruit of the cooperation between Japan and India.

I am now looking forward to serving my term as Ambassador of Japan to India, in close cooperation with members of the Japanese community, businessmen and academics living here, for boosting the relationship between our two countries even further.

In closing, I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of India for their sincere, kind and warm expressions of sympathy and support offered to the Japanese people in their difficult time following the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on 11 March 2011. With support from friends in India, the Government of Japan is making all possible efforts to cope with the situation by searching for missing people and providing safety to those who have been evacuated. We are very thankful for the consignment of 25,000 blankets, 13,000 bottles of mineral water, and 10 tons of high-calorie biscuits sent by the Government of India for the survivors of this disaster. Besides, a 46-member strong NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) Response Force has been dispatched by India to assist relief efforts in the affected regions. This is a highly appreciated gesture of real friendship by India, and we are truly grateful for the same.

Akitaka Saiki

Ambassador of Japan to India

TOHOKU – PACIFIC OCEAN EARTHQUAKE

Around 14:46 of March 11, massive earthquakes with the magnitude of 9.0 struck Sanriku Coast, Japan. Waves of tsunami of more than 7 meters swept cities and villages of Tohoku district off the Pacific Ocean, causing devastating human as well as physical damages.

The earthquake and tsunami resulted in emergency situations including failure of the reactor-cooling systems in TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company)'s nuclear power stations in Fukushima Prefecture. Responses have been taken with regards to these situations.

For more information, please access the following internet sites:

1. Prime Minister of Japan and his Cabinet
<http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/topics/2011/earthquake2011tohoku.html>
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/incidents/index.html
3. Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
<http://www.mext.go.jp/english/topics/1303717.htm>
4. NISA – Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency
<http://www.nisa.meti.go.jp/english/index.html>
5. Japan Meteorological Agency
<http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html>

H.E. PRIME MINISTER AND H.E. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOK AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN

Honourable Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh, visited the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, on 17 March 2011, to sign the Book of Condolence for Japan Earthquake Victims. (Photo: Cover Page)

The text of the message written by Prime Minister Singh in the Book of Condolence is as follows:

“The people of India share the sorrow and grief of the people of Japan.”

While thanking Prime Minister Singh, H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India, expressed the gratefulness of the Government of Japan for the messages of sympathy and condolences from the Government and people of India, and for the large consignment of blankets sent by India as relief supplies.

In response, Prime Minister Singh said that the blankets were just a part of the relief material from India and added



Honourable External Affairs Minister of India, H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna, signing the Book of Condolence for Japan Earthquake Victims, at the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, on 18 March 2011

that India was ready to help with any other form of assistance that may be required by Japan. He also asked Ambassador Saiki to convey his best regards to the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Naoto Kan.

On 18 March 2011, the Honourable External Affairs

Minister of India, H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna, also visited the Embassy of Japan to sign the Book of Condolence for Japan Earthquake Victims. He was received by Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan.

ACCEPTANCE OF RELIEF MONEY FOR THE VICTIMS OF TOHOKU – PACIFIC OCEAN EARTHQUAKE

The Embassy of Japan in India is truly grateful to receive numerous inquiries from the people of India for sending contributions towards the relief of the victims of Tohoku District - Off The Pacific Ocean Earthquake, which severely hit Japan on Friday, March 11.

The Embassy has now started to accept relief money from individuals and organizations in India. The received donations will be duly transferred to the Japanese Red Cross Society (or to the Government of Japan, when possible) and will be used for the victims of this natural calamity. (Donations received by the Japanese Red Cross Society will be transferred to the “Donation Distribution Committee” in the devastated local governments and paid to victims through the committee.)

Those who intend to donate for this purpose are advised to remit their monetary contributions to the following designated bank account of the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi:

Bank Name: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ
Branch Name: New Delhi Branch
Account No.: 032883 (Current Account)
Bank Address: Jeevan Vihar, 3, Parliament Street,
 New Delhi – 110001

IFSC Code: BOTM0ND36110 (First “O” is alphabet, Second “0” is ZERO)

SWIFT Code: BOTKINDD

Payee Name: EMBASSY OF JAPAN (RELIEF FUND FOR JAPANESE PEOPLE)

Payee Address: 50-G, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI-110021, INDIA

For those who intend to remit their relief money directly to the Japanese Red Cross Society for the same purpose, the bank account details in Japan are as follows:

Bank Name: Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Branch Name: Ginza

Account No.: 8047670 (Ordinary Account)

SWIFT Code: SMBC JP JT

Payee Name: The Japanese Red Cross Society

Payee Address: 1-1-3, Shiba-Daimon Minato-ku, Tokyo JAPAN

*Please make a clear notification if you need a receipt.

The Indian Red Cross Society is also accepting contributions for the victims of the Tohoku district - off the Pacific Ocean Earthquake. (The amount collected will be duly forwarded to the Japanese Red Cross Society.) Their contact details are as follows:
 e-mails: fnsircs@indianredcross.org; tuhina@indianredcross.org.

SIGNING OF JAPAN-INDIA CEPA



H.E. Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, and H.E. Mr. Seiji Maehara, (former) Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, signing the CEPA documents on 16th February 2011 in Tokyo

Photo courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Japan and India signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 16th February 2011 in Tokyo. It is expected that this Agreement will promote the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment between the two countries and will further strengthen their economic ties in wide-ranging fields.

\$7 trillion CEPA

This CEPA is significant in terms of the sizable GDP of India and Japan. For India, this agreement provides access to the Japanese market with 5 trillion US dollars GDP, and is also the first CEPA with a developed country. For Japanese companies, it is expected to provide more business opportunities in India, which is one of the growth engines in the world.

Trade in Goods

About 94% of the tariffs between Japan and India will be eliminated within 10 years (about 97% by Japan and about 90% by India) on a trade value basis. Japan agreed to eliminate almost all the tariffs on industrial products at the entering into force of this Agreement and also made commitments on agricultural products as below.

Comprehensive package -- New level of Strategic and Global Partnership

(Investment)

The number of Japanese companies operating in India has

doubled in the last 3 years from 362 in February 2007 to 725 in October 2010. Japan's FDI was more than 800 billion yen in the year 2008. These investments are contributing towards expansion of employment, technical transfer, and export of Indian goods.

The Japan-India CEPA contains Chapters on "Investment", "Trade in Services", "Intellectual Property", "Improvement of Business Environment", and so on. Those Chapters may enhance investment activities of both businesses.







(Generic medicine)

India is the first CEPA partner of Japan with whom Japan has agreed to commit on the approval procedure of Generic medicine. Japan will provide "National Treatment" to the Indians for the application of approvals for release of generic medicine, and complete the procedures within a reasonable period of time.

(Movement of Natural Persons)

CEPA plays an important role to increase the movement of people between the two countries. Japan offered a special commitment on entry and temporary stay for Indian Instructors of (i) Indian Yoga, (ii) Indian cuisine, (iii) Indian classical music and dance, and (iv) English language.

(Examples)

Farm products	Durian (2.5%), Asparagus (3%), etc.		elimination on entering into force
	Capsicum (red pepper) other than large bell type (3%), Sweet corn (6%), etc.		elimination in 7 years
	Curry (3.6%), Black Tea (for beverage, exceeding 3kg)		elimination in 10 years
Forest products	Lumbers (3.6%)		elimination on entering into force
Marine products	Shrimps and Prawns (1-2%)		elimination on entering into force
	Octopus (frozen) (5%)		elimination in 7 years
	Shrimps and prawns (prepared) (3.2-5.3%)		elimination in 10 years

Japan and India also agreed to enter into negotiations on a Social Security Agreement in order to complete the consultations and negotiations within 36 months after the commencement of the consultations. The consultations have already started in January 2011.

For more details, please go to the website of the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi:

<http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp>

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

It is an encouraging trend that foreign direct investment from Japan to India and the number of Japanese companies in India is growing rapidly. It has been doubled in three years to 725 (in Oct 2010). As Japanese companies develop their business wider and deeper, JCCII has compiled the “**Suggestions for Government of India 2011**” for promoting foreign direct investment to India. There are a lot of issues whose solution would be beneficial not only to Japanese companies but also to the Indian economy as a whole. As the Indian economy continues a high rate of growth, it would be all the more important to alleviate the bottlenecks so that the growth potential can be enlarged aggressively.

Mr. Yamaguchi, Chairman of the Suggestions Promotion Committee, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCII), on 4 February 2011, submitted to Mr. Talleen Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, the “**Suggestions for Government of India by JCCII 2011**”.

This report contains 39 items in 12 chapters (1. Tax System, 2. Visa, 3. Infrastructure, 4. Road Permit, 5. E-Waste, 6. Land Acquisition, 7. Social Security Agreement, 8. Refund Regime of Provident Fund, 9. Logistics Distribution, 10. Financial Sector, 11. Press Note No.1, 12. Withdrawal of the submission of Bill of Entry to DGS&D on Government Procurement) which would improve India’s business environment, laws, and accelerating direct investment from Japan in India.

JCCII started this activity in 2009 and it is the third set of Suggestions since then. This year, proposals from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata were also taken into account in the Suggestion. JCCII hopes that through the interaction with Government of India on the Suggestion it can help improve the business environment of India, and plans to submit the Suggestions to Government of India every year.

For more details, please go to:

<http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/Japan-India-Relations/Japan-Chamber-Commerce2011.html>

IMPORTANT EMBASSY EVENTS HELD IN THE RECENT PAST

JAPAN SUPPORTS POLIO ERADICATION PROJECT IN INDIA

Government of Japan extends Grant for Polio Eradication Project in India

Grant to UNICEF

The Government of Japan agreed to extend to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) a grant assistance of 192 million yen (approximately equivalent to Rs. 10.6 crore) for the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) project to eradicate poliomyelitis from India. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, (former) Ambassador of Japan to India, and Ms. Karin Hulshof, Representative of UNICEF India country office, on 21 January 2011.

India is one of the four countries (Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan) in which the Wild Polio Virus (WPV) still remains, and is the most populous country among them. Therefore, a joint international effort is being made, involving the Government of India, UNICEF, WHO, donor countries and agencies, together with state governments and NGOs.

The Government of Japan hopes that the Grant would

contribute to further strengthening of the relationship between Japan and India.

Japan's Commitment

Japan has been supporting the IPPI project in India since 1996. The cumulative amount of grant assistance up to this year will reach 8.2 billion yen.

Utilization of the Grant

Japan's grant will be used mostly for the purchase of oral polio vaccine for mainly North Eastern states of India.

Accomplishment of the aid

The continuous support from the Government of Japan to India through UNICEF has helped to prevent the expansion of WPV in India. Through continuous contribution by Japan, the numbers of polio cases have been maintained at less than 10 cases since 2004 in the North Eastern areas of India.

JAPAN EXTENDS SOFT LOAN PACKAGE TO INDIA UNDER THE FIRST BATCH OF FY2010

– Exchange of Notes for Rs. 2,556 crore loan package concluded –

1. The Government of Japan, on 17 February 2011, agreed to extend soft loan assistance to three projects totaling 46,401 million yen (approximately Rs. 2,556 crore). The Exchange of Notes to formalize the arrangements to this effect was concluded on 17 February 2011 at a ceremony held in the Ministry of Finance in New Delhi. The notes were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, (former) Ambassador of Japan to India and Mr. Prabodh Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India on behalf of their respective Governments.
2. The loan package covers three projects in the areas of agriculture, afforestation and sewage. These concessional loans will be made available through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at the interest rate ranging from even as low as 0.65% to 1.4% per annum with the repayment period of 30 to 40 years including the grace period of 10 years. (See Enclosure for outline of all the three projects.)
3. Besides the infrastructure sector such as power and transportation, the Government of Japan appropriates its funding resources for agriculture as well. Crop Diversification Project in Himachal Pradesh will benefit the farmers with the rising incomes and Biodiversity Conservation Project in Tamil Nadu will lead to the community development without devastating its environment. Purification of Yamuna River is expected to achieve the improved quality of life of the regional inhabitants.
4. India has been the largest recipient of Japan's ODA for seven consecutive years since FY2003. This reflects the growing Japan-India development partnership and the importance Japan attaches to the bilateral ties with India.
5. The main objectives of Japanese loan assistance to India are to support India's efforts to sustain economic growth, to reduce poverty, to build economic and social infrastructure, and to tackle environmental issues.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN EXTENDS US\$ 327,397 GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR FOUR GRASSROOTS PROJECTS



Grassroots Assistance to Tamana (28 Feb. 2011)



Grassroots Assistance to Utthan (28 Feb. 2011)



Grassroots Assistance to Manav Seva Sansthan (28 Feb. 2011)



Grassroots Assistance to Helpage India (28 Feb. 2011)

1. The Embassy of Japan in India, under its scheme “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects”, on 28 February 2011, decided to extend grant assistance totaling US\$327,397 (approximately equivalent to Rs.1 crore 49 lakh) to four Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to support their respective projects. The NGOs and projects receiving the Grants are as follows:

(i) TAMANA

has been working to provide holistic special education for children and adults with developmental disabilities such as autism, in Delhi, since its establishment in 1984. TAMANA provides educational services in such fields as vocational training for achieving vocational independence. As it is faced with growing needs of students, TAMANA requires additional rooms in the existing school in order to provide effective and sustainable training. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$63,892 for the proposed project.

(ii) Utthan–Centre for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation

has been working to provide education for the underprivileged and other people living below the poverty line, at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh, since its establishment in 1996. The organisation has been running several schools, but is now receiving an increasing number of primary school students. Now it is necessary to provide primary education for more children and the construction of additional class rooms is indispensable. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$83,697 for the proposed project.

(iii) Manav Seva Sansthan

has been working to implement a variety of socio-economic development projects for the vulnerable layers of the society, especially for women and children, at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, since its establishment in 1988. It is also working to promote child rights and to prevent human trafficking of women and children. Currently, the organisation is running a shelter for street children living around the Gorakhpur Railway Station. In view of growing needs, it is necessary for the organisation to establish a comprehensive rehabilitation center, in order to upgrade its services and to provide long-term care such as education, vocational training, medical and mental care for street children. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$ 100,084 for the proposed project.

(iv) HelpAge India

has been working to provide social welfare and health care services all over India, since its establishment in 1978. The organisation has supported more than 4600 projects such as old age homes, day-care centre, nutritional improvement, free cataract operations, and so on. In view of the growing needs at Patiala in Punjab, the organisation requires a new day-care centre building in order to provide effective health care and other support for disadvantaged old people. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$79,724 for the proposed project.

2. The Signing Ceremony to formalize the arrangements took place on 28 February 2011, at the Embassy of Japan, between Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Chargé d’Affaires, and the representatives of the above NGOs.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN EXTENDS US \$102,640 GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR ASHA COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY FOR ITS GRASSROOTS PROJECT

1. The Embassy of Japan in India, under its scheme “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects”, on 3 March 2011, decided to extend grant assistance totaling US\$102,640 (approximately equivalent to Rs.46 lakh) to Asha Community Health and Development Society, to support their mobile health van service project. The recipient and project receiving the Grant is as follows:

Asha Community Health and Development Society

since its establishment in 1988, has been working to improve the quality of life of those who are living in slums. The organization provides health care services such as running a dispensary in their headquarters and

community health care center in 50 slums at Delhi. To start a new project which provides proper medical services to more underprivileged women and children of the targeted 5 slums (population in total 25,000), the organization requires two mobile health vans as mobile base station. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$102,640 for the proposed project.

2. The Signing Ceremony to formalize the arrangements took place on 3rd March 2011, at the Embassy of Japan, between Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of Japan, and the representatives of the above NGO.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE LEARNING MOVES ON 23RD ALL INDIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST

MOSAI, the *Mombusho Scholars Association of India*, organized its regular annual event – All India Japanese Language Speech Contest – the 23rd in series. Encouraging the zonal winners, three each in Junior and Senior categories from four zones, North, South, East and West, respectively and welcoming the Chief Guest Mr Hajime Hayashi, Charge d’affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan, the representative of Japanese Association, judges, other dignitaries, teachers and guests, MOSAI President Dr Ashok Jain talked about the continuously growing enthusiasm this contest has enjoyed for more than two decades. He acknowledged the role of students and teachers and the support of Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation in bringing the speech contest to its current level.

H.E. Mr Hayashi in his remarks said that he had been keenly looking forward to hearing the speeches of participants. He talked about the Indo-Japan relations of as early as 6th century and mentioned about the similarities in wall paintings of Horyuji temple in Nara prefecture of Japan and Ajanta caves of Maharashtra in India, an intellectual bond between Rabindranath Tagore and Okakura Tenshin and the dynamic developments of last few years, particularly in economic and business fields since recent past, transforming in to strategic relationship. Thus, it is the need of the hour to have a bigger pool of Japanese language knowing persons, who through their understanding of language and culture of the two nations can bridge many gaps, he added. He announced that the precedent of last few years to select automatically the top three winners of the contest in each category for short study-visit to Japan under JENESYS scheme of Japanese Government will be followed. In addition, this year two more participants one in each category will be selected under the Judge’s special prize category for visit to Japan under the same scheme.

There were 23 participants, 12 in senior and 11 in junior categories this year. They spoke on a variety of topics ranging from culture, society, language, learning from Japan, environmental

issues and relationships. Many contestants spoke convincingly about their personal experiences and this year too, all the contestants performed very closely. The first prize in the junior category was won by Ms. Geetha Raghuram of Bangalore Nihongo Kyoshikai, (Topic: *ki, soretomo uekibachi*) and the second prize in this category went to Mr. Montu Kumar of Nihongo Centre, New Delhi (Topic: *yareba nandemo dekiru*). The third prize went to Ms Shalmali Rajadhyaksha of Sachi Nihongo Gakko, Mumbai (Topic: *nohara shin ’nosuke*), while the Judge’s special prize went to Revathi R. of Bangalore University (Topic: *jinseiwa kagami desu*). In the senior category, first prize was won by Ms. Pavitra Dashmi Parthan of Bangalore University (Topic: *29 sai, dokushin no watashi*) and the second prize went to Ms. Patil Supriya Anant of Indo Japan Association, Pune (Topic: *jibun wo shinjite arukeru youni*). Third prize in the senior category was won by Mr Deven G. Pahinkar again of Indo Japan Association, Pune (Topic: *ningenwa dokodemo issho*), while the Judge’s special prize in this category went to Ms Archana of MOSAI (Topic: *tomerareru ka shira shizen no namida*), New Delhi.

Congratulating the participants and the winners, the Jury Chairman, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama gave valuable comments and important tips to encourage the participants on behalf of the jury. Mr H. Mochizuki, who was also one of the jury members, gave away the prizes on behalf of the Japanese Association, and the certificates were presented to the participants by H.E. Mr Hayashi.

The 23rd All India Japanese Language Speech Contest was coordinated by Prof. Manjushree Chauhan of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Mr. Sato of the Japan Foundation and Mr. Ojima of Japanese School helped the judges in confirming the level of participants through on-the-spot question-answer interaction. The contest concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Prof. R. Tomar of JNU.

Contributed by Ashok K. Chawla, Coordinator for the Jury

VISIT JAPAN PROMOTION COMMITTEE (23RD FEBRUARY 2011)



The Government of Japan has designated India as one of the 15 target countries to promote tourism to Japan under the “Visit Japan Project (VJP)”. The purpose of this campaign is to deepen the understanding about Japan, and by doing so, to increase the number of tourists to various travel destinations in Japan to 15 million by the year 2013, and to further enhance this figure up to 30 million tourists in future.

To make VJP successful in India, the “1st Visit Japan Promotion Committee” was held at the Japanese Ambassador’s residence on 23rd February 2011. The committee was organized with participants including experts such as, Mr. Arjun Asrani, Former Ambassador of India to Japan, tourism agencies, airlines which operate direct flight to Japan, and others.

The number of Indian nationals visiting Japan in 2009 was 58,918 and it accounts for only 0.53% of the total number of

outbound Indians. In the committee, many insightful views were expressed by the members, such as utilizing Bollywood movies and identifying useful Japanese attractions for Indians, including beautiful Japanese gardens, Japanese food, viewing nature at its best, and so forth.

After the committee, a reception was held at the Japanese Ambassador’s residence, with more than 200 participants. In the reception, a Japanese drums (TAIKO) performance by the Japanese ladies group was held, and excellent varieties of Japanese cuisine such as SUSHI, TEMPURA, etc., were served for the participants - both vegetarian and non-vegetarian.

Through the committee and reception, many useful inputs were received on how to promote travel to Japan, as well as to enhance the understanding about Japan in India.

DELHI IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATES 45 YEARS OF ITS CHAPTER

Delhi Ikebana International celebrated 45 years of its chapter by raising a toast “To The Future”, an aptly titled theme for the annual exhibition held at the Clarion Collection Hotel (previously Qutab Hotel) on 17th March 2011. But, due to the horrific Tsunami in Japan, Delhi Ikebana International, with a prayer on their lips for the people of Japan, decided to dedicate the exhibition ‘To The Future’ of Japan. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Hajime Hayashi, and Mrs. Hayashi.

It has been a long, glorious and beautiful journey for Delhi Ikebana International, which became a full fledged chapter in January 1966, New Delhi, India 77.

The love of flowers and people with an artistic bent of mind came together and formed the chapter. Mrs. Mitsue Stein, a trained teacher of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, trained the first few enthusiastic students in the Japanese style of flower arrangement and then these teachers, along with other ladies, committed and devoted to Ikebana International, formed a registered study group of Ikebana International.

The first annual flower exhibition was held on 25th February 1966 and was inaugurated by Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Over the years, great luminaries like Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, Mrs.



Sarojini Naidu, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Mr. M. Hidayatullah, and many prominent diplomats and personalities have inaugurated and enjoyed the annual exhibition.

The Association has, over the years, been invited to arrange flowers at various national and international events. Over the decades, we have invited masters of Ikenobo, Ohara, Sogetsu, Saga Goryu and Chiko Schools, among many others, to demonstrate in Delhi.

Our delegates have regularly been attending Ikebana World Conventions and Regional Conferences. This year, too, a number of delegates from our chapter are going to Japan for the World Convention.

The 25th and 40th anniversaries of Delhi Ikebana International were celebrated with much fanfare. The Fifth Asian Regional Conference was held in New Delhi in February 1996 and the 12th Asian Regional Conference will be held in New Delhi in February 2012.

Saveena Gadhoke
President - Delhi Ikebana
International



“FUKUOKA, JAPAN FAIR 2011” HELD IN NEW DELHI



As part of the Friendship Agreement between the Fukuoka Prefecture (Japan) and the National Capital Territory of Delhi (India), an exchange event, namely, the **FUKUOKA, Japan Fair 2011**, was held on March 15, 2011, at The Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi.

Fukuoka Prefecture and the NCT of Delhi have engaged in a variety of exchange activities since the signing of their Friendship Agreement in 2007. The Fair was organized as a part of this exchange to introduce the many charms of Fukuoka, and featured the following activities:

1. **Fukuoka Seminar**, presented by the Governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, to introduce the Fukuoka Prefectural Government's major policies and programs.
2. **Study Abroad Fair**, which included individual consultation with Japanese Universities, the Embassy of Japan, and Japanese language schools, regarding study abroad opportunities in Fukuoka. Information about scholarships, student life, and employment opportunities in Fukuoka, were also provided to the visitors.

3. **Fukuoka Prefecture Introduction** comprising of

- i) **Local Product Displays** - Many beautiful handicrafts from Fukuoka such as traditional dolls and textiles were on display. There was also a sample tasting of Japanese tea and sweets.
- ii) **Youth Culture Corner** - A popular illustrator from Fukuoka drew cartoon faces of guests, who could also experience globally acclaimed “J-pop” culture, with displays of popular illustrations, manga comics, and figurines.
- iii) **Industry and Tourism Corner** - Advanced industries and research institutions of Fukuoka as well as environmental policies were explained. Famous tourist spots which harmoniously blend nature and history were also introduced.

While a free lunch buffet was provided, splendid gifts from Fukuoka were also offered to the guests who attended the Fair.

BONSAI ANNUAL EXHIBITION HELD IN NEW DELHI

The Indian Bonsai Association recently held its 30th Annual Exhibition at the Lodhi Garden, National Bonsai Park, New Delhi, from March 3rd to March 6th, 2011. The exhibition was inaugurated on the 3rd of March at 11.30am by Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, who lighted the inaugural lamp in the presence of members of the Indian Bonsai Association and other invited guests. The Chief Minister of Delhi, Honorable Smt. Shiela Dixit, was the chief guest, but due to consistent rain she could not attend the inauguration. This exhibition was special as it was held during the visit of two

distinguished Bonsai and landscaping masters from Japan, Mr. Yasuhisa Yamaguchi and Dr. Eijiro Fujii, who came to India to give a demonstration of this art form at the Japan Foundation, New Delhi.

The Indian Bonsai Association, in cooperation with the Japan Foundation New Delhi, organized a two day program on the 5th and 6th March 2011, which included demonstrations and workshops by the visiting Masters. Members of Bonsai Associations from around India participated in the event, for whom it was a great learning experience. Excerpts from a report of the



Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, lighting the inaugural lamp.

event by Ms. Neera Neelambara, President, Indian Bonsai Association, are given below.

Growing Bonsai Naturally

It was a pleasant surprise when we got the message from Japan Foundation about the two masters from Japan visiting India in the first week of March. It was a great opportunity for the members of Indian Bonsai Association to learn more about this wonderful art.

The first master, Mr. Yasuhisa Yamaguchi, is a dedicated Bonsai artist born in Tokyo, and was a Board member of the Japan Bonsai Co-operative Association from 1982-89. He believes in making bonsai in the most natural way, without using much of wires and without disturbing the natural habit and style of that particular plant.

The second Master, Dr. Eijiro Fujii, is a Japanese garden specialist and a professor of Chiba University, who has written many texts concerning gardens.

On 4th of March, I picked the two masters from Vikram Hotel, along with the interpreter, Ms. Amba, and Mr. Matsuoka, our organizer for the event from Japan Foundation, and took them to Ms. Saveena Gadhoke's farmhouse. It was a friendly meeting, just to introduce our prestigious guests to the Board

members of the Indian Bonsai Association and to select some material to be demonstrated on 5th & 6th of March at the Japan Foundation. Working in the natural surroundings of Ms. Gadhoke's lovely garden was a real pleasure and Mr Fujii liked the different varieties of Indian trees grown there.

On 5th of March, we had a demonstration with Mr. Yamaguchi in the morning, followed by a lecture with a slide show with Prof. Fujii. Both the lectures were very informative. On the evening of 5th March, our special guests made a visit to see the plants exhibited by the members of the Indian Bonsai Association at the National Bonsai Park, Lodhi Garden, New Delhi, and gave a critical appreciation on all the bonsai plants displayed there.

On 6th of March, we had a workshop with Mr. Yamaguchi for our members, in which he showed the members how to bend a branch with the help of small pieces of bamboo sticks without the use of wires. He pruned a number of plants and showed the members how to keep their plants healthy by making proper soil mixture and fertilizing them at the right time.

I take this opportunity to thank the Embassy of Japan for inviting the masters, and to the Japan Foundation, especially Mr. Matsuoka, for being very supportive in making all the arrangements for us so efficiently.

I also extend my thanks to our honoured guests for enriching our knowledge in the field of Bonsai as well as different forms of Japanese gardens.



Some of the Bonsai exhibits on display.

JAPANESE ILLUSTRATOR YUKA TAO MESMERIZES DELHI STUDENTS

Popular Japanese Illustrator, Ms. Yuka Tao, accompanying the Fukuoka Prefectural Government Delegation, which has a sister city relationship with the Government of NCR of Delhi, visited four prestigious institutions, namely, the Maya Academy of Advanced Cinematics (MAAC) South Extn., Asian Academy of Film & Television (AAFT), National Bal Bhavan, and the College of Art. While interacting with the students, she informed that she has been practicing *nigao-e* style of portrait making for the last ten years and has visited Paris, Korea and Vietnam to introduce her work. While the caricatures are

intended to make light-hearted fun at people, her style of painting brings out the best features of the models.

She informed the audience that the faces can be categorized into five types: round, square, upside down triangular, baseball base, and oval. She uses a thick 1.6mm diameter ball-point pen which allows her to draw thick and thin shades. She said that she does not like to use a pencil, as she wants to take as minimum time of the model as possible. After the sketching she fills the colors using water colors. Showing her color palette, she said



that she has never washed it in the last ten years, as she feels, with the usage over time the colors give unique hues that cannot be obtained otherwise. She pays utmost care while drawing eyes, as they are the soul of a portrait. She interacts with her models and makes them smile so that she can create smiling portraits. She also incorporates *kawaii* (cute) characteristics in her portraits, which are popular in the field of fashion and makeup. She created the portraits in flat 15 minutes, leaving the model as well as the audience spellbound. She also gave a Japanese touch to the portraits by drawing the body wearing a kimono and writing their names in *katakana* (Japanese script). The students also



drew the portraits along with her, under her guidance. She was impressed by the mastery over the art by an Indian art teacher, Mr. Padam Chand, at the National Bal Bhavan.

The Embassy of Japan would like to express its sincere thanks to all these institutions for providing her an opportunity to present her skills, and particularly to the College of Art for accommodating her demonstration as part of their Annual Fest.

Mr. Amit Dang, Senior Manager at MAAC, remarked that *“in this age of digital world, she is still drawing with hand and the myriad shades of color she got cannot be created digitally.”*

SWAR MANJARI

Well-known women’s association SWAR MANJARI organized an Indo-Japanese cultural program on 7 February 2011, which was held at a farmhouse in New Delhi.

Many different kinds of Japanese cultural programs were performed at the event, such as Chorus by Japanese ladies’ group, demonstration of the Japanese Tea Ceremony, Origami Demonstration by Mrs. Hitomi Ashta, Japanese Drum performance by Japanese ladies’ group, Ikebana demonstration by Mrs. Veena Dass, Dance of Friendship by Indian and Japanese guests, and a DVD show on ‘Yokoso Japan’ (Visit Japan) campaign.



Mrs. Noriko Domichi, wife of H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, (former) Ambassador of Japan, was the Chief Guest at the function.

On the occasion, the guests and club members also celebrated the *Setsubun* (bean throwing festival to mark the arrival of spring season) and *Hina Matsuri* (doll festival) in the traditional Japanese way. *Koinobori* (carp-shaped streamers) were hung and Emperor and Empress dolls were also displayed at the venue.

Setsubun is celebrated at the beginning of February every year at temples in Japan, where selected men and women throw beans from the stage at the temple to the crowds wishing to drive the evil spirit away and bring the good luck that year.



Hina Matsuri takes place on March 3 every year to celebrate Girls' Day, when families pray for the happiness and prosperity of their daughters and to help ensure that they grow up healthy and beautiful.



Koinobori, meaning "carp streamers", decorate the landscape of Japan from April through early May in honour of Children's Day (originally Boys' festival) on May 5, in the hope that they will grow up healthy and strong.

MY STAY IN JAPAN UNDER THE JENESYS PROGRAM

W hale meat on the menu, loud screams and bamboo swords, the visual delight of flower arrangement, Japanese pop on my Most Played list, bowing and innumerable greetings, unending rules concerning just about anything: these were just some of the things that became an inseparable part of my long yet short 10 month life in Japan. I was honoured to be selected by Amity, AFS (American Field Service) India and JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) to be one of the lucky 8 from India off to start a new life, unexpected in every way.

Being an exchange student in Japan (as part of the JENESYS One Year Program 2010-2011) was like being put in the place of just another Japanese 16 year old girl, in a Japanese family, into a Japanese school, in a land where language was completely incomprehensible. Scary but fun! But with time, lots of questions and a lot of help from family and friends, the knowledge of the Japanese language came to me and helped me enrich my experience, and make a deeper impact.



Living with four extremely different Japanese families, spending 12 hours at school every day learning everything from Integration in Japanese to Martial Arts to Ceramics to Calligraphy, wordless communication and the additional benefit of meeting others like me from all over the world, taught me a lot which I cannot describe but only feel!

After the completion of this period of my life, I feel there is a lot to be tried, no matter how strange it may appear, and a lot to be learnt out there. And all my gratitude goes to Amity for its support, JENESYS, AFS India and AFS Japan for this realization.

Thank you.

*Medhavi Arora, Class Xi,
Amity International School, Noida*

Trends in Japan

Sci-tech

Japan is synonymous with groundbreaking inventions and scientific breakthroughs. From trains to robotics to fabrics to the increasingly important field of environmental technology, Japan leads the world. Be the first to discover the future of science and technology.

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

Pagoda in the Sky

Web Japan

Protecting Japan's Tallest Building against Earthquakes



An image of the completed Sky Tree.
(C)TOBU Railway CO.,LTD and TOBU
TOWER SKY TREE Co.,Ltd

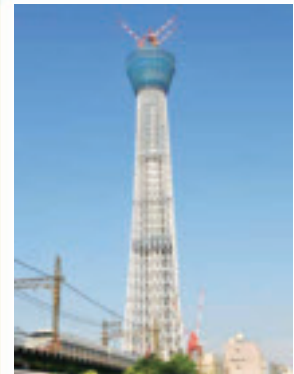
When it is finished, the Tokyo Sky Tree will be the tallest free-standing broadcast tower in the world, at a height of 634 meters. The antiseismic technologies used in the tower represent a groundbreaking fusion of traditional techniques and the latest modern technology.



A computer-generated image
of the Sky Tree.
(C) ODAYASHI
CORPORATION



Testing the earthquake
resistance of a five-story
pagoda. (C) NPO
Corporation Forum for
Wood Architecture /
Building Research Institute



A recent picture of the Sky Tree
under construction, at a height
of 398 meters.

ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

**Japan International
Cooperation Agency
(JICA)**
2nd Floor, Gopal Das Bhawan
Barakhambha Road,
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

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FOR SUBSCRIPTION OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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