

## Personal History and Accomplishments of Ms. Manorama Jafa

Decoration: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

Services: Contributed to promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and India, in the field of children's literature

Ms. Manorama Jafa, who was born in the State of Uttar Pradesh, has authored over 100 books for children, as an Indian writer of children's literature. Many of her books, such as, "Stories from Panchatantra", "The Parrot and the Tree", and "Kapil, the Booklover", have been translated in Japanese and several other languages.

Ms. Jafa is the Secretary-General of the Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children (AWIC) since 1981, and is also the Secretary-General of the Indian Section of the International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY) since 1990. Ms. Jafa has pioneered the movement for better books for children in India and has also guided young writers in India and also in several other countries. She has been contributing towards promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and India in the field of children's literature, through her several experiences of visiting Japan and her writings related to Japan, as well as through her close interaction with Japanese people including the Japanese section of IBBY.

Key Personal History and Accomplishments:

-Ms. Jafa wrote a book titled "Sadako of Hiroshima" in 2000. The story of the book is about Sadako's life before and after the atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima, in 1945. This book is published in English and Hindi.

-Ms. Jafa was invited to make a presentation to introduce children's literature in India, at the International Library of Children's Literature in Tokyo in 2004.

-The book "My Mother taught me Origami" authored by Ms. Jafa was launched at the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, in April 2006.

-Her books, "Stories from Panchatantra" and "The Parrot and the Tree", translated in Japanese, were presented to young people studying Japanese in 40 lower and higher secondary schools in India, at her request.

-Ms. Jafa was honoured by the Government of India, by bestowing on her the Padma Shri, the third highest civilian award, for her services in the field of literature and education, in April 2014.