

Speech by Ambassador Kenji Hiramatsu
at Momentum Jharkhand: Global Investors' Summit 2017
on 16th February 2017

First of all, let me congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister and his team for successfully organising this landmark event. It is indeed my great pleasure to be here at the inauguration of the first Momentum Jharkhand: Investors Summit as a Partner Country representative.

This is my first visit to Jharkhand and I am already impressed by people's hospitality, and scenic beauty with hills and wild nature.

The Special Strategic Global Partnership between Japan and India is constantly and steadily developing. Our two Prime Ministers share the same futuristic vision and have established firm mutual trust. I would say the two countries are enjoying the strongest relations ever in the history.

The government of Japan and Japanese companies are contributing to the development policy of the government of India such as Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, and Clean India.

With respect to Make in India, Japanese companies have made substantial investments into this country, especially in the fields of automobiles and two-wheelers. The number of the Japanese companies in India is over 1300. Total fresh investments announced by Japanese companies to India since end-August 2014 amounts over 16 billion USD. This is an encouraging number.

Regarding Skill India, the Japanese government is committed to develop the Japanese Institute for Manufacturing, or JIM, in collaboration with Japanese companies, in order to provide training for 30 thousand floor shop leaders and engineers over the next 10 years.

For Swachh Bharat, the Government of Japan is financing the construction of sewerage and sanitation facilities for cleaner Yamuna and Ganga. Many Japanese companies are doing similar things as part of their CSR activities.

The relationship between Jharkhand and Japan is long standing. Back in the 1930s, iron ore produced in Barajamda, a town in the south of Jharkhand, was exported all the way to Japan. In 1960s, iron ore from mines near Kiriburu, a town at the border between Odisha and Jharkhand was also exported to Japan. The long term export of iron ore from India to Japan has continued over half a century till this date.

In terms of development assistance for Jharkhand, Japan is contributing in

areas such as irrigation and forestry. Japan is funding construction of irrigation facilities to thirty thousand (30,000) households covering three thousand (3,000) hectares, in combination with technical training. Renovation of forestry management facilities in this State is ongoing as well.

Yesterday I visited Jamshedpur and talked with representatives of Japanese companies doing operation in the city founded by Jamsetji Tata, the father of Indian industry.

Nippon Steel, in collaboration with Tata, is producing steel plates used to manufacture automobiles. Tata Hitachi is another leading company for construction machineries. Kyocera CTC has a plant for precision cutting tools, and Primetals Technologies is providing factory equipment for steel industry. TRL Krosaki Refractories is for materials to deal with very hot steel.

As to Tata Steel plant in Jamshedpur, the Japanese government has contributed to introduce a new technology called Coke Dry Quenching, or CDQ. As distinct from conventional Water Quenching methods, CDQ cools down red hot coke by circulating inert gas. Without using water that absorbs lots of heat itself, CDQ system can save water and energy, reduce carbon emissions, and it can even generate electric power from recovered heat. Since CDQ is a closed system, as distinct from open-air conventional method, air pollution from dust emission is dramatically reduced and the quality of produced coke is largely improved. In fact, CDQ system is so successful that many steel plants in India have now introduced this new technology demonstrated and funded by Japan.

So far I have talked about industry. But now I would like to widen our perspective and point out the strategic potential of the State of Jharkhand. Jharkhand is located at a connecting point between central India and the wider Bengal region which includes West Bengal, the North-East, Bangladesh, and reaches South East Asia through Myanmar. This region has huge potential for economic development and strategic significance.

One of the goals of Japan - India Special Strategic Global Partnership is to enhance connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Last year Prime Minister Abe announced the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy", under which we will promote the confluence of "the two seas" and "the two continents" spreading from the Pacific Ocean and to the Indian Ocean.

To improve the connectivity in this area, Japan is assisting many projects such as road development in the North-East, the initiative of the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth-Belt in Bangladesh, and Special Economic Zone development in Myanmar. We

will further advance these projects in close collaboration with India and other relevant countries in the region.

Lastly, what completes our vision is the strong leadership. We are living in a time of global uncertainty. Strong and stable leadership is needed everywhere. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mr Das, has also demonstrated such capability and is paving the way for new investments. We are looking forward to more exchanges and interactions between Japan and Jharkhand. I hope more people from Jharkhand will visit Japan.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, let me express our appreciation for your constant support for the Japanese companies here. I wish for the further development of the State of Jharkhand.

Thank you very much.