

# JAPAN

## CALLING



December 2009



*Japanese Prime Minister Dr. Yukio Hatoyama and Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with their respective delegations at the Japan-India Annual Bilateral Summit held in New Delhi on 29 December 2009*

*(Photo courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan)*

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# VISIT TO INDIA BY H.E. DR. YUKIO HATOYAMA, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

## (OUTLINE AND RESULTS)

December 29, 2009



*Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama of Japan and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India at the Joint Press Conference following the Japan-India Summit Meeting held in New Delhi on 29 December 2009*

*(Photo courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan)*

1. H.E. Dr. Yukio Hatoyama, Prime Minister of Japan, visited Mumbai and Delhi, India on December 27th to 29th.

(Note) The annual summit meetings have been held between Japan and India since 2005.

2. On December 29th, Prime Minister Hatoyama had the summit meeting with Prime Minister Singh, and they affirmed that the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership was further strengthened and developed. Following the summit meeting, the joint statement entitled “New Stage in the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership” was released.
3. In Mumbai, on December 27th, Prime Minister Hatoyama signed a book of condolences and laid flowers in the memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks that took place in Mumbai in November 2008. Prime Minister also attended the formal banquet hosted by the Governor of Maharashtra. On December 28th, Prime Minister and received courtesy calls from businessmen who represent the business community of India, including Mr. Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani, CMD, Reliance Industries Ltd., and Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman of the Tata Sons.
4. In Delhi, on December 28th Prime Minister Hatoyama held a meeting with businessmen including those of Japanese corporations operating in India. Prime Minister also met with Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, President of the Indian

National Congress Party, and received a courtesy call from Dr. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Prime Minister Hatoyama attended the informal dinner hosted by Prime Minister Singh on December 28th, and on 29th, Prime Minister had the summit meeting and attended the official luncheon hosted by Prime Minister and Mrs. Singh.

5. The summit meeting marks the third one between Prime Minister Hatoyama and Prime Minister Singh. Throughout this visit, the two prime ministers had candid exchange of views and further strengthened the relations of trust.

The outcomes of the summit meeting are as follows.

### **(1) Politics and Security**

- (i) The two prime ministers reiterated the importance of continuing the annual summit meetings, and Prime Minister Hatoyama invited Prime Minister Singh to Japan by the end of 2010.
- (ii) “The Action Plan to Advance Security Cooperation based on the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India,” which lays out concrete steps on security cooperation, including the establishment of Subcabinet/Senior Officials 2+2 dialogue, was finalized.

## **(2) Economy and Economic Cooperation**

- (i) Both sides confirmed that the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations would be accelerated. Prime Minister Singh expressed his hope that an agreement would be reached by the next annual summit meeting.
- (ii) Both sides committed to the early realization of the entire Western corridor of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project.
- (iii) The Project Development Fund (PDF) for the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project was jointly established.
- (iv) Both sides confirmed that the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) would become the model of Japan-India cooperation in the field of academic exchanges.
- (v) Both sides affirmed that bilateral cooperation on energy conservation and other fields will be promoted through the Japan-India Energy Dialogue.

## **(3) Visa**

Both sides confirmed to work on the simplification of visa procedures.

## **(4) Disarmament and Non-proliferation**

The two prime ministers welcomed the renewed international attention to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Hatoyama stressed the importance of bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at an early date, and Prime Minister Singh reiterated India's commitment to a moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. Cooperation toward the immediate commencement of negotiations and an early conclusion of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) was also affirmed.

## **(5) Climate Change**

The two prime ministers welcomed the Copenhagen Accord and affirmed their resolve to continue to closely cooperate between the two countries.

## **(6) Other Global Issues**

On the UN Security Council Reform, international finance and global economy, the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and counter-terrorism, the two ministers exchanged views and ensured cooperation between the two countries.

# **JOINT STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER DR. YUKIO HATOYAMA AND PRIME MINISTER DR. MANMOHAN SINGH**

## **– NEW STAGE OF JAPAN-INDIA STRATEGIC AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP –**

1. Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Dr. Yukio Hatoyama and Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh held the Annual Bilateral Summit in New Delhi on 29 December, 2009. They discussed bilateral as well as regional and global issues.
2. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed that Japan and India as partners which share common values and strategic interests, will develop the Strategic and Global Partnership further for the deepening of their bilateral relations as well as peace and prosperity of the region and the world.
3. The two Prime Ministers reiterated the importance of Annual Summits between them. They also expressed satisfaction at the deepening of the Annual Strategic Dialogue between the Foreign Ministers, as well as other policy dialogues at Ministerial level. They welcomed the desire expressed by the two Defence Ministers in Tokyo in November 2009 to hold Annual Defence Ministerial Meetings to enhance dialogue and exchanges in the defence field.
4. The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the finalization of the Action Plan with specific measures to advance security cooperation based on the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation between Japan and India issued in October 2008. The two Prime Ministers committed to enhancing the security cooperation between Japan and India according to the Action Plan, and to deepen their discussion through the newly-established framework at the Subcabinet / Senior Official - level 2 plus 2 dialogue, which was endorsed in the Action Plan.
5. The two Prime Ministers took note of the current status of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations and instructed their relevant officials to accelerate the negotiations by energetically working towards resolving the remaining issues with a view to concluding a mutually beneficial agreement at the earliest. The two Prime Ministers shared the view that economic relations between Japan and India would develop even further as a result of the conclusion of the EPA/CEPA.
6. The two Prime Ministers shared the view that Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) should continue to play a significant role in India's poverty reduc-



tion, economic and social infrastructure development, tackling environmental issues and human resource development. The Prime Minister of India expressed his appreciation to the Japanese people for their generous role in India's development.

7. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the commencement of Japan-India cooperation on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project with the signing of the Exchange of Notes for the Engineering Services Loan for the first phase (Rewari - Vadodara sector) in October 2009 in New Delhi, and reaffirmed their commitment to the early realization of the entire Western corridor utilizing Japan's Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) scheme, which is expected to contribute to the further enhancement of Japan-India economic relations. Both sides also welcomed the commencement of the preliminary survey for the second phase, and will make utmost efforts for early completion of both phases of the corridor in a parallel manner. The two leaders will also work together for conclusion of the agreement for the Main Loan for the first phase by March 2010 and for commencement of the assistance for the second phase at the earliest in 2010. Both sides will strive for early finalization of a funding and implementation schedule for the whole Western Corridor.
8. The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the steady development of the collaboration in the establishment of Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH) and reiterated their commitment to collaborate through various contributions from Japan including through Official Development Assistance. They noted with satisfaction that the Japanese side has established the IITH Consortium consisting of government, academia and industry.
9. The two Prime Ministers shared the view that the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project is moving forward from the planning stage to the implementation stage and reaffirmed their resolve to realize the DMIC Project, which plays an important role in promoting investment by Japanese companies, and has a potential to facilitate the development of the entire Asian region. In this regard, they expressed their satisfaction with the joint establishment of the Project Development Fund (PDF) with support of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), which is jointly initiated by Japan and India. They welcomed substantive progress on DMIC Project including the completion of the Perspective plan and advancement of Early Bird Projects. The two Prime Ministers took note of the Memorandum of Understanding between DMICDC and JETRO on "Smart Communities and Eco-friendly Townships".
10. The two leaders welcomed the decision to establish a JETRO Chennai office which would accelerate further investment by small and medium-sized Japanese enterprises to India.
11. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the enhanced bilateral cooperation on energy under the Japan-India Ministerial-level Energy Dialogue, particularly in energy effi-

ciency and conservation sectors as well as the coal and power sectors. The two Prime Ministers stressed the need for accelerating bilateral cooperation in these vital areas and expressed strong expectations for the progress to be achieved in the next Ministerial-level Energy Dialogue in New Delhi. The two Prime Ministers shared the view that nuclear energy can play an important role as a safe, sustainable and non-polluting source of energy in meeting the rising global energy demands. They also noted that under the Energy Dialogue the Energy Ministers will exchange views and information on their respective nuclear energy policies.

The two Prime Ministers also recognized the importance of promoting cooperation between the two countries' industries in order to expand bilateral energy cooperation on a commercial basis. In this regard, they welcomed progress achieved under the Japan-India Energy Forum held by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) of Japan and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) of India.

12. Recognizing the role of technology cooperation in the bilateral partnership, the two Prime Ministers took note of the progress made by the bilateral consultative mechanism on high technology trade, and decided to step up efforts to facilitate such trade by addressing respective concerns, including export controls.
13. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction on the achievements made at the third meeting of the Japan-India Joint Working Group on Urban Development in June 2009 and reaffirmed their intention to continue concrete cooperative efforts in the field of Urban Development based on this outcome.
14. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the launch of Japan-India ICT Seminar and shared the view that they will enhance cooperation in the field of information and Communication Technology through bilateral consultations including at the ministerial level.
15. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the waiver of visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic Passports began on 1 January, 2008. They expressed hope that the number of Japanese tourists visiting India will increase as a result of the recent decision by the Government of India to introduce of a visa on arrival scheme for tourists from five countries including Japan on an experimental basis. In order to facilitate two-way travel, they directed the concerned authorities to accelerate the consultation on simplification of visa procedures and to complete it in a year.
16. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the renewed international attention to and confirmed their commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Prime Minister Hatoyama stressed the importance of bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at an early date. Prime Minister Singh reiterated India's commitment to a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. The two Prime Ministers sup-

ported the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament and an early conclusion of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). They also supported the strengthening of international cooperation with a view to addressing the challenges of nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation.

17. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the Copenhagen Accord. They reaffirmed their determination to work closely together in the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) towards an agreed outcome, to be adopted at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties. Prime Minister Singh welcomed the announcement of the “Hatoyama Initiative”.
18. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to realize a comprehensive reform of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, especially its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories. They welcomed the progress so far achieved in the intergovernmental negotiations in the UN General Assembly, in which an expansion in both categories has commanded the most support from Member States. The Prime Ministers decided to accelerate their efforts, in close cooperation with the G4 and other like-minded countries, with a view to achieving a meaningful result during the 64th Session of the General Assembly, so as to make the Security Council more representative, credible and effective for meeting the challenges of the new century.
19. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed that an ambitious and balanced conclusion of the WTO Doha Round in 2010 will play an important role in responding to the global economic crisis and committed to working together towards this end.
20. The two Prime Ministers valued the G-20 as the premier forum for our international economic cooperation and commended its timely and strong policy response in the crisis. They welcomed the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth launched at Pittsburgh and looked forward to its implementation. They reiterated the importance of the comprehensive package of regulatory measures to prevent recurrence of the crisis. Both sides welcomed the Pittsburgh Summit’s focus to address reforms of the international financial institutions (IFIs) in order to improve their credibility, governance and effectiveness, and looked forward to its implementation within the agreed timelines. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to eschewing protectionism in all its forms covering trade in goods and services as well as investment and financial flows. In a spirit of friendship and cooperation, they looked forward to further working closely together, as well as with others.
21. The two Prime Ministers reiterated the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. They reaffirmed the importance both countries attach to counter-terrorism cooperation in the United Nations, and affirmed to continue working towards the finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Prime Minister Hatoyama expressed strong condemnation of the terror attacks in Mumbai last year. The two Prime Ministers emphasized the utmost importance of bringing the perpetrators of the terrorist attack to justice. Japan expressed its support for India’s efforts to become a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). At the bilateral level, they underlined their determination to strengthen co-operation through the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.
22. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their support for the East Asia Summit as an open, inclusive, transparent and forward looking forum. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the decision of the EAS Economic Ministers to task the Senior Economic Officials to discuss and consider the recommendations in the Phase I and II reports on Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA). The two Prime Ministers welcomed the efforts by Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) for promoting economic growth in East Asia, focusing on such areas as facilitating sub-regional development, expanding the middle class and stimulating consumer market, and for working with the ADB and the ASEAN Secretariat to accelerate the completion of a “Comprehensive Asian Development Plan” in order to enhance the connectivity of the region.
23. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to work together in the framework of regional cooperation. Prime Minister Singh noted with appreciation Prime Minister Hatoyama’s initiative for an East Asian community.
24. Prime Minister Hatoyama welcomed India’s initiative in the East Asia Summit process to establish the Nalanda University as a non-State, non-profit, secular and self-governing international institution with a continental focus to enable students from all countries of Asia to acquire liberal and human education. They acknowledged that this initiative will strengthen the cultural and civilizational bonds between the countries of Asia.
25. Prime Minister Hatoyama expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome by Prime Minister Singh. Prime Minister Hatoyama extended his invitation to Prime Minister Singh for their next Annual Bilateral Summit in Japan next year at a mutually convenient date to be decided through diplomatic channels. Prime Minister Singh accepted the invitation with pleasure.

New Delhi, 29 December, 2009

**Dr. Yukio Hatoyama**  
*Prime Minister of Japan*

**Dr. Manmohan Singh**  
*Prime Minister of the Republic of India*

# ACTION PLAN TO ADVANCE SECURITY COOPERATION BASED ON THE JOINT DECLARATION ON SECURITY COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND INDIA

29 December, 2009

## 1. Strengthening Cooperation on Issues of Common Strategic Interest

- Consolidate the Global and Strategic Partnership
- Enhance information exchange and policy coordination on security issues in the Asia Pacific region and on long term strategic and global issues on the basis of the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation
- Promote open, transparent and inclusive regional cooperation in Asia, in both economic and security fields
- Pursue bilateral cooperation in existing multilateral frameworks in Asia, in particular the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) processes

## 2. Strategic Cooperation Mechanisms

- Annual strategic dialogue at Foreign Minister-level
- Regular consultations between National Security Advisor of India and Japanese Counterpart
- Annual Subcabinet / Senior Officials 2+2 dialogue (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense of Japan / Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defense of India)
- Foreign Secretary / Vice Minister level Dialogue (Basically twice a year)
- Foreign Office Consultation (Basically once a year)
- Annual Comprehensive Security Dialogue at the level of Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Ministry of Defense (MOD) of India/Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Ministry of Defense (MOD) of Japan
- Maritime Security Dialogue
- Annual Track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue
- Consultation on regional issues between Foreign office and Embassy at capital basis

## 3. Defense Cooperation

- Regular meetings between the Ministers of Defense
- Annual Defense Policy Dialogue at the level of Defence Secretary / Administrative Vice-Minister of Defense
- Annual Military-to-Military Talks between Joint Secretary, MOD of India, and Deputy Director General, MOD of Japan
- Regular reciprocal visits between Service Chiefs of both sides
- Regular Ground-to-Ground Staff Talks
- Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks (Basically once a year)
- Developing of Annual Calendar of Defense Cooperation and exchanges

### (1) Exercises

- Annual bilateral naval exercises, alternately off India and Japan, to enhance cooperation and core ability for maritime operation and disaster relief
- Multilateral Naval Exercises, when possible
- Passing Exercise (PASSEX) during ship visits
- Participation as observers in major army and air force exercise

### (2) Non traditional security threats

- Exercise, exchanges and training on issues such as anti-piracy and transnational crimes
- Cooperation in anti-piracy operations between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Self Defense Force

### (3) Exchanges / Seminars

- Student / researchers exchange for respective defense institutions (including National Defence College, Defence Services Staff College and Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis of India; and National Institute for Defense Studies, Japan Ground Self Defense Force Staff College)

and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Staff College)

- Participation in major defense seminars/fora/training courses/shows
- Exchange of cadets/young officers through ship rider programs and training seminars/interactions

#### **4. Coast Guard Cooperation**

- The two Coast Guards will continue to promote cooperation to ensure maritime safety, maritime security and to protect marine environment through joint exercise and meeting between the two Coast Guards according to the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Japan Coast Guard and the Indian Coast Guard. The two Coast Guards will implement concrete measures based on the bilateral coordination and arrangements on subjects such as the content and timing of such cooperation.

#### **5. Safety of Transport**

- Shipping Policy Forum to be conducted between Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan and Ministry of Shipping of India, with participation from the private sector
- Consultation between Railway authorities of MLIT of Japan and Ministry of Railways of India

#### **6. Information exchange and cooperation in the fight against terrorism and other transnational crimes**

- Mechanism for intelligence exchange and technical cooperation on counter terrorism such as Joint Working Group on Counter terrorism led by MEA of India and MOFA of Japan, with participation from concerned Government Agencies
- Establishment of information exchange framework between the two Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) on money laundering and terrorist financing
- Workshops / training

#### **7. Cooperation at the United Nations**

- Regular dialogue and cooperation on UN reform including early realization of permanent membership of the UN Security Council of Japan and India, at the level of Deputy Vice-Minister, MOFA / Additional Secretary, MEA.
- Mutual dispatch of lecturers / participants to UN peacekeeping operation-related seminars to be hosted by each side and exchange of experiences / information related to staff training

- Regular Dialogue and cooperation on UN peacekeeping operations, including exchanges between Japanese Central Readiness Force / International Peace Cooperation Activities Training Unit and Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) / Units experienced in peacekeeping operations from India, training of Japanese officers at the CUNPK, and sharing experience in and information on UN peacekeeping operations and peace building.

#### **8. Disaster Management**

- Cooperation to develop Tsunami Disaster Map of India between MLIT of Japan and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of India
- Cooperation to expand the capability of Asian countries to advance their ability to provide a rapid, coordinated and effective Disaster response through an active participation in the next ARF Field Exercise to be held in Indonesia in 2011.
- Capacity building through the Workshop on Water-related Disaster management conducted by the International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) of Japan
- Sharing experience in landslide disaster prevention between National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management (NILIM), Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) of Japan and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) of India
- Capacity Building for disaster management and sharing Japanese experience on disaster relief through training programmes conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Dialogue between National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA) of India and Cabinet Office of Japan through Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) for sharing information on disaster prevention and preparedness.
- Participation as observers in Japan's nationwide disaster management drill.
- Sharing of disaster-related information between Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) through the "Sentinel Asia" process.

#### **9. Cooperation on disarmament and non-proliferation**

- Annual Dialogue on disarmament and non-proliferation at the level of Joint Secretary, MEA / Director General of MOFA



# ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. YUKIO HATOYAMA, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

## JAPAN'S NEW COMMITMENT TO ASIA – TOWARD THE REALIZATION OF AN EAST ASIAN COMMUNITY –

15 November 2009  
SINGAPORE

### 1. Greetings

His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean,

His Excellency Ambassador and Dean of S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Mr. Barry Desker,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Just a short while ago, the APEC leaders' Summit was successfully concluded under the esteemed chairpersonship of His Excellency Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. I have come to this lecture immediately afterwards. I am very honored to be able to speak with you about the new Japanese administration's policy toward Asia. I especially thank Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Teo for serving as the moderator today.

### 2. Asia and Japan

Today, there is no question about the importance of Asia.

The world is becoming increasingly multipolar. If we look at economic power against this backdrop, we see that the ASEAN Plus Six countries produced about 23 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product in 2008 while APEC economies accounted for more than 52 percent. These figures are likely to grow.

As you know quite well, in Asia, regional integration is making progress in the real economy. At the same time, it is an interesting fact that Asia is prospering through its openness to the rest of the world. We should be encouraged by the fact that the ASEAN countries, China, the Republic of Korea and others have begun to play a constructive role in the region and in the entire international community while working together to promote their economic development.

Of course developing Asia is not free of problems. In this regard, the presence of the United States has been playing and will continue to play an important role in ensuring the peace and prosperity of Asia, including Japan. This is one of the greatest reasons that Japan continues to regard the Japan-U.S. alliance as the linchpin of Japanese foreign policy. President

Obama and I have agreed to further deepen our alliance. Yesterday, President Obama gave a speech in Tokyo and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to Asia. Together with you, I would like to welcome this commitment.

Japan is quite a unique country in Asia. Among Asian nations, Japan was the first to achieve modernization. It is endowed with excellent technology and a mature economy. Japanese society is also endowed with values to be proud of, such as diligence and teamwork. Minister Mentor His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew wrote about these in his memoirs. Japan also has a long history of parliamentary democracy. As you well know, about two months ago, the Japanese people chose a change of government, turning a new page in the history of Japan's democracy.

Japan's uniqueness is not, however, limited to these dimensions. Japan has begun to face "post-economic growth challenges" well before many other Asian nations. Its falling birth rate, aging population, and development of urbanization simultaneous with depopulation of rural areas are just a few examples of these challenges. After much trial and error, Japan has developed the knowledge and experience to address these challenges.

It is important to note that almost all nations will face similar challenges sooner or later. When they tackle their own "post-economic growth challenges," they can benefit from Japan's store of knowledge and experience as something like public goods. Experiencing hardships earlier than other countries is one of Japan's strengths, which in turn helps to strengthen Asia.

For this reason, I believe that if Japan cooperates with other Asian countries, truly any challenge can be overcome.

### 3. Promoting the initiative for an East Asian community

The new government of Japan has declared that it attaches great importance to Asian diplomacy. The main pillar of this policy is the initiative for an "East Asian community."

The concept behind my initiative for an East Asian community stems from the philosophy of "yu-ai." I personally



cherish this “*yu-ai*” philosophy. “*yu-ai*” is typically translated as “fraternity.” Within “*yu-ai*,” people respect the freedom and human dignity of others just as they respect their own freedom and human dignity. In other words, “*yu-ai*” means not only the independence of people but also their coexistence.

Ever since I began my career in politics, I have constantly asked myself if we could find ways to create a bond of “*yu-ai*” between Japan and other Asian countries, and more broadly among Asia-Pacific countries. I set this goal because reconciliation in the real sense of the word is not necessarily believed to have been achieved in the region. This is the current situation, although more than 60 years have passed since Japan caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly on the people of Asian nations.

Now let us turn our eyes to Europe. Europe had the disastrous experience of two world wars. But Germany and France, once bitter foes, have increased their cooperation dramatically. This started with the establishment of a common market for coal and steel production. Then, through further exchanges among people, they succeeded in establishing a *de facto* community. Now, wars against one another are unimaginable. These efforts were initially centered on Germany and France. But, they continued through twists and turns over the years, and they finally resulted in the creation of the European Union. The central idea of my “East Asian community” initiative is based upon reconciliation and cooperation in Europe.

In my initiative, I propose that countries sharing a common vision promote cooperation in various fields. This would be based on the principle of “open regional cooperation.” Through this, our region would develop a multi-layered network of functional communities. I attach the greatest importance to the promotion of concrete cooperation in a broad range of areas such as trade, investment, finance and education. I will explain that in more detail later.

As we cooperate, we will set rules for ourselves, work together, share our wisdom, and respect the rules we have made. Therefore, we will be able to not only achieve practical gains, but also build mutual trust.

Here, I would like to cite a few examples of the cooperation that I consider important.

First of all, we need to cooperate to prosper together.

The experiences of Europe and ASEAN show that developing economic ties in principle promotes cooperation. Economic partnership agreements (EPAs) and free trade agreements (FTAs) are effective ways to promote such economic ties in the region under a common set of rules.

Japan has EPAs with a total of ten countries and one region. These include agreements with seven ASEAN member coun-

tries and ASEAN as a whole. Still, these agreements are insufficient to fully “open up Japan.” Going forward, we will accelerate EPA negotiations with the Republic of Korea, India and Australia and pursue the possibilities of EPA negotiations with other countries as well. We will also actively participate in the discussions for the “Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia” (CEPEA) among the ASEAN Plus Six countries, as well as the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) among APEC economies.

Second, we must cooperate to save a “Green Asia.”

No country on earth can escape from the threat posed by climate change.

Japan has set a reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions of 25 percent by 2020, compared to the 1990 level. This target is premised on the establishment of a fair and effective international framework and agreement on ambitious emissions reduction targets by all major economies. Negotiations for the upcoming COP 15 are now underway. For the sake of future generations, we need to ensure the success of the Conference.

We all know that growth alone will not make people happy and will not be sustainable. Japan experienced serious air pollution and environmental degradation during its period of rapid economic growth. Today, rivers are being polluted and mangrove forests are being destroyed in many parts of Asia.

I wish from the bottom of my heart that people in developing countries pursue greenhouse gas reductions based on “common but differentiated responsibilities.” By doing this, they will help tackle climate change even as they achieve sustainable growth. They can take advantage of advanced energy-saving technologies, smart grid systems, water purification techniques and other environment-friendly technologies owned by Japanese companies.

Third, we need to cooperate to protect human lives.

In the thirty years until 2007, more than 1.3 million Asians died in natural disasters. Infectious diseases like SARS, avian influenza and the new A-H1N1 flu have raged across national boundaries. It would be no exaggeration to say that in this part of the world, natural disasters and infectious diseases pose a more serious threat to human security than war.

We have witnessed devastating earthquakes such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and those that hit Sumatra and Java. We have seen monsoons and typhoons repeatedly strike our region. Whenever major natural disasters have occurred, we have helped and have been helped by one another. The image of rescue efforts by devoted NGOs and volunteers has been engraved in my mind. We should ask if we can help each other more often and more extensively.

Japan will make a proactive contribution, for example, to encourage governments and other organizations to register

their human and material assets for disaster relief. Through this, we can conduct more prompt and effective rescue and relief activities in case of disasters. This will be an important step toward the establishment of a new framework for disaster management.

In the field of sanitation, next year Japan will dispatch a Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel as a “*yu-ai* boat.” This ship will carry not only SDF officials but also people from NGOs and other private sector and civil society entities. Their mission will be to conduct medical services and extend cultural activities in the Pacific and the Southeast Asian region. In this way, Japan will participate in the “Pacific Partnership” initiative launched by the U.S. in 2007. Japan will work together with the U.S., Australia, Indonesia, and other participating countries. Together, we will help improve the well-being of local people.

Fourth, we need to cooperate in building a “sea of fraternity.” The Asian region is linked together by many seas. And, most regional commerce depends on sea routes. The realization of a “sea of fraternity” in this region will bring about peace and prosperity in the region as a whole. As for multilateral joint efforts in this area, Japan, as a maritime country, has the know-how and assets to maintain the peace at sea.

For instance, we can cooperate further to counter piracy. Existing regional cooperation in Southeast Asia, including in the Strait of Malacca, has already become a model for many countries. Why don’t we further expand these efforts to other regions? Many Asia-Pacific countries, including Japan, the United States, China, the Republic of Korea, Australia, India, Malaysia, and Singapore, are currently engaging in activities to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia. We can work even more closely together in this area as well.

East Asia is lagging in joint efforts to prevent maritime accidents and to ease tensions. It is important for countries in the region to promote concrete cooperation, such as by concluding agreements on search and rescue, in case of maritime accidents.

Cooperation for our region need not be limited to these areas. We can also work together in such fields as nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, cultural exchanges, social security, and urban issues. There may also be an opportunity for us to discuss possible political cooperation in the future.

It may be possible that countries with the will and the capabilities to cooperate in a particular field may choose to participate in projects initially, and as their efforts bear fruit, other countries could join later.

Ladies and gentlemen,

What do you think about these ideas? After hearing my views today, perhaps you would still like to ask who will be the members of my initiative for an East Asian community.

To that, my answer is - people who share these ideals and dreams.

## 4. Conclusion

Finally, I would like to touch upon my thinking on “the most important key to promote an East Asian community initiative.” That key is people.

Japanese products have spread to other Asian countries and Japan’s imports from the rest of Asia have increased. Yet, greater trade volumes alone will not lead to mutual understanding. “Person-to-person contact” will be the only way to help us truly understand each other. It is also important to learn together about the technology and tools we will share as we move forward. This is how we can begin cooperation in a variety of fields.

There are many things Japan can do to promote people to people exchanges in the region. In one program, Japan invites 6,000 youths from East Asian countries every year. The Japanese government launched this project in 2007, and we will continue it in the years ahead. We are also resolved to expand the ability to transfer credits interchangeably among universities. Similarly, we will redouble efforts to harmonize the standards of assessment among universities in the region.

In this region, the ASEAN Plus Six countries include more than 3.2 billion people and the APEC economies include 2.7 billion people. The energy of these diverse populations is tremendous. I am sure that unimaginable, new capabilities and wisdom will emerge if the people -all the different people- living in this region, take the opportunity to get to know one another across national borders.

Today, I am in Singapore. This country provides a great example of how openness to the world can lead to a dynamic and prosperous society. Here, I also sense the infinite possibilities for APEC’s “open regionalism.”

I hope that people from various walks of life in this area will cooperate more closely in diverse ways. I hope that we will fully discuss among ourselves what kind of community we want to build in this region. I also hope that we will work together to build a new Asia for the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Next year, Japan will chair APEC. I hope you will take this opportunity to visit Japan.

Japan has snow. Japan has hot springs.

Japan has people with warm hearts, and they are waiting to welcome you.

Next year, I look forward to welcoming you to Japan.

# THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE

2009

On 7 January 1989, upon the demise of Emperor Hirohito (posthumously Emperor Showa), His Majesty Emperor Akihito acceded to the throne as the 125th Emperor of Japan. The Ceremony of Enthronement was held at the Imperial Palace on 12 November 1990. From abroad, representatives of 158 countries, including monarchs, heads of state, and the heads of two international organizations attended the ceremony.

January 7 of this year marked the 20th anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor's Accession to the Throne. The ministries and agencies concerned, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, plan to organize various events to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor's Accession to the Throne.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce activities carried out by the Imperial Family to foster friendly relations with foreign countries.

The Imperial Family, including His Majesty the Emperor, facilitates the fostering of good relations on an international level through visits to other countries and by receiving foreign monarchs and presidents.

They also receive other foreign dignitaries or leading figures from abroad, exchange correspondence and telegrams with foreign heads of state, dispatch representatives to foreign countries on the occasion of celebration or sorrow, and receive diplomatic missions residing in Japan.

## MY EXPERIENCE IN A JAPANESE SCHOOL

– Divyang Momaya,  
Class: VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya, JNU

Have you ever faced the challenge to make Japanese friends? I have faced one, and I would like to share it with you. One day, my father told me that he had got an assignment in Japan for one year, and asked if I would like to join him. Excited and curious, I became willing to go. He hinted that it would be quite a tough challenge to make friends unless I work harder than them. Many of my friends also told me that, but I didn't change my decision because I was excited at an opportunity to see the country and make new friends.

Despite many problems, the Japanese school turned out to be a memorable and exciting experience. When I was finally there, I got many surprises. I got admission in a nearby Japanese school. The school had many facilities. I was excited to see many children playing at the school after school hours. Trying to learn swimming with classmates under guidance of teachers was great fun. Study tours and lab experiments made learning science fun. Perhaps, the most



*With my skill craft teacher at our exhibition*



*School children playing baseball during games period*

enjoyable part was many sports clubs. I had joined the school football club, in which we practiced during the week and played matches with other schools on the weekends (a photograph is given below). All these can help a person make Japanese friends, even when he/she does not have Japanese language background. Overall, I found it a very enjoyable learning experience.

My experiences may be of some help to children, parents or even schools which take up the challenge to make friendship with Japan. I suggest that if one wants to make friendship with Japan or understand Japan, he/she must learn in Japan from an early age, ideally in a Japanese school. If one has the courage to take up the challenge, he/she will succeed with hard work, patience and persistence.



# JAPAN CULTURAL MONTH 2009 CONCLUDES SUCCESSFULLY

As in the previous years, the Japan Cultural Month was recently held in October-November 2009, in New Delhi and surrounding areas. Some of the highlights of the cultural events presented during the Cultural Month are:

## **Ikebana Demonstration, Workshop and Exhibition**

Mrs. Yuriko Jobst-Omata, a senior instructor of the Ikenobo School, presented a very interesting and instructive demonstration at the invitation of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana. She explained in depth how to create an Ikenobo style Ikebana, and what is to be kept in mind while arranging and how to create harmony and balance in the flower arrangements. She exhibited both classical and modern Ikebana. Madam Noriko Domichi, wife of the Ambassador of Japan to India, was the Chief Guest, and Madam Uma Khanna, wife of the Honourable Lt. Governor of Delhi, was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Director - Japan Information Centre, Embassy of

Japan, gave the opening remarks. Also present on the occasion was Mr. Nao Endo, Director-General, Japan Foundation.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Japan Quiz Contest**

The Embassy of Japan organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Japan Quiz Contest, an inter-school quiz based on history, geography, art, culture and heritage of Japan, at the Sai International Auditorium, Lodi Institutional Area, New Delhi, on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009. As many as 180 teams comprising of 3 students each from reputed schools of NCR Delhi, Jaipur, Dehradun, Mussoorie, Sikar, etc., participated in the Quiz. The teams were tested for their knowledge through a written preliminary round. The top six teams out of the 180 teams went to the final round. They were: Amity International School, Saket (2 teams), New Era Public School (2 teams), DPS Dwarka (1 team) and Springdales School, Dhaula Kuan (1 team). The final round comprised of audio-visual questions, direct oral questions, wipeout questions, and selection



(right side): Madam Uma Khanna, Ms. Yuriko Jobst-Omata, Madam Noriko Domichi, and Mrs. Veena Dass at the Ikebana Demonstration





*Mr Kojiro Uchiyama with the prize winners of the 6th Japan Quiz Contest*



*Participants with their teachers at the Quiz Contest*

from grid questions. Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Director - Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, gave away the prizes to the winners. The Embassy of Japan will send the first prize winning team of Agrim Singh, Arjun Hans and Shreyans Jain of Amity International School, Saket, on a visit to Japan under the JENESYS Program, in June 2010.

## Kake Hashi – Japanese Language Festival

The DPS Society, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, the Japan Foundation New Delhi, and JICA, held a Japanese Language Festival entitled 'Kake Hashi' at DPS Mathura Road on Nov. 21st, 2009. The aim of the festival was to create interest towards Japanese Language among Indian students. 21 schools participated in the festival and many competitions like 'On the spot' painting competition, Origami - collage making competition, Japanese Calligraphy Competition, Recitation, Japanese Group Song competition, and an exhibition on Japan, were held during the Festival. Mr. Masashi Mizukami, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Director - Japan Information Centre, Mr. Nao Endo, Director General - Japan Foundation, Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka, Chief Representative - JICA, Mr. Ashok Chandra, Chairman - DPS Society, and Ms. Renu Mital, Director - DPS Society, were present at the festival.

## Japanese Film Festivals

The Directorate of Film Festivals, in collaboration with Embassy of Japan and Japan Foundation, organized a Retrospective of Akira Kurosawa on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2009 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. The festival was inaugurated by well-known Indian film director Priyadarshan in the presence of Ms. Pratibha Prahlaad, Festival Director, Delhi International Arts Festival, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Director - Japan Information Centre, Mr. S. M. Khan, Director, and Mr. Anurag Misra, Director - Directorate of Film Festivals. *Rashomon*, *High and Low*, *Doomed*, *Sanjuro* and *Red Beard* were screened during the festival.

The Embassy, for the first time, also screened Kurosawa's films, *Yojimbo* on 10<sup>th</sup> November and *Seven Samurai* on 21<sup>st</sup> November, at the Epicentre in Gurgaon.



*Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Mr. Pritpal Singh Pannu, and others at the Japanese Film Festival at DAV Girls College, Yamunanagar*

Besides, the Embassy of Japan organized a Japanese Film Festival from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in the State of Haryana, in collaboration with the National Integrated Forum of Artists and Activists (NIFAA). The first screening was held at D.A.V. College for Girls, Yamunanagar. Principal Mrs Sushma Arya welcomed the Japanese team headed by Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Director - Japan Information Centre, and the college students presented a dance performance. The festival was inaugurated by Mr. Vikas Arora, IPS, Superintendent of Police - Yamuna Nagar. **“Always Sunset on Third Street 2”**, an award-winning film, was screened. **“Summer Days with Coo”**, an animation film, was screened at the Geeta Niketan Awasiya Vidyalaya, Kurukshetra, the next day. Principal Mr. Rishi Goyal received the Japanese team. In the evening, **“Always Sunset on Third Street 2”** was screened at the National Institute of Technology, where Mr. J.K. Palit, Chairman, was the Chief Guest, while Mr. M.N. Bandyopadhyay, Director – NIT, presided over the function. On the last day of the festival, **“Summer Days with Coo”** was screened at the Tagore Bal Niketan Sr. Secondary School, Karnal. Before the film show, the school students presented a dance on the theme of Holi - Festival of Colours. The Closing Ceremony of the three-day festival was held at N.D.R.I. Auditorium, Karnal, where Mr. Ashwin Shenvi, IPS, Asst. Superintendent of Police, was the Chief Guest. Mr. Rajesh Singh Kakkar, renowned Social Activist and Advocate was the Guest of Honour. NIFAA artist Ms. Sakshi Madan gave a Kathak performance. **“Always Sunset on Third Street 2”** was screened during the Closing Ceremony. The Film Festival was very well received by the people of Haryana. Mr. Pritpal Singh Pannu, Chairman – NIFAA, was the coordinator of the festival.

### **Exhibition of Photo Panels on Japan & Japan-India Relations**

The Embassy of Japan, in collaboration with the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies (SIS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), held an exhibition of



*H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan (second from left), at the inauguration of the photo exhibition*



*Visitors viewing some of the panels on display at the exhibition in SIS, JNU*

photo panels on Japan and Japan-India relations, depicting the varied facets of Japan, and also rare photos capturing the landmarks of Japan-India Relations over the past century. The exhibition, held from October 28 to 30, 2009 at the School of International Studies, JNU, was open to everybody and was viewed by several visitors including the students and faculty members of JNU.

### **Colourful evening on Momiji**

The Indian Council for Japanese Culture (ICJC) organized a Japanese-Indian poetry recital session entitled “Momiji Ke Rang” (the colors of Momiji) on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, at the Indian International Centre, New Delhi. The Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation supported the event.



*Counsellors Mr. K. Uchiyama and Mr. T. Shimada of the Japanese Embassy (1st & 2nd from left) with Dr. Raj Buddhiraaja (centre) and others at the Momiji Ke Rang Poetry Recital Session*

The theme of the poetry was focused on the autumn beauty of Momiji (maple leaves). When it deepens, the leaves change color from green to red and gold. The Japanese regard the leaves as objects to be admired for their beauty, much like flowers, and there are popular foliage viewing sites in Nikko, Hakone, Takao and Arashiyama. The audience was deeply moved when Dr. Raj Buddhiraaja, President of ICJC, explained the importance of Momiji in Japanese life.





In the presence of a large number of poets, writers, litterateurs and journalists, the poetry masterpieces of both Japanese as well as Hindi were read out, such as, *Manyoshu*, *Genji*, *Monogatari*, *Ritusanhar* (Sanskrit), and others. Well-known medieval Hindi poets, Senapati and Padmakar, were also highlighted in the session. Mr. T.N. Chaturvedi, former Governor of Karnataka state, presided over the function, and Mr. Takehiro Shimada, Counsellor in the Embassy of Japan, was the Chief Guest. The Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Dr. Malti, Mr. Nao Endo, Mr. Subhash Setia and Mr. D.K. Kukreja were among the Guests of Honour present on the occasion.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Origami Contest

The Embassy of Japan and Tagore International School organized the 5<sup>th</sup> Origami Contest at Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, on 28 October 2009. The participants competed in categories of 'solo' group and 'teachers' and displayed their skills in folding paper imaginatively and creatively. Prizes were awarded to the best creations from each category, which were also displayed at the Japan Foundation from 29 October to 10 November 2009.



Enthusiastic participants of the 5th Origami Contest at Tagore International School



Winners of the Origami Contest at the award ceremony held in Japan Foundation

# IMPORTANT EMBASSY EVENTS HELD IN THE RECENT PAST

## **JAPAN EXTENDS ENGINEERING SERVICES LOAN FOR WESTERN DFC**

On the occasion of the 3rd Meeting of Japan-India High Level Policy Consultations on Economic Development, the Government of Japan agreed to extend an Official Development Assistance to India, in the form of soft loan equivalent to 2,606 million yen (approximately Rs.130 crore). The Exchange of Notes to formalize the agreement was concluded on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, between H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and Mr. Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, on behalf of their respective Governments.

The DFC project envisages a western corridor from Delhi to Mumbai, stretching over 1,400km, to cater for the increasing container transport requirements. By connecting the raw material production areas with the consumption centers and linking both to major ports, DFC will positively impact overall growth rates and efficiency in the Indian economy.

The engineering services loan for western DFC (Phase I) was extended for the consulting services of the section between Rewari (Haryana) and Vadodara (Gujarat), and marks the embarkation of the new flagship of India-Japan cooperation.

## **CONFERMENT OF DECORATION ON DR. V. KRISHNAMURTHY, CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL MANUFACTURING COMPETI- TIVENESS COUNCIL, GOVT. OF INDIA**

On 3 November 2009, His Majesty AKIHITO, Emperor of Japan, honoured Dr. Venkataraman Krishnamurthy, Chairman of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Government of India, with The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of bilateral economic relations and understanding of Japan in India. Dr. Krishnamurthy traveled to Japan, where H.M. the Emperor bestowed the Order and gave an audience at the Imperial Palace at 10:30 am on 5 November 2009.

Dr. Krishnamurthy served as Secretary to the Ministry of Industry, Chairman and CEO of Maruti Suzuki, Chairman and CEO of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), and since 2008 holds the current position. Through the years, Dr. Krishnamurthy has been a leading figure in developing the manufacturing sector of India. He concerted the collaboration of Maruti and Suzuki, and has led the joint effort to a great success through applying the Japanese operations management style, and encouraged many other Japanese companies to enter the Indian market and form partnerships. He has played a key role in enhancing the economic relationship between India and Japan.

## **CONFERMENT OF DECORATION ON DR. R.K. PACHAURI, CHAIRMAN OF INTER- GOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)**

On 3 November 2009, His Majesty AKIHITO, Emperor of Japan honoured Dr. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, Chairman of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the enhancement of Japan's policy towards Climate Change.

Dr. Pachauri has played a key role in forging a global consensus on the climate change debate and holds multiple positions other than the Chairman of IPCC, such as the member of Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Climate Change, the member of United Nations Global Humanitarian Forum, the member of International Advisory Board of Toyota Corporation, and the Director on the Board of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). Known for his diplomatic skills, he served as the lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Second Assessment Report, went on to become the Chair of the IPCC, and in 2007, compiled the Fourth Assessment Report. In 2008, the Nobel Peace Prize was shared between Al Gore and IPCC, for the efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.

## **GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN EXTENDS US\$71,237 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO UMEED, FOR ITS GRASSROOTS PROJECT**

The Embassy of Japan in India, under its scheme 'Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects', decided to extend grant assistance totaling US\$71,237 (approximately equivalent to Rs.31 lacs) to **Umeed**, to support a rural medical service project.

**Umeed** has been providing ophthalmic services to the underprivileged and aged in rural areas of Punjab since 1997. The base hospital treats around 3000 patients annually, and the organization has decided to upgrade base hospital conditions with necessary equipment for eye surgeries. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant the organization a sum of US\$71,237 for the project. The Signing Ceremony to formalize the arrangements was conducted on 21st December 2009, at the Embassy of Japan, between H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and the representative of the above NGO.



# LECTURES ON MAHATMA GANDHI'S MESSAGE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE IN JAPAN

Ravi Chopra  
*General Secretary, SWYAA-India*

**M**ahatma Gandhi is the most well known Indian in the world today. His birthday on October 2nd is celebrated world over as the International Day of Non-Violence, and is a historic milestone in humanity's quest for global non-violence. Gandhi's life was one of dedication and simplicity, and he valued non-violence and truth as the guiding principles of his life.

With the aim of making people understand Mahatma Gandhi's vision of life, his philosophy of universal brotherhood, peace and non-violence, Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive of the 'Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India' (SWYAA-India), which is a registered NPO of delegates from India who have participated in the 'Ship for World Youth Program' organized by the Cabinet office of Government of Japan, recently visited Japan to deliver a series of six lectures from 1st to 7th October 2009.

The lecture series was sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India, and hosted by the Embassy of India in Japan, Japan International Cooperation

Agency, Institute of Asian Culture at Sophia University, Institute of Oriental Philosophy in Soka University, Initiative for Change, Sugunami City Office, and Sugunami Association for Cultural Exchange, and supported by the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India.

These lectures in English, with Japanese translation, gave an insight into the Mahatma's life, and covered various aspects, such as, Gandhi's concept of non-violence and peace, Satyagraha-concept and application, Gandhi and Buddhism, applying the spirit of Gandhi in today's society, and so on. The lectures were well received by the Japanese audience comprising of scholars, students, researchers and peace activists.

During this trip, Ms. Radhakrishna had a meeting with the Mayor of Sugunami City, Mr. Hiroshi Yamada, and paid homage to the life-sized statue of Mahatma Gandhi at *Dokusho no Mori Koen* in Sugunami city, accompanied by the officials of the city office.



*Paying homage to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Sugunami City*

# THE ASIAN YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN OKINAWA 2009

.... THE BEST THREE WEEKS OF OUR LIVES!!!!

– Rijuta Lamba, Springdales School  
(Dhaura Kuan), New Delhi



*The author (back row, 4<sup>th</sup> from right) with some of the other participants*

**W**hen I embarked upon this beautiful journey to Okinawa, all that kept running through my mind was this quote by Marcus Proust that says, “The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Throughout the plane ride I kept wondering what it would be like to go to a place with so many new things- new people, new landscapes...and then I thought of the concept of new eyes to see a place very much like my own, people here and people there .. maybe that’s why when I stepped out at Narita Airport it was with this feeling in my heart that somehow felt like a sense of homecoming – to a home away from home!

The first day at the Marroad International Hotel we met all the foreign participants, and it was with jittery nerves and a little shyness that we all got to know each other. Then came the flight to Okinawa in which half of us slept to make up for the jet lag that we all had. The best time was when we reached the

Itoman Youth Centre and met the 35 Japanese participants. Our group became complete then. We went to the guidance and there was free flow of conversation in the staircase and the auditorium till the guidance started. We learnt about the four sessions that would be there in the program which would take us through the four broad aspects covering global water problems, ocean environment and the threats to it, as well as conservation and preservation to meet future needs. The next morning we attended the opening ceremony at the very beautiful Convention Centre where my roommate Ran made a speech about the program. We also had an excellent lecture by Dr Monte Cassim on water and how it plays an essential role in sustaining life and ambient climate conditions. Through the next week, that was the first session, we had a number of lectures by many esteemed researchers, but the one that I liked the most was the one given by Dr rainwater and talked about *skywater* as a solution for the lack of water.



We had several site visits during our stay in Okinawa that included the Peace Memorial Park where we learnt about the spirit of celebrating the peace that comes after the war, the Shuri Castle Park that taught us the beautiful history and culture of the people, and JICA where we learnt about cultural exchange in the truest possible sense. For the second session of our program, we went to Tokashiki Island. After a beautiful ferry ride over the vast blue ocean we reached the island and our youth centre which was located on the top of the hill. It was one of the most beautiful feelings to wake up each morning and look at the sky above us and the ocean lying beneath us. The beaches of Tokashiki-Mura were truly beautiful. We went for various activities to the beach including the beach cleanup activity which was won by my group, group 3, and snorkeling where we saw an amazing array of fish and corals. What we also saw while snorkeling was the toll that global warming had taken on the coral environment which showed the signs of facing the adverse effects of climate change as they were bleached. After the stay at Tokashiki Mura we went to Ie Jima Island for the home-stay program. The island was a beautiful amalgamation of traditions and modernity and the families that we stayed with were truly wonderful. With heavy hearts we departed from the home-stay island and then went on to the Ja training centre in Okinawa and the Pacific Hotel after that. Once we were back in Okinawa, we went to visit the mangroves

which truly felt like a different world altogether with a whole new world of creatures and vegetation.

We had the third and fourth sessions here, and we discussed and learnt a lot about conservation and how we can make a change. We had a lot of debate, and in the end we all come up with a declaration and a vision board which was presented to the Japanese government and dealt with all the ways in which we, our communities, and the various institutions in our country could tackle the environmental problems, especially the various water problems so that we have a better world to live in tomorrow.

*The program was truly enriching and unforgettable as it not only provided us with the information but also the various ways in which we should process it. We talked about the environmental problems in so many different countries and we learnt about the various common problems that we all could tackle together. We made new friends, new bonds and new goals, so that we are all bound forever with a sense of collective belonging and unity. We learnt not just about climate change, but also about cultural exchange and a culture of peace. Most importantly, we learnt about working together as one. The program truly was about unity in diversity! After all, it was about 70 different people, from 16 different countries, all working together for one goal- one world and one tomorrow.*



Beach cleanup activity at Tokashiki Island

# Trends in Japan

## Pop Culture

Discover manga, anime, J-pop, and much more in this section showcasing the latest pop culture phenomena to capture the imagination of Japan's young people.

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

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

## Otaku Tourism

### MANGA AND GAME LOCATIONS BECOME TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



*A Lucky Star residence certificate (Photo courtesy of Washimiya Town, Saitama Prefecture)*

“Otaku tourism” is now in full swing, with scores of manga, animation, and video game enthusiasts traveling to places mentioned in their favorite works. These young tourists delight in shooting scenes from the same angle as in the work, purchasing limited edition memorabilia, and immersing themselves in the world of their favorite characters. The towns and cities affected, though surprised by this sudden attention, are upbeat about the trend and the possibilities it holds for them.

Sengoku Basara (Devil Kings), a series of action games produced by Capcom Co., has brought many fans to Miyagi Prefecture. The game features the struggle among feudal warlords from the Warring States period, all depicted as very good-looking men by today's standards, to unify the country. Among the warriors, Date Masamune from Sendai enjoys the greatest popularity. The number of young women visiting the ruins of Sendai Castle, which Masamune built, and the ruins of Shiroishi Castle, held by his retainer Katakura Kojuro, has reportedly surged. City buses bearing a portrait of Katakura took to the roads in April 2008. The city is embracing the new trend with open arms, hoping that its tourists will now include both old and young.



*A bus bearing a portrait of Katakura Kojuro (Photo courtesy of Shiroishi City, Miyagi Prefecture)*

## ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

### Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

2nd Floor, Gopal Das Bhawan  
Barakhambha Road,  
New Delhi 110 001

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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

Key in “www.in.emb-japan.go.jp” to access the website of the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

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*For Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh: The Consulate General of Japan in Chennai.*

*For Karnataka: The Consulate of Japan in Bangalore.*

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