

# Japan Calling

June 2012

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



2012 – Celebrating 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India  
 ‘Resurgent Japan and Vibrant India: New Discoveries, New Exchanges’



Mr. Koichiro Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (right), with H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of India, at the Sixth Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue held in New Delhi on 30 April 2012  
 (Photo Courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

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### VISIT TO INDIA BY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, MR. KOICHIRO GEMBA

Mr. Koichiro Gamba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited India from April 29 to 30, 2012, and held the Sixth Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue as well as the First Japan-India Ministerial-Level Economic Dialogue. Minister Gamba also paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The overview of the meetings is as follows:

#### Sixth Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue

On April 30, Minister Gamba held the Sixth Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of India. An overview of the meeting is as follows: (Note: The Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue has been held in Japan and India alternately every year since 2007. Last year, the dialogue was held in Tokyo in October.)

(1) The Foreign Ministers shared the view that they would elevate Japan-India relations to a higher level through the Sixth Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and the First Ministerial-Level Economic Dialogue held on that day. They expressed hope for an early realization of the next Subcabinet 2+2 dialogue, and noted fruitful discussions in the Second Japan-India-U.S. trilateral dialogue held in April. The two Ministers shared the view that they would further develop the Japan-India Strategic and

Global Partnership through various dialogues, including the annual summit meetings.

- (2) Minister Gamba noted that cooperation between Japan and India in the field of maritime security had been steadily deepened, referring to joint exercises between the Japan Coast Guard and the Indian Coast Guard, bilateral cooperation on anti-piracy activities in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia, as well as a joint naval exercise between Maritime Self-Defense Force and Indian Navy scheduled to be held this year. The two Ministers decided to establish a working-level dialogue on maritime issues covering a wide range of maritime issues with a focus on maritime security, in order to further develop cooperation between Japan and India in this area.
- (3) Minister Gamba stated that the East Asia Summit (EAS) should be developed into a leader-led forum to promote concrete cooperation including on regional common ideas and maritime issues. The two Ministers shared the view that they would also continue cooperation on an expanded maritime forum including EAS members.
- (4) The two Ministers recognized that the issue of so-called cyber attacks raised serious concerns that could have an impact on national security. They shared the view that they would cooperate on this issue including through discussions on an international code of conduct and launching bilateral talks on cyber.



*The First India-Japan Ministerial-Level Economic Dialogue*



*Courtesy Call on His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India*

tended by Mr. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; Mr. Shozaburo Jimi, State Minister in charge of Financial and Postal Issues; Mr. Kimiaki Matsuzaki, State Secretary for Internal Affairs and Communications; Mr. Fumihiko Igarashi, Senior Vice Minister of Finance; Mr. Ken Okuda, Senior Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; and Mr. Satoshi Takayama, Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment. The overview of the meeting is as follows. (On the Indian side, the Dialogue was co-chaired by Mr. S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, and attended by Mr. E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs and Human Resources Development; Mr. K.H. Muniyappa, Minister of State for Railways; Mr.

- (5) Minister Gemba stressed the importance of developing an international code of conduct in the outer space to secure its safe use. The two Ministers shared the view that they would closely cooperate in this field.
- (6) With regard to the negotiations between Japan and India on an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, the two Ministers reaffirmed their intention to move forward with the negotiations with a view to concluding the agreement in a mutually satisfactory manner. Minister Gemba asked for India's understanding on Japan's strong sentiment on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- (7) Regarding the joint industrial activities on rare earth materials, the two Ministers shared the view that they should work toward an early realization of the activities.
- (8) Concerning North Korea, Minister Gemba stated that the launch of a missile purported to be a "satellite" by North Korea was a serious violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, and welcomed the Presidential Statement by the Security Council, which strongly condemns the launch. The two Ministers shared the view that the two countries would strongly urge North Korea not to conduct any further provocative actions.
- (9) The two Ministers exchanged views on such regional issues as Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan, as well as on the reform of the U.N. Security Council.

### **The First India-Japan Ministerial-Level Economic Dialogue**

On April 30, Minister Gemba co-chaired the First India-Japan Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue, which was at-

Ashwani Kumar, Minister of State for Planning, Science and Technology and Earth Science; Mr. J.M. Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry; Mr. D.K. Mittal, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance; Mr. Ranajan Mathai, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; and Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation(DMICDC), among others).

- (1) During the dialogue, Ministers discussed the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), the Comprehensive Integrated Master Plan of the Chennai-Bengaluru region, the western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), India's high speed railway system, rare earth materials, follow-ups on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Japan and India, business environment in information and communications technology (ICT) and the financial sector, as well as cooperation in the areas of energy and environment.
- (2) With regard to the DMIC, Minister Edano noted that an agreement had been signed in March on the seawater desalination project in the state of Gujarat, which had previously been endorsed by the two Prime Ministers. He also offered support for India's National Manufacturing Policy along with infrastructure development. The Indian side stated that the inter-departmental consultation mechanism continued its rigorous review on relaxation of financial regulation to promote investment by Japanese companies for effective use of the DMIC financial facilities, to which Japan decided to contribute 4.5 billion dollars during Prime Minister Noda's visit to India last December, with a view to delivering positive outcomes at the earliest.

- (3) Concerning India's Comprehensive Integrated Master Plan for the development of the Chennai-Bengaluru region, Minister Gemba, Minister Edano and Senior Vice-Minister Okuda asked for improvement of infrastructure such as roads, ports, electric power supply, and industrial water facilities, noting the significant increase of Japanese companies operating in the region. Both sides shared the view that they would cooperate to deliver concrete results on this issue. They also decided to make progress on Japanese cooperation for the Master Plan through the work of relevant authorities, by the upcoming visit to Japan by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh this year.
- (4) Regarding the DFC, the Indian side explained the current progress of the project and expressed hope for completing the project by March 2017. On high-speed railway, the Japanese side explained the outcomes of the visit to India by Mr. Takeshi Maeda, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, as well as the seminar on the high-speed railway held during his visit, as a follow-up on the visit to India by Prime Minister Noda. On the Indian side, Minister Krishna and others expressed keen interest in technologies of Japanese shinkansen.
- (5) Concerning rare earths materials, both sides decided to work towards the conclusion of the negotiation at the earliest to commence joint industrial activities through necessary procedures.
- (6) With regard to follow-ups on the CEPA, Minister Gemba stated that the two countries would closely cooperate to expand bilateral trade, the scale of which had so far been limited, through the Sub-Committee on Improvement of Business Environment to be held under the CEPA. Minister Edano stated that the CEPA was an important step toward the economic integration of East Asia.
- (7) On improvement of business environment, the Japanese side raised issues in the fields of ICT and financial sector. On ICT, it asked for appropriate actions on the part of the Government of India regarding the proposed policies to promote domestic production of electronic equipment, as well as on regulations on network security for services providers, among others. On the financial sector, the Japanese side reiterated its request for the opening of branch offices by Japanese banks in metropolitan areas, as well as relaxation of regulations in the insurance sector.
- (8) On cooperation in the energy and environmental areas, Minister Gemba and Parliamentary Secretary Takayama stated that the two countries would continue to cooperate on climate change, building on the outcome of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and expressed Japan's intention to cooperate with India on biodiversity, as India hosts the 11th Conference of the

Parties (COP11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October this year (Japan was the chair of COP10). In the field of energy, Minister Edano explained the outcome of the 5th Energy Dialogue, which he had held that day with Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. Both sides also shared the view that they would further discuss cooperation on a bilateral offset credit mechanism.

### **Courtesy Call on His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India**

On April 30, Mr. Koichiro Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; Mr. Shozaburo Jimi, State Minister in charge of Financial and Postal Issues; Mr. Kimiaki Matsuzaki, State Secretary for Internal Affairs and Communications; Mr. Fumihiko Igarashi, Senior Vice Minister of Finance; Mr. Ken Okuda, Senior Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; and Mr. Satoshi Takayama, Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment, paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The overview of the meeting is as follows.

- (1) Prime Minister Singh expressed his appreciation to the visit by a strong delegation led by Minister Gemba, recalling that the establishment of the Ministerial-Level Economic Dialogue had been agreed upon by the two Prime Ministers in 2010. He stated that economic relations were the cornerstone of the bilateral relationship, and that dynamic economic relations would advance the bilateral relationship as a whole.
- (2) Minister Gemba noted that the Sixth Japan-India Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and the First India-Japan Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue had been held during the visit, and stated that the two Foreign Ministers decided to establish a dialogue on maritime issue and to launch bilateral talks on cyber during their Dialogue. He further hoped that, as the Japan-India relationship possesses great potential, various bilateral dialogues, especially the annual summit meetings, would lead to fully opening up the lid of that potential.
- (3) Other Ministers, Vice-Ministers and Parliamentary Secretary made remarks on economic, financial and other issues.
- (4) The Japanese participants shared the view with Prime Minister Singh that the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership have huge potential, and the two countries should further deepen cooperation on bilateral as well as regional and global issues, and both governments would need to make efforts to deliver concrete outcomes by Prime Minister Singh's visit to Japan this year.

*(Text and Photos Courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)*

# MEMORIAL EVENT TO REMEMBER THE VICTIMS OF THE GREAT JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi hosted a memorial event to remember the victims of the Great Japan Earthquake of 11 March 2011, and to express gratitude for the help received from India.

A large amount of warm messages of sympathy as well as cash donations were sent by the citizens of India to the disaster-affected people after the earthquake and tsunami disaster. The Government of India also dispatched emergency supplies and a 46-member team of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to assist relief efforts in the tsunami-ravaged regions.

The memorial event was an opportunity for Japan to express its appreciation to the Government and people of India for their gestures of true friendship towards their Japanese friends in their difficult time. The chief guest, Mr. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority, and other guests from various fields including the Indian government, business, and those actively associated with the India-Japan relationship, observed a silent prayer for the peace of the departed souls of the earthquake victims. An art exhibition of paintings by children from the affected areas and a slide show on the reconstruction and recovery in the North East area of Japan were also held on the occasion to show Japan's gratitude and strong recovery of the affected areas.



## CONFERMENT OF JAPANESE DECORATION ON MR. RATAN N. TATA, CHAIRMAN OF TATA GROUP

On 29th April 2012, His Majesty The Emperor of Japan honored Mr. Ratan N. Tata, Chairman of Tata Group, with The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to strengthening and developing the economic relations between Japan and India. The ceremony for conferment was held in Tokyo on 8th May 2012 at the Imperial Palace, when Mr. Tata was conferred the decoration and given an audience with His Majesty The Emperor of Japan.

### About Mr. Ratan N. Tata:

Mr. Ratan N. Tata is one of the most prominent business personalities of India, who has spearheaded the growth of the Tata Group as one of India's largest industrial conglomerates, boasting sales of more than 20 times as compared with his first days of joining office.

As the private business representative, he is a member of the Trade and Industry Committee chaired by the Prime Minister of India, has served as the chairman of the Investment Commission, and as a member of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council.

Mr. Tata had made a huge contribution from the perspective of promoting trade and investment in industry, as well as for improvement of the business environment in India.

In particular, his achievement as the Chairman of the Investment Commission is tremendous. Discussions and recommendations made by the Commission enabled India's business environment to achieve an improvement in various ways. Moreover, the number of Japanese companies which expanded their business in India has increased three-fold, (the number of business offices and firms has increased approximately five times) compared with the time when the Commission was founded. Mr. Tata has made a tremendous contribution towards the Japanese companies' foray into India's industry.

As the chairman of the Tata Group, he is actively promoting the business partnership with Japanese companies, many of whom contributed greatly to the strengthening of economic activity and corporate expansion in India.

He had worked towards the initial establishment of the Japan-India Business Leaders Forum in August 2007, as its member.

This Forum contributed to the early conclusion and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan, and to giving suggestions and proposals to the leaders of the two countries on strengthening strategic relations in the field of energy conservation, manufacturing, and nuclear power.

## JAPAN EXTENDS US \$336,821 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO FOUR NGOs

The Embassy of Japan in India, under its scheme "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects", decided to extend grant assistance totalling US\$336,821 (approximately equivalent to Rs.1 crore 70 lakh) to four Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to support their respective projects. The Signing Ceremony to formalize the arrangements took place on 26th March 2012, at the Embassy of Japan, between H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India, and the respective representatives of the above NGOs.

The NGOs and projects receiving the Grants are as follows:

### (i) The Society to Uplift Rural Economy (SURE)

has been working to provide holistic special education for children with visual impairment at Barmer district in Rajasthan, since its establishment in 1990. SURE provides educational services for visually impaired students from class I to XII in such fields as academic and vocational training to achieve vocational independence. As it is faced with growing needs of students, SURE requires a new school building in order to provide effective and sustainable education. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$92,242 for the proposed project.

### (ii) Anallon Christian Development Committee

has been working to provide education for the underprivileged and Scheduled Tribes living below the poverty line at Chandel district in Manipur, since its establishment in 1975. The organisation has been running a school, but is now receiving

an increasing number of primary school students. In order to provide primary education for more children, the construction of an additional school building is indispensable. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$82,262 for the proposed project.

### (iii) Jan Shikshan Kendra

has been working to provide education free of charge to people belonging to Scheduled Castes and children living in the marginalized community at Ambedkar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, since its establishment in 1995. The organisation has been running a school, but is now receiving an increasing number of primary school students. In order to provide primary education for more children, the construction of an additional school building is indispensable. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$74,253 for the proposed project.

### (iv) St.Stephen's Hospital, Tis Hazari, Delhi

has been working to provide comprehensive health care, particularly to the low-income groups in Delhi, Northern and Western Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana, since its establishment in 1885. In these areas, ICU facilities remain overcrowded and several critical patients have to be refused admission due to the shortage of ICU equipments. In view of the growing needs at the ICU section, the organisation has a pressing requirement of Ventilators and Infant Incubators. To this end, the Embassy of Japan has decided to grant them assistance of US\$88,064 for the proposed project.

# JAPAN SUPPORTS 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 aid assistance of 120 million yen (approximately equivalent to Rs. 7.2 crore) for maintaining a Polio-free India project to eradicate poliomyelitis from India. Notes to this effect were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India, and Ms. Karin Hulshof, Representative of UNICEF India country office, on 26 March 2012.

Until recently, India was one of the remaining four Polio Endemic countries (Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan) where the Wild Polio Virus (WPVs) still exist as great risks for countries' young population. Having tremendous international/national efforts with UNICEF, WHO, partner agencies, donor countries and state governments, the Government of India successfully led India Polio free for more than one year. India has been taken out from the list of Polio Endemic countries in February 2012; according to India Expert Advisory Group on Polio Eradication, greater vigilance is required to maintain

polio-free India as there are several risks of this epidemic reviving back.

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 polio eradication project in India since 1996. The cumulative amount of grant assistance up to this year will reach 8.3 billion yen.

## Utilization of the Grant

Japan's grant will be used mostly for the purchase of oral polio vaccine for West Bengal state.

## Accomplishment of the aid

The continuous support from the Government of Japan to India through UNICEF has supported to prevent the expansion of WPV in India.

In January 2012, India completed a year without any polio case.

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW SYSTEM OF VISA PROCESSING THROUGH VISA PROCESSING AGENCY

The Embassy of Japan introduced the new system of visa processing through visa processing agency, with effect from 2nd April, 2012. For those applying for visa to enter Japan, there will be following advantages after the introduction of this system:

### 1. Longer Opening Hours

Visa applications will be accepted during the following hours: 08:30 - 17:30 (Mon-Fri), 08:30 - 12:30 (on Saturdays - returning passports only)

### 2. More Convenient Locations

Visa applications will be accepted at a convenient location in New Delhi, and several other drop-off offices outside New Delhi.

### 3. More Updated Information

Applicants can check their visa processing status on the website of the visa center.

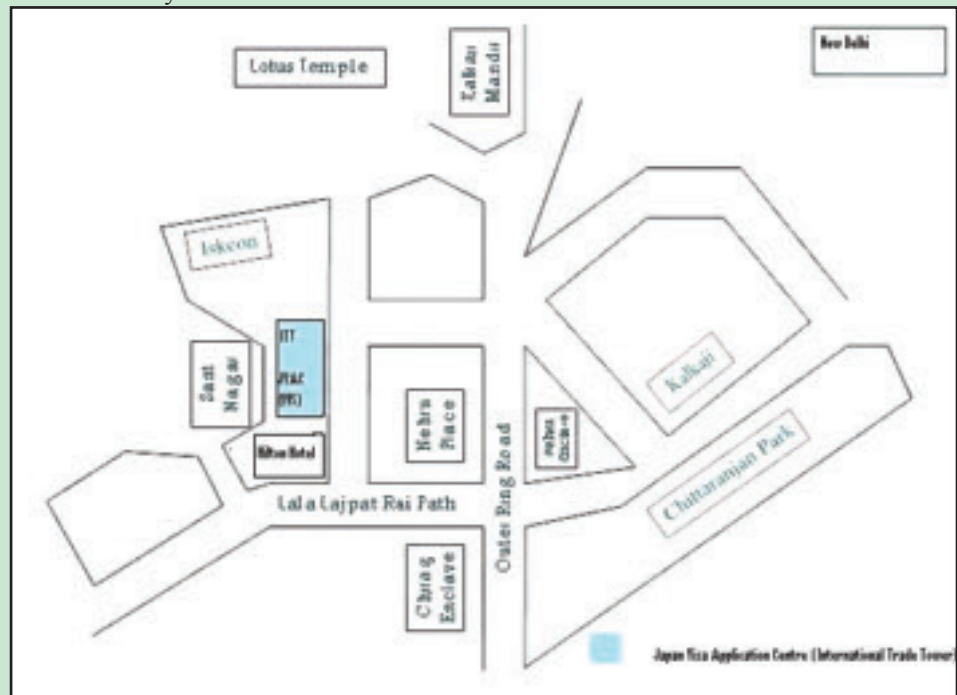
### VENUES OF VISA CENTERS

(Starting on 2nd April)

\* VFS homepage: <http://www.vfsglobal.com/japan/india>

(New Delhi): 2nd Floor, Block E, International Trade Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi; Tel: 022-67866016 (Chandigarh Drop-off office): SCO 165-156, Madhya

Marg, Sec-8C, Chandigarh (Jalandhar Drop-off office): Jalandhar Axis Tower, 3rd Floor, Plot No. 1, Badri Dass Colony, BMC Chowk, GT Road, Jalandhar



Note: The Embassy, however, will accept applications for diplomatic and official visa, and other cases which require special attention on humanitarian grounds. Also the Consulate of Japan, Bangalore and Consulates General of Japan in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata will continue to receive applications from their respective regions. For further updates, please check our website <http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/index.html>

# The 60th Anniversary Of The Establishment Of Diplomatic Relations Between Japan And India

## PHOTO EXHIBITION: THE HISTORY OF INDIA-JAPAN EXCHANGES

A Photo Exhibition on the History of India-Japan Exchanges was organized from March 14 to 20, 2012, at the India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi. The Exhibition was jointly organized by Japan-India Association, Tokyo and India International Centre, New Delhi and supported by the Japan Foundation. It was inaugurated by former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Chairman of Japan-India Association, Commerce, Industry & Textiles Minister of India, Mr. Anand Sharma, President of IIC, Mr. Soli J Sorabjee, and Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. Akitaka Saiki, on 13th March 2012.

During the exhibition period, a panel of learned individuals from India and Japan also held a symposium to discuss the theme “Japan-India Relations - Retrospect and Future Perspectives” on Wednesday, 14th March. The panelists were Ambassador Hiroshi Hirabayashi and Ambassador Arjun Asrani, who spoke on retrospective relations, while Ambassador Yasukuni Enoki and Prof. K.V. Kesavan spoke on future perspectives.

Both the inauguration and the panel discussion were well-attended by academicians, opinion leaders, journalists, bureaucrats, members of Indo-Japan Friendship Associations.

### Background information

This exhibition introduced around 60 photos that relate the history of cultural exchange between India and Japan from the Meiji Period (1868-1912) to modern times.

A similar photo exhibition of these bilateral ties was held in 2007 in India and Japan, marking the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the cultural exchange agreement between India and Japan. Since that time, relations between the two nations have evolved immensely. The year 2012 marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the countries, and this exhibition aimed to trace the direction of the bilateral ties once again, and provide an opportunity to look towards the future.

The exhibition included valuable photos, carefully selected, that record the history of India-Japan relations over a period exceeding the past 100 years.





## TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF JAPAN-INDIA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

In order to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Japan-India Diplomatic Relations being celebrated this year, a tree-planting ceremony was held in the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, on 13 March 2012. Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Former Prime Minister of Japan and currently President of the Japan-India Association, graced the event as Chief Guest. The event was hosted by Embassy of Japan in India, in cooperation with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCII). Mr. Arjun Asrani, President, Japan India Partnership Forum, and Mr. Katsuya Okihiro, President, JCCII, were the Guests of Honor.

The event commenced with a brief remark by Ambassador Akitaka Saiki, followed by the unveiling of a stone monument and planting of a tree. Mr. Yoshiro Mori and Mr. Arjun Asrani also made a brief remark on the occasion.



## IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION OF OHARA STYLE BY MS. HENA RAHIMTULLAH

Ohara School of Ikebana - Delhi Chapter invited Ms. Hena Rahimtullah from Mumbai. She has been practising Ohara style of Ikebana for the last 40 years and is the founder member of Ohara School's Mumbai chapter.

During her demonstration held on March 12, 2012, at the Japan Foundation, Ms. Hena created nine beautiful arrangements. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), Embassy of Japan, New Delhi. Mr Hayashi appreciated Ms. Hena for coming all the way from Mumbai to provide insights into this art form. Mrs Hayashi, wife of the DCM, was also present on the occasion.



Mr. Hayashi (left) with Ms. Hena (centre) and Ms. Shyama Balbir, President, Ohara School of Ikebana Delhi Chapter

# MATSURI - JAPANESE STYLE FESTIVAL TO PROMOTE JAPANESE SAKE, SHOCHU AND JAPANESE CUISINE

The Embassy of Japan in India, as one of the events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations, held Matsuri – Japanese Style Festival to promote Sake (Japanese Rice Wine), Shochu (Japanese Spirits) and Cuisine, on March 30, 2012, at the Japanese Ambassador’s Residence. Sake breweries of four Prefectures, including the stricken area of the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster that hit Japan on 11 March, 2011, namely, *Daishichi Sake Brewery Co., Ltd.* (Fukushima Prefecture), Sudo-Honke Inc. (Ibaraki Prefecture), Masuda Sake Company (Toyama Prefecture) and Kyoya Distiller & Brewer Co., Ltd. (Miyazaki Prefecture) participated with their products. “Sake Samurai” Mr. Keisuke Irie was invited to be the coordinator on the occasion to conduct a lecture on sake, sake brewing techniques, and sake drinking etiquettes.

H.E. Mr. Sultan Ahmed, Minister of State for Tourism of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The ceremonial opening of a sake barrel (known as *kagamibiraki* ceremony) was performed by Minister Ahmed, Ambassador Saiki, and JCCII President Okihiro. Japanese residents and Japanese Embassy’s staff also presented glimpses of “Matsuri festival,” like carrying of Omikoshi (portable shrine) accompanied by a scintillating Taiko drum and Flute music performance. A large number of guests including senior officials of Government of India, businessmen, eminent cultural personalities, journalists, academicians and diplomats attended the event and felt that they were truly experiencing a colourful festival in Japan while enjoying the finest sake and exquisite Japanese cuisine.

“Matsuri” is Japan’s traditional festival celebrated in every part of Japan. People get together to relax and have fun, which creates a strong social network of communities.

“Sake” is a rice-based alcoholic beverage of Japanese origin with a 2000 years history of production. Sake has been the pride of Japan and linked very closely with Japanese lifestyle. “Shochu” is a distilled spirit made from potato, barley, rice or other natural ingredients. Though it has a high alcohol content, Shochu uniquely matches with various meals.



## 46TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF DELHI IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL

**D**elhi Ikebana International, which is directly affiliated to Ikebana International in Tokyo, held its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Ikebana Exhibition titled 'Reach for the Stars' at the India International Centre's Main Art Gallery, on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2012.

Ikebana, the Japanese art form of arranging flowers, has been popular in New Delhi and has been responsible for bringing the two cultures closer together.

This year, Delhi Ikebana International celebrates 46 years of its existence, and it is all the more special as India and Japan also celebrate 60 years of their diplomatic relations.

His Excellency Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India, inaugurated the exhibition. This exhibition was open to the general public and they feasted their eyes on this beautiful art form.

Delhi Ikebana International is a non-profit organization which is involved in spreading the Ikebana art form amongst members in New Delhi. With India and Japan celebrating 60 years of their diplomatic relations, we too in our small way highlighted and emphasized this by doing two arrangements – one from Sogetsu School, done by the President, Mrs. Saveena Gadhoke, and one from Ohara School, done by the Exhibition Chairperson, Mrs. Amrita Mankad. These two arrangements, which were placed at the entrance of the exhibition along with the flags of India and Japan, symbolized the growing bond between the two great countries.

The theme 'Reach for the Stars' was aimed at achieving excellence in all walks of life, and this was represented by each member through their Ikebana arrangement.

### About Ikebana International

Ikebana International is a worldwide organization founded in Tokyo, Japan, in 1956, with the motto 'friendship through flowers'. This non-profit cultural organization now boasts of over 10,000 members in more than 50 countries. Its members are dedicated to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship through Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arrangement.

Traditional Ikebana, an ancient Japanese art form, is extremely formalized; however, modern Ikebana, which began about 100 years ago, allows more spontaneity. The emphasis is on creating beautiful, symmetrical lines and harmony of colour, combining them with a container appropriate to the material used and the style of arrangement.

The Delhi chapter was formed in 1965. Its members have participated in various national and international conferences and exhibitions. It also organizes an annual exhibition, which has become a major event in Delhi's cultural calendar.

Last year, an exhibition held by the Delhi chapter was dedicated to the future of Japan, which was facing its worst crisis after being hit by the earthquake and tsunami.

This year marks 60 years of Indo-Japanese friendship, and we hope to strengthen our ties further, in our own small way, through Ikebana.

In November 2012, New Delhi is also hosting the 'Asian Regional Conference' of Ikebana, which will be attended by delegates from nearly 15 countries. It is an event which happens every two years and is a very good way of interaction among members from different countries, and helps strengthen the ties of friendship through the medium of Ikebana.

*Saveena Gadhoke, President - Delhi Ikebana International*



# OYUKIMI (SNOW VIEWING FESTIVAL)

The Indian Council for Japanese Culture (ICJC) celebrated **Oyukimi - Snow Viewing Festival** on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012, by hosting a poetry-reciting session on '*Him kii Parn-kutii*'. The participants included Ms. Kuldip Kaur, Director - Directorate of Hindi, Dr. Shiv Hare, Vice-Chancellor - Jabalpur University, Prof. Sandeep Marwah - Asian Academy of Film & Television, Mr. Lakshmi Shankar Vajpayee - All India Radio, and a large number of poets, scholars, journalists and writers from India and Japan. Mr. Ryoji Noda, Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan, while speaking on the occasion informed that Ohanami – Cherry Blossom Viewing, Otsukimi – Full Moon Viewing, and Oyukimi – Snow Viewing, have equal status in Japan, and the Japanese people enjoy the beauty of nature through these events. While referring to no snowfall in Delhi, he said “we should not be exclusive, but inclusive”. He appreciated the efforts of Dr. Raj Buddhiraja

for holding these events and providing an opportunity to see the similarities in our cultures. On this occasion, '*Chaand ke Paar*', a collection of poems on Otsukimi, compiled by Dr. Raj Buddhiraja, was also launched.



## EDO-KIMEKOMI JAPANESE DOLLS EXHIBITION

The Edo-Kimekomi Japanese Dolls Exhibition was organized by the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, in association with Shankar's International Dolls Museum and Sachiei-Kai, Japan, from 24 to 26 March 2012, at Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. The exhibition was open from 11am to 6pm on these dates, and entry to visitors was free. It showcased over 500 handcrafted traditional Japanese Edo-Kimekomi Dolls created individually by the Sachiei-Kai members of Japan. The dolls, depicting Japanese festivals, folklore and traditions, introduced visitors to Japanese traditional heritage and culture.

### Background of Traditional Japanese Edo-Kimekomi Dolls

The technique of making these dolls goes back to the Edo period (1603-1867). "Kimekomi" refers to the method of making the dolls. It is said that these dolls were invented by a high-ranking shrine priest named Tadashige Takahashi some 300 years ago in Kyoto (old capital city of Japan). The body of the dolls is made of wood. Fabric cloth or Kimono material is carefully tucked into the carved grooves of the wooden body. The doll is completed by adding a painted head with supporting neck that is made of a light wood (paulownia). This method of making dolls gradually spread from old Kyoto City to Tokyo (formerly known as Edo). Each of the dolls requires an average of two years to complete.

The Edo-Kimekomi Dolls Sachiei-Kai is based in Tokyo, Japan. Headed by the founder, Ms. Sachiei Ito, the Group has a large following of members and about 350 teachers and instructors of traditional Edo-Kimekomi doll-making. Under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Sachiei Ito, the Group aims to preserve this special Japanese method of making dolls by the Kimekomi technique. With forty-five years of experience in Kimekomi doll-making, Ms. Ito wishes to share the joy and promote the appreciation of the traditional dolls.



## IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL EXHIBITION - HARMONY

The Ikebana International Chapter 255, Gurgaon, India, organised its Annual Exhibition – **Harmony** on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Hotel Westin, Gurgaon.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 bouquets of attractive flowers found their way to Hotel Westin, Gurgaon, in the hands of local housewives who happen to be members of the Ikebana International Chapter 255, Gurgaon. The occasion was Ikebana International's gala Annual Exhibition "Harmony".

Ikebana is the Japanese art of arranging flowers. Ohara and Sogetsu schools of Ikebana presented their artfully arranged flowers and foliage which put altogether a different aura to the seasonal flowers such as Dahlias, Carnations, Lilliums and Roses. Exotic flowers like Heliconias and Birds of Paradise stood regally surrounded by Bottle Brush, Duranta, Gypsophila and Iinoleum. They were not just clusters of flowers; they were aesthetically put together in original permutations and combinations. Viewers were mesmerised by the colours and intriguing shapes of the flowers in attractive crystal, metal and earthen containers.



The Exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), Em-

bassy of Japan, New Delhi, on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 11.30 am. He was accompanied by Mrs. Hayashi. March 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 being the anniversary of tsunami and earthquake in Japan, tributes were paid to the victims. Mr. Doi, Director, Japan Foundation, also graced the occasion. Mrs. and Mr. Rebuka Aloys, Ambassador of Burundi were the other distinguished guests who enjoyed the exhibition. Mrs. Indira Misra, President - Ikebana International, Gurgaon Chapter 255, formally thanked the honourable guests, participants, and last but not the least, the hotel Westin staff members who rendered every help possible.

Most of the women guests from Delhi and Gurgaon wanted to enrol with the Ikebana classes being run by Mrs. Indira Misra in Sushant Lok 1. Obviously, they were impressed by a new angle given to popular seasonal flowers.

Ikebana, in fact, is a discipline which brings peace and tranquillity in addition to joy to anyone who devotes himself to this art. One forgets one's cares and worries while decorating a space with Ikebana arrangements. Thus, Buddhist Zen Philosophy of harmony between Heaven, Earth and Man finds expression in this Japanese art form. The exhibition at Hotel Westin was thus aptly named "Harmony".

Footfalls continued on both the days, bringing smiles on the faces of the hotel management also, who were the co-sponsors and gracious hosts. It, indeed, was a weekend treat for the artistically inclined residents of Gurgaon!

## KIZUNA – 2012 JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Centre for Japanese, Korean & North East Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), conducted **Kizuna-2012 Japanese Cultural Festival** from 16 to 18 March 2012.

The event started with an International Seminar on "Learning from Japan's Disaster Management and Reflecting on India's Preparedness" on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Prof. J.F. Morris from Miyagi Gakuin Women's University, Japan, Prof. R. Rajaraman and Prof. S. Mukherjee from JNU, and Dr. Ashok Jain from Delhi University spoke at the Seminar. Mr. Ryoji Noda, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of Japan, Prof. P.A. George, Chairperson, CJKNEAS, and Prof. Manjushree Chauhan, Convenor of the Fest, inaugurated the Cultural Festival on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

The fest included a variety of events like workshops on Calligraphy, Ikebana, Origami, Japanese plays by Indian students learning Japanese language, fancy dress competition, karaoke contest, etc. The Japanese chorus group sang popular Japanese songs. The Japanese

residents gave a demonstration of karate and also enthralled the audience with Taiko drum performance. The students also got a chance to prepare sushi and okonomiyaki under the guidance of Japanese teachers. The event was well attended on all three days, and the students thoroughly enjoyed the fest. It was, in fact, a unique platform where Japanese students of schools, institutes and universities join together to showcase their talents. Participants were from the University of Delhi, JAPROC, MOSAI, Nihongo Centre, Banaras Hindu University, DPS-Dwarka, DPS-R.K. Puram, and JNU. The event was supported by the Embassy of Japan, Japan Foundation New Delhi, and the Japanese Association Delhi.



## JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY DANCER KENTARO!! PERFORMS IN INDIA

Japanese contemporary dancer KENTARO!! made his first exclusive performance tour in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore in March 2012. The Japan Foundation New Delhi arranged the Indian Tour by Kentaro!!, one of the most emerging contemporary dancers in Japan. Kentaro!! toured three major cities in India, namely, Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, with his highly-acclaimed performance of “After raining, it will be sunny.”

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1980, Kentaro!! is one of the most promising young contemporary dancers in Japan. Deeply impressed by street dance culture as a child, he then discovered contemporary dance and its improvisational aspects. He started to work on pieces combining street dance techniques and dramatic elements of contemporary dance. His highly original and lyrical performances are created as either collective work with his colleague dancers or solo dance performance, reflecting human relationships or



realities of young people living in modern Japanese society.

Kentaro!!'s dance interpretation originates from hip-hop fused with contemporary dance and drama. Kentaro!!'s expression has a very personal and sensitive tone, which resonates among the audience with his own story lines and self-composed music.

Kentaro!! has won many awards, which include the prestigious “The Young Choreographer’s Award” sponsored by the French Embassy in Japan, at Yokohama Dance Collection R (2008), “The Nextage Special Prize” and “The Audience Prize” at the Toyota Choreography Award (2008), and “Dance Forum vol.4” (2009).

Kentaro!! has performed extensively in Japan and abroad, including Germany, Poland, Indonesia, Korea.



## MRS. JOBST'S IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION

Mrs. Jobst-Omata, a Senior Master Instructor of Ikebana, came especially from Tokyo for the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India, and gave a very interesting Ikebana demonstration at the Japan Foundation, New Delhi, on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012. The theme, aptly, was ‘Harmony’.

She used very interesting material which she had brought from Japan. Besides, she had brought orchids from Thailand, and a lot of material was collected locally also. Mrs. Jobst-Omata used the various materials in a very innovative way.

She prepared thirteen beautiful Ikebana pieces and then explained how they were done. Her husband, Mr. Jobst translated everything Mrs. Jobst-Omata said, from Japanese to English.

Mrs. Jobst-Omata was helped by Ms. Ishita and Mr. Inoue who had come with her from Japan to assist her.

Mr. Ryoji Noda, Director of Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, was the honored Chief Guest at the function. He thanked Mrs Jobst-Omata for coming to India to conduct the Demonstration and Workshop on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-India Diplomatic Relations, and also the 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Ikenobo School of Ikebana.

There were more than 65 guests who attended the programme.

After the demonstration, there was an interactive session when Mrs. Jobst-Omata answered all queries by the audience.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Jobst-Omata conducted a workshop which was enjoyed by all.

All in all, it was a very educative and interesting programme.



## TOKYO FASHION WEEK IN INDIA

The Japan Fashion Week Organization is entrusted with the project, "TOKYO FASHION WEEK in INDIA", which is a part of the "Cool Japan" Strategy Promotion Program implemented by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. The Japan Fashion Week Organization was established aiming to further develop Japanese textile and fashion industries and to nurture its global competitiveness, and stages "From Tokyo, Japan Fashion Week (called "Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week TOKYO" since October 2011)" twice a year.

In "TOKYO FASHION WEEK in INDIA" project, products and philosophies of 10 brands that embody the creative culture scene of Japan were presented as "10 Faces of Tokyo Culture" in the Wills Lifestyle India Fashion Week Autumn/Winter 2012 (WIFW), which was organized by the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) and held from February 15th to 19th, 2012, in New Delhi, India. This project was the first practice in WIFW to introduce foreign brands via fashion shows and exhibitions. In addition to participating in the TOKYO Fashion Week in ITALY, JFWO took part in WIFW to support Japanese fashion designers to make a foray into the Indian market.

The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) supported the exhibiting brands regarding business applications.

During the event, on Feb. 18th, was a seminar by Mr. Kenya Hara, a member of MUJI advisory board and one of the most prominent graphic designers in Japan, a conjoint fashion show of 3 brands, "AN-

REALAGE", "mintdesigns" and "suzuki takayuki", produced by Mr. Shigetaka Kaneko, who is known for producing many brands. This project is expected to expand awareness towards Japanese creativities, promote cultural interchange and provide continual support for Japanese business in foreign countries.

The following events were held as part of the project:

### Exhibition "10 Faces of Tokyo Culture" in New Delhi

*Date:* February 15th - 19th, 2012. *Place:* Pragati Maidan No.18 Hall, WIFW exhibition area special space. *Contents:* Diverseness of Tokyo culture was presented by exhibiting products and philosophies of 10 creators of various categories. *Brands:* amadana / ANREALAGE / CARNET / e.m. / giraffe / HIROCOLEDGE / mintdesigns / suzuki takayuki / TROPO-PAUSE / MUJI.

### Design Seminar & Fashion Show, New Delhi

*Date:* February 18th, 2012. *Place:* Pragati Maidan No.18 Hall, WIFW runway space. *Contents:* Design lecture "emptiness" by Mr. Kenya Hara, Conjoint Fashion Show showcasing "ANREALAGE", "mintdesigns" and "suzuki takayuki".

### Design Discussion in Mumbai

*Date:* February 20th, 2012. *Place:* Garden View, Taj Land's End, Bandstand, Bandra (West). *Contents:* A presentation by Mr. Kenya Hara and a discussion session with influential designers.

*Content and Photos © Japan Fashion Week Organization*



## THE FIFTH MOTHER GANGA EXHIBITION OF OIL PAINTINGS BY TATSUKO HIRAOKA

The Indian Council for Japanese Culture (ICJC) held the **Fifth Mother Ganga Exhibition of Oil Paintings** by Tatsuko Hiraoka, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Ms. Hiraoka, after graduating from the Faculty of Fine Arts from Kyoto City University, taught painting for 35 years at different schools. Ms. Tatsuoka visited India in 1966 and was fascinated by the beauty of the Mother Ganga. Since then, she has visited several times to capture different moods of the River Ganga, like bathing women, children, rituals performed on the ghats, offering of flowers, etc. Mr. D.P. Sinha, noted Playwright and Director, and former Vice President of ICCR, remarked that her paintings are celebrations of life and faith. Mr. Ryoji Noda, Cultural Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan, while appreciating her efforts of introducing India through her paintings, called her the Cultural Ambassador of Japan to India. Dr. Raj Buddhiraja, President of ICJC, congratulated her on this wonderful exhibition and invited her to come again to India with the Sixth edition of her paintings. Mr. Naoto Saito and Mr. Yohei Iwashita, on the Sitar and Tabla respectively, enthralled the audience with their musical performance at the event. Noted painter, Ms. Yuriko Lochan, and Origami expert, Ms. Hitomi Ashta, were also present on the occasion.



## GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HOLDS JAPAN NEXT QUALITY PRODUCTS SHOW

The Government of Japan recently organized the “JAPAN NEXT – Quality Products Show” over three days between 16 March (Fri.) - 18 March (Sun.), 2012, at the Ambience Mall, Gurgaon, a prominent shopping mall in Gurgaon, India, as part of the JAPAN NEXT Campaign.

The JAPAN NEXT campaign was designed to express Japan’s gratitude to the world for support after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (3/11) and to showcase Japan’s recovery through the introduction of Japan’s proud culture and technology, which are referred to as “Cool Japan.” A variety of events and festivals were conducted under the JAPAN NEXT campaign all over the world from December 2011 to March 2012.

In commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations, the Japanese government exhibited the latest quality Japanese products that are well-regarded in the Indian market. These included automobiles, consumer electronics and AV devices, in addition to displays showing the history of friendly relations between the two countries in various areas including politics, economics and culture. The exhibits also had display panels that introduced Japan’s efforts to move forward with rebuilding, in addition to the attractiveness of Japanese foods, products and culture, among other items.

On 17 March (Sat.), a tape cutting and reception serving teas from both countries was held as the opening ceremony. Bollywood actress Giselle Monteiro attended together with representatives of both Japan and India, among other guests.

Besides exhibits of the latest and high-quality products from

Japan, the event featured introduction of the concept of ‘Cool Japan’ and Japan’s efforts to rebuild through panels and video, and stage programs (Presentations by Exhibiting Companies, Japan-India Quiz Contest, Japanese Cultural Experience Program), etc.

### About the COOL JAPAN STRATEGY

In recent years, people all over the world have praised and admired some aspects of the distinctive Japanese sense of beauty and unique tradition of culture as reflected in fashion, products, food, traditional culture, design and the arts, calling them “Cool Japan.” The Government of Japan’s Cool Japan Strategy is designed to spread and deliver Cool Japan throughout the world as one of the important strategies for Japan’s economic growth. As Cool Japan will also play a significant role in Japan’s recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (3/11), the Japanese government has started to work on a policy, together with Cool Japan, to rebuild and communicate to the world the recovery of the country and Japanese brands.

### About the JAPAN NEXT Campaign

As part of Cool Japan Strategy, the Japanese government’s JAPAN NEXT campaign will publicize Cool Japan, conducting various events and festivals all over the world, and will express our heartfelt gratitude to the worldwide community for its support. The strong determination of the Japanese people in overcoming the devastation of 3/11 is included as a message within the phrase JAPAN NEXT.

*For more information, please visit <http://www.jp/en/index.html>.*

## Bilateral Educational And Cultural Exchanges

### 24TH ALL INDIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST

The winners of the contest with H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan (centre)

On 25th February 2012, the 24th All India Japanese Language Speech Contest was organized by MOSAI (MOMBUSHO Scholars Association of India) in cooperation with the Japanese Association in Delhi, The Japan Foundation, and the Embassy of Japan in India.

This is the national contest in which winners of 4 zonal contests in India take part. The contest is divided into two categories: junior and senior category, according to the learning time of the Japanese language. Twenty-two speakers participated and competed their speech in Japanese.

Around 200 audiences comprising the contestants’ families, friends, Japanese language teachers and students, Japanese residents, etc., gathered in the WWF Auditorium.

Based on the result of the judgements, winners of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes, and special prizes by the juries, were selected. The top 8 contestants will visit Japan in June this year under the JENESYS program (except for those winners who have

already participated previously).

The 1st prize winners of both categories took part in the 2nd South Asian Japanese Language Speech Contest, which was organized by the South Asian Federation of Japanese Universities Alumni Association (SAFJUAA) on March 24th in Nepal, as representatives of the Indian Japanese Language learners. Ms. Shalmali Rajadhyaksha won the 2nd prize in the senior category.





## THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO OPENS INDIA OFFICE IN BANGALORE

On February 27, 2012, The University of Tokyo announced the opening of its India office in Bangalore, at an event organized to engage with students, academics, businesses and delegates, on education opportunities and offerings in Japan. Mr. N. R. Narayana Murthy, Chairman Emeritus - Infosys Ltd., Mr. Kanji Fujiki, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, and Mr. Hajime Hayashi, Charge d' Affaires Ad Interim – Embassy of Japan in India, attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Akihiko Tanaka, Vice President, The University of Tokyo, said, “The University of Tokyo India Office has been established to create awareness

on education opportunities in Japan among Indian students, and encourage them to apply to study in Japan. We have many premier education institutions in Japan and are focused on attracting Indian students to look at Japan as an education destination. India is one of the most important countries for us in terms of academic partnership and we hope to increase the number of Indian students studying in Japan.”

The University of Tokyo India Office is the second “Overseas Office for Shared Utilization by Universities” to open in India under the “Global 30” Project, following the Ritsumeikan India Office in New Delhi established in November 2010. These two offices provide comprehensive information on Japanese universities, including enrolment seminars and entrance examinations.

The “Global 30” project has been launched by the Japanese Government with the aim of increasing the number of international students in Japan to 300,000 by the year 2020. Under this initiative, 13 core universities (Tohoku University, University of Tsukuba, The University of Tokyo, Nagoya University, Kyoto University, Osaka University, Kyushu University, Keio University, Sophia University, Meiji University, Waseda University, Doshisha University and Ritsumeikan University) have been identified, which offer programs in English at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

### Contact details:

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# SWYAA-INDIA TAKES PART IN THE PORT OF CALL ACTIVITIES OF 24TH SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH, AT CHENNAI

The Japanese ship 'Fuji Maru', carrying a contingent of 272 youth of various nationalities from thirteen countries, was part of the Ship for World Youth (SWY) Program being run by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. A vibrant and cross cultural society existed on board the Japanese cruise which docked at the Chennai port from 12th -14th February 2012. Twenty Ex-Participants (Ex-PYs) of the SWY program and members of the 'Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of India' (SWYAA-India) welcomed the participating youth (PYs) at Dr. Ambedkar Dock, Port of Chennai, on 12th February, 2012. Two Ex-PYs from Nepal and two Ex-PYs from Japan also joined SWYAA-India in

the Port of Call activities. Mr. Atulya Misra, IAS, and Chairman, Port Trust of Chennai, himself an Ex-Participant of the SWY16 program, provided all the help on behalf of the Port authority.

When the ship arrived at the port, it was welcomed by a band and banners by SWYAA-India, who oriented the youth about the post program activities being carried out in India through a presentation and a short lecture by Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive of SWYAA-India. This event was hailed as an important event to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> year of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. All the members of SWYAA-India welcomed the youth and the ship administration to India.



The aim of the SWY program is to foster international friendship among the participating youth and to develop leadership qualities in them. It also helps them to gain a more international view by living with youth from different cultures, faiths, traditions and practices, and provides an on-board living experience that could make a world of difference to these youngsters.

Earlier on January 31<sup>st</sup>, the ship had left Yokohama (Japan), carrying 140 youth from Japan and 132 youth from countries like India, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Venezuela, cruising around Chennai and Sri Lanka, before returning to Tokyo on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 under the 'SWY Program'. Eleven youth were representing India in the SWY24 program this time.

The SWY Program seeks to establish networks and promote joint activities among youths around the world through providing, as a concrete and practical opportunity, cohabitation and joint activity on board the 'Ship for World Youth', which is the epitome of international society with wide variety of cultures and ideas, to make a visible international contribution from the perspective of human resource development.

A photo exhibition of the activities of SWYAA-India was displayed on board ship *Fuji Maru* for two days and the newsletter was distributed. During the reception on board on 13<sup>th</sup> February evening, Mr. Masanori NAKANO, Consul General of Japan in Chennai, and Mr. Masaki Sato, Administrator of SWY24, highly appreciated the efforts of the Alumni Association of India for extending help to participating youth of SWY24 in Chennai and the post-program initiatives of

social development. Mr. Ravi Chopra, Secretary General of SWYAA-India, presented gifts to the dignitaries present in the function.

Mr. C.R. Kesavan, Vice President of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), welcomed the participating youth and introduced RGNIYD as an autonomous organization of the Government of India, which was designated by the Government of India as the official host of SWY24 Program.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> February, RGNIYD arranged for the international youth delegates to visit seven different institutions viz., Bal Vihar, IIT (M), The Banyan, Ethiraj College, Stella Maries College, ICWO, and L. V. Prasad Film and TV Academy. The Participating Youth (PYs) accompanied Indian Ex-participants (Ex-PYs) in all their visits, which was of great help in understanding the work and the local culture.

SWYAA-India members accompanied the participating youth and took part in focused group discussions at the RGNIYD on 13<sup>th</sup> February. They witnessed a cultural program comprising a mix of classical and folk dances, and got a glimpse of the rich Indian heritage. Later, the delegates of the ship formed seven groups to visit seven different villages to understand the Indian way of life and local governance.

This port of call visit in India helped in establishing networks and promoting joint activities amongst youth around the world and contributed towards youth leadership development and cross cultural exchange.

*Ravi Chopra*

*General Secretary, SWYAA-India*

## JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS DEPART FOR JAPAN IN APRIL 2012

**I**n April 2012, twenty one Indian students have left for Japan in the first week of the month, under the Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship 2012. The students are in the categories of Research Students (16 Students), Undergraduate Students (4 students), and Specialized Training College Students (1 student). For the category of College of Technology Students, none have qualified for the year 2012.

Research Students category is a 2 year program for doing Research. The tenure can be extended according to the term of the regular graduate course, when the student has enrolled in a Master's or Doctoral course with outstanding academic achievement.

Undergraduate program is a 5 year program for those who wish to study in a Japanese University at undergraduate level,

comprising of 1 year of Japanese language training and 4 years of Bachelor degree course.

College of Technology is a 4 year program comprising of 1 year Japanese language training and 3 years of associated degree course. Colleges of Technology conduct practical and professional engineering education based on an integrated system with general learning and specialized learning organized systematically.

Specialized Training College is a 3 year program comprising of 1 year of Japanese language training and 2 years of associated certificate course. Specialized Training Colleges are vocational schools that run courses in specialized subjects at the higher education level.

**For more details, please see the Embassy of Japan's website <http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/>**

# THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP 2013 OPEN FOR APPLICATION

The Japanese Government Scholarship (Monbukagakusho:MEXT) for the year 2013 is now open for application to interested candidates for studying in Japanese Universities (Undergraduate level), Colleges of Technology, and Specialized Training Colleges

**Undergraduate program** is a 5 year program for those who wish to study in a Japanese University at undergraduate level comprising of 1 year of Japanese language training and 4 years of Bachelor degree course.

**College of Technology** is a 4 year program comprising of 1 year Japanese language training and 3 years of associated degree course. Colleges of Technology conduct practical and professional engineering education based on an integrated system with general learning and specialized learning organized systematically.

**Specialized Training College** is a 3 year program comprising of 1 year of Japanese language training and 2 years of associated certificate course. Specialized Training Colleges are vocational schools that run courses in specialized subjects at the higher education level.

The scholarship benefits are: free tuition fees, monthly stipend and one return air ticket.

The deadline for submitting the application is 22nd June 2012. The application can be accepted at the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi and Consulates General of Japan in Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, and Consulate of Japan in Bangalore.

The selected candidates for the above scholarships will go to Japan in April 2013.

Recruitment for the Japanese government scholarship 2013 for post graduate level has also just started. The deadline for submitting the application is 18th May 2012. Please see below website for details

[http://mhrd.gov.in/site/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/Japanese\\_2013.pdf](http://mhrd.gov.in/site/upload_files/mhrd/files/Japanese_2013.pdf)

For more details please contact: Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan Ph.: +91-11-46104865

E-mail: [jpemb.sinha@nd.mofa.go.jp](mailto:jpemb.sinha@nd.mofa.go.jp)

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

## 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

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

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For West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa: The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata.

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

For Karnataka: The Consulate of Japan in Bangalore.

For remaining states and territories: Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

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