



Japan Calling

 A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan, India
 



Soma Wild Horse Chase - [Fukushima Prefecture]

(Photo © Tohoku Tourism Promotion Organization)

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Prime Minister Abe's Keynote Address at the 13th IISS Asian Security Summit -The Shangri-La Dialogue -

“Peace and prosperity in Asia, forevermore
Japan for the rule of law
Asia for the rule of law
And the rule of law for all of us”

May 30, 2014



(Photos: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan)

Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe, delivered a keynote address at the Asian Security Summit, organized by The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in Singapore on May 30, 2014. The following is the abridged text of his speech:

Introduction

“Peace and prosperity in Asia, forevermore.”

In order to make that a reality, what should Japan do and how should Japan contribute? That's what I am standing here to speak about.

I think all of us in the room here share a common mission.

The mission is one of pursuing better living standards and economic prosperity. It's a mission of bringing into full bloom the latent potential of this great growth centre and the people living there, stretching from Asia and the Pacific to the Indian Ocean.

We must build and then hand over to the next generation a stage on which each and every individual can prosper still more and certainly benefit from the fruits of growth.

“Asia” is a synonym for “growth” and another name for “achievement.”

Take TPP. The Trans Pacific Partnership will surely bring an overwhelming economy of scale to the Asia Pacific economies.

Just as a rocket picks up even greater acceleration in its second and third stages, the RCEP and the FTAAP as it were, the momentum sparked by the TPP will expand our free and creative economic sphere, enabling us to soar even higher, and to propel the world economy forward.

And just for Japan to seek a win-win synergy with the growing Asia Pacific region, my economic policy is now advancing at full throttle.

If you imagine how vast the Pacific and Indian Oceans are, our potential is exactly like the oceans, i.e., limitless, isn't it?

In order to have the generations of our children and our children's children share in this bounty, it's absolutely imperative that we make peace and stability, something absolutely rock-solid.

To achieve this, all countries must observe international law.

Ladies and gentlemen, Japan will offer its utmost support for the efforts of the countries of ASEAN as they work to ensure the security of the seas and the skies, and thoroughly maintain freedom of navigation and freedom of overflight.

Japan intends to play an even greater and more proactive role than it has until now in making peace in Asia and the world something more certain.

As for Japan's new banner of "Proactive Contribution to Peace," Japan already enjoys the explicit and enthusiastic support of the leaders of our allies and other friendly nations, including every leader of ASEAN member countries as well as the leaders of the United States, Australia, India, the U.K, France and others.

So let me just repeat. Japan for the rule of law. Asia for the rule of law. And the rule of law for all of us. Peace and prosperity in Asia, forevermore.

That's what I wish to state to you today.

My perception of the circumstances

May I now tell you firstly how I perceive the situation that surrounds us in the region.

This region has achieved tremendous growth in the span of a single generation. However, a large and relatively disproportionate amount of the fruits of that growth is being allocated to military expansion and arms trading. To me, this is extremely regrettable. We also find ourselves facing the threat of weapons of mass destruction and attempts to change the status quo through force or coercion. Clearly there exist elements that spawn instability.

And yet nowhere do we find a need to be pessimistic. That's my approach. Recently President Barack Obama of the United States and I mutually reaffirmed that the U.S.-Japan Alliance is the cornerstone for regional peace and security.

President Obama and I also mutually confirmed that the United States and Japan are strengthening trilateral cooperation with like-minded partners to promote peace and economic prosperity in Asia and the Pacific and around the globe.

When Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited Japan at the beginning of April, we reaffirmed this exact stance, namely that in security affairs, we will further the trilateral cooperation among Japan, the U.S., and Australia. We clearly articulated to people both at home and abroad our intention to elevate the strategic partnership between Japan and Australia to a new special relationship.

In India, Mr. Narendra Modi has become Prime Minister through another free and fair election. I am absolutely certain that when I welcome Prime Minister Modi to Tokyo, we will successfully confirm that Japan-India cooperation, as well as trilateral cooperation including our two countries, will make the "confluence of the two seas," that is the Pacific and Indian Oceans, peaceful and more prosperous.

Last year, I visited all ten ASEAN member countries, and my determination grew increasingly firm with each country I visited.

This is because these visits taught me that we share common groundwork regarding our commitment to valuing the rule of law, and that we enjoy a consensus in our respect for freedom of navigation and freedom of overflight.

Indeed, in most of the countries of the region, economic growth has steadily brought freedom of thought and religion and checks and balances to the political systems, even though the speed of these changes varies from country to country.

The sheer idea of the rule of law, which is one great pillar for human rights, has taken deeper root.

Freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, which undergirds these two, form the Asia-Pacific's rich basso continuo that supports the melody played in a bright and cheery key. I find myself newly gripped by that sound day after day.

The importance of international law

I have now shared with you how I perceive the circumstances that surround us.

Now, my first central point for today, that is that we must observe international law.

International law prescribes the order governing the seas. Its history is long indeed, stretching back to the days of ancient Greece, we are told. By Roman times, the seas were already kept open to all, with personal possession and partitioning of the sea prohibited.

Ever since what is known as the Age of Exploration, large numbers of people have come together by crossing the seas, and marine-based commerce has connected the globe. The principle of freedom on the high seas came to be established, and the seas became the foundation for human prosperity.

As history moved on, the wisdom and the practical experiences of a great many people involved with the sea, who were at times literally caught up in rough and raging waves, accumulated into common rules. This is what we now know as the international law of the seas.

This law was not created by any particular country or countries, nor was it the product of some sort of group. Instead, it is the product of our own wisdom, cultivated over a great many years for the well-being and the prosperity of all humankind.

Today, the benefits for each of us lie in the seas from the Pacific to the Indian Oceans being made thoroughly open, as a place of freedom and peace.

All of us should find one common benefit in keeping our oceans and skies as global commons, where the rule of law is respected throughout, to the merit of the world and humankind.

"I am absolutely certain that when I welcome Prime Minister Modi to Tokyo, we will successfully confirm that Japan-India cooperation, as well as trilateral cooperation including our two countries, will make the 'confluence of the two seas', that is the Pacific and Indian Oceans, peaceful and more prosperous."

The rule of law at sea: Three principles

Now, when we say "the rule of law at sea" -- what exactly do we mean in concrete terms? If we take the fundamental spirit that we have infused into international law over the ages and reformulate it into three principles, we find the rule of law at sea is actually a matter of common sense.

The first principle is that states shall make and clarify their claims based on international law.

The second is that states shall not use force or coercion in trying to drive their claims.

The third principle is that states shall seek to settle disputes by peaceful means.

So to reiterate this, it means making claims that are faithful in light of international law, not resorting to force or coercion, and resolving all disputes through peaceful means.

So that is all about common sense,

pure and simple. And yet these very natural things must be emphasized. I urge all of us who live in Asia and the Pacific to each individually uphold these three principles exhaustively.

Take a look at Indonesia and the Philippines. They have peacefully reached agreement of late on the delimitation of their overlapping EEZs. I welcome this as an excellent case in point that truly embodies the rule of law.

Ladies and gentlemen, my government strongly supports the efforts by the Philippines calling for a resolution to the dispute in the South China Sea that is truly consistent with these three principles. We likewise support Viet Nam in its efforts to resolve issues through dialogue.

Movement to consolidate changes to the status quo by aggregating one fait accompli after another can only be strongly condemned as something that contravenes the spirit of these three principles.

Would you not agree that now is the time to make a firm pledge to return to the spirit and the provisions of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that all concerned countries in the Sea agreed to, and not to undertake unilateral actions associated with a permanent physical change?

The time to devote our wisdom to restoring peaceful seas is now.

Preventing unexpected situations

What the world eagerly awaits is for our seas and our skies to be places governed by rules, laws, and established dispute resolution procedures.

The least desirable state of affairs is having to fear that coercion and threats will take the place of rules and laws and that unexpected situations will arise at arbitrary times and places.

I strongly hope that a truly effective Code of Conduct can be established in the South China Sea between ASEAN and China and that it can be achieved swiftly.

Japan and China have an agreement concluded in 2007 between then-Premier Wen Jiabao and myself, when I was serving as Prime Minister. That was a commitment we made to create a maritime and air communication mechanism in order to prevent unexpected situations between Japan and China.

Unfortunately, this has not led to the actual operation of such a mechanism.

We do not welcome dangerous encounters by fighter aircraft and vessels at sea. What we must exchange are words. Should we not meet at the table, first exchanging smiles as we sit down to have discussions?

It is my firm belief that commencing the operation of this agreement between our two countries will lead to peace and stability of the region as a whole.

Strengthening the East Asia Summit and making military budgets transparent

Be that as it may, in my view, the time has come to place emphasis on the East Asia Summit.

The ARF is a meeting held at the Foreign Minister level, while the ADMM+ is, as the name describes, a meeting at the Defence Minister level. There is no stage that outshines the East Asia Summit as a venue for heads of state and government to come together and discuss the order that is desirable.

Keeping military expansion in check and making military budgets transparent, as well as enlarging the number of countries that conclude the Arms Trade Treaty and improving mutual understanding between authorities in charge of national defence -- there is no lack of issues those of us national leaders ought to take up, applying peer pressure on each other.

I urge the further enhancement of the East Asia Summit, as the premier forum taking up regional politics and security.

Next year marks the tenth anniversary of the launch of the EAS.

I propose that we first create a permanent committee comprised of permanent representatives to ASEAN from the member countries and then prepare a roadmap to bring renewed vitality to the Summit itself while also making the Summit along with the ARF and the ADMM+ function in a multi-layered fashion.

The first thing we should discuss is the principle of disclosure.

We have all heard the saying that "sunshine is the best disinfectant."

From now, Asia will continue to play the leading role in pulling the prosperity of the world forward.

Military expansion is not merely ill-matched but also inherently unworthy of such a place as this.

The fruits of prosperity should instead be reinvested into even greater prosperity and improving people's lives.

I believe that a framework under which we publicly disclose our military budgets step by step that enables us to cross-check each other is a system that we should seek to establish as we extend the scope of the East Asia Summit.

"Proactive Contribution to Peace" and reconstruction of the legal basis for security

I will now talk about my final topic for today, and that is about the new banner Japan has chosen to raise.

We are in an era in which it is no longer possible for any one nation to secure its own peace only by itself.

This is a view shared throughout the world. That is exactly why it is incumbent upon us in Japan to reconstruct the legal basis pertinent to the right of collective self-defence and to international cooperation, including the United Nations peacekeeping operations. On my watch, discussion is underway in Japan.

Japan's Self-Defence Forces are at this very moment working hard to foster peace in South Sudan, only recently independent, under the flag of the United Nations Mission there.

Units from such countries as Cambodia, Mongolia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, and China are participating in this same Mission.

There are also a great many civilian UN staffers as well as members of NGOs from various countries. They are all partners with us in the sense that they are all assisting in South Sudan's nation-building.

Imagine now that civilians or NGO workers there, powerless to defend themselves, came under sudden attack by armed elements.

Under the approach that the Japanese government has taken to date, Japan's Self-Defence Forces are unable to go rescue these civilians enduring the attack.

Is this an appropriate response into the future?

My government is thinking hard about it, and a close consultation is underway within the ruling coalition parties.

It is precisely because Japan is a country that depends a great deal on the peace and stability of the international community that Japan wishes to work even more proactively for world peace, and wishes to raise the banner of "Proactive Contributor to Peace."

For the full text of this speech, please visit Prime Minister's Office website,
http://japan.kantei.go.jp/96_abe/statement/201405/0530kichokoen.html

The 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the 1944 Battle of Imphal



Ambassador Yagi (centre) offering tribute at India Peace Memorial in Imphal, built by the Government of Japan in 1994

Japan's Ambassador, Takeshi Yagi, attended the inaugural ceremony of the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Imphal, held on March 23, 2014. The event was organized by Manipur Tourism Forum and the 2nd World War Imphal Campaign Foundation, in association with the Manipur State Government. Shri P. C. Lawmkunga, Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, attended the ceremony as the Chief Guest.

Ambassador Yagi spoke about the Battle of Imphal and the development of the Japan-India relations since then. Paying tribute to all those who had fought and fallen in the Battle of Imphal, Ambassador Yagi said that, despite passage of seventy years, the name of Imphal is deeply rooted in the minds of Japanese. He expressed his pain while thinking of those who had experienced extraordinary hardship fighting the Battle of Imphal, one of the harshest battles in World War II

Continuing his remarks, Ambassador Yagi said that a lot had happened and changed since the 1944 Battle of Imphal, with Japan being reborn and becoming a leading and proactive player in constructing peace and prosperity in Asia as well as in the rest of the world. He also noted that the State of Manipur is now turning itself into a very attractive destination for industry and tourism.

Japan is willing to play a major role in the enhancement of regional connectivity, in the belief that it will serve towards further development of Asia as a whole. Seeking to turn this vision into a reality, Japan is supporting India in developing the Indian North East by transforming it into a thriving hub by establishing the necessary infrastructure, covering such fields as roads, agriculture, forestry and water.

Ambassador Yagi also expressed his satisfaction that Japan and India have thus far made tremendous efforts and achieved a very friendly and cooperative relationship over the decades.

By referring to two historically important visits to India: one by Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, in 2013, and the other by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as the chief guest of the Republic Day of 2014, Ambassador Yagi underlined even more the strengthening of the bonds of friendship and closer ties between Japan and India.

Mr. Yagi also visited two peace memorials and battle fields, and thanked the government and people of Manipur for maintaining for decades these historically important places.

The closing ceremony of the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Imphal is scheduled to take place in Manipur on June 28.



Inaugural Ceremony of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, March 23, 2014

For Reinvigorating the Economy, Suggestions for the Government of India by JCCII 2014



Mr. Fuse, President of JCCII (left) delivered the Suggestions 2014 to Mr. Kant, Secretary of DIPP, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCII) submitted "Suggestions for the Government of India 2014" to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, on 10 June.

JCCII has been submitting the Suggestions every year since 2009, and this is the sixth Suggestions. The Suggestions 2014 contains about 40 items in 11 chapters.

Reinvigorating the economy is the foremost agenda of the new Indian government. The entire world is eagerly waiting for the revival of its economy. It is in this context that Japan and its business community are anticipating at the earliest a strong and clear commitment to, and implementation of, reforms and economic revitalization measures.

It is hoped that the Suggestions 2014 items would contribute to better business environment, and accelerate investment from Japan and business expansion in India.

Table : Suggestions for the Government of India by JCCII 2014

1. TAX SYSTEM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of APA Scheme - Transfer Price Taxation (Sogo Shosha) - PE Taxation and Disallowance of Payments for purchases of offshore supplies on the ground of non-withholding tax - Early introduction of GST - Limited application of MAT in SEZ - Improvement of SAD refund process/SAD abolishment - Elimination of Custom Duty on inverter component parts - MRP Stickers - Classification of import duty for digital cameras
2. BANKING SECTOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relaxation on ECB - Opening of branch offices in the metropolitan area - Exemption from LCR requirement for foreign bank branches
3. INSURANCE SECTOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising the FDI cap in insurance sector - Obligatory cession

4. LOGISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of the customs clearance system - Update of SCOMET list - Improvement of issuance of Special Valuation Branch order
5. STEEL PRODUCTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relaxation of mandatory certification of IS
6. HEALTHCARE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simplified registration process to medical devices approved by Japanese Government
7. JAPANESE LAWYERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relaxation of restrictions against practice by Japanese lawyers
8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of effective systems on IPR for facilitating innovation and creativity - Improvement of the regulation and practice
9. VISA/RESIDENTIAL PERMIT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of issuing Business visa and Employment visa - Residential permit validity extension
10. PROCEDURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for Japanese Small & Medium industries into Indian market - Improvement for merger approval procedure
11. INFRASTRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of ring roads toward implementation of CBIC - Road development around Chennai city and in Bangalore - Assessment of Chennai port operation by experts - Improvement of facilities in kamarajar port (ex. Ennore port) - Further promotion of road construction of NH8 (Gurgaon-Manesar-Bawal-Neemrana) - New arterial road construction between Haryana and UP state - Measures to solve "DRAFT" problem at Haldia dock complex - Further promotion of road construction of NH6 - Stable power supply - Improvement of operation of public industrial park - Facilitation of development of private industrial park

URL: <http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/Japan-India-Relations/Japan-Chamber-Commerce2014.html>



Discussion between top officials of DIPP and JCCII
(From right, Mr. Kant, Secretary of DIPP, Mr. Fuse, President of JCCII, Mr. Konishi, Chairman for Suggestion Letter Promotion Committee, JCCII, and Mr. Tsukada, Minister, Embassy of Japan)

Dr. Sengaku Maeda conferred Padma Shri Award by the President of India

Dr. Sengaku Maeda, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo and Musashino University, and President of the Nakamura Hajime Eastern Institute in Japan, has been awarded with the 'Padma Shri' award by the Government of India, in recognition of his contribution to India-Japan relations in the field of literature and education. This was announced on January 25, 2014 by the Government of India, amongst 127 distinguished persons selected to receive the prestigious 'Padma' awards for the year 2014.

The award was conferred upon Dr. Maeda by H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of India, at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan (Presidential Palace) on 26 April 2014.

The 'Padma' awards, the country's highest civilian awards, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The awards are given in various fields of activities such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

Besides Dr. Maeda, other important Japanese dignitaries who have been previously honoured with the 'Padma Shri' award include Dr. Taro Nakayama (in 2002 for Public Affairs), Prof. Shoji Shiba (in 2012 for Trade and Industry) and Dr. Noboru Karashima (in 2013 for Literature & Education).

President Pranab Mukherjee (R) presenting The Padma Shri award to Dr. Sengaku Maeda, during the Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, on April 26, 2014

(Photo credit: Mr. Samar Mondol, Photographic Officer, Rashtrapati Bhavan)



Presentation Ceremony of Kendo Equipment



Ambassador Yagi formally hands over the Kendo equipment



A demonstration of Kendo

A Presentation Ceremony to hand over Kendo (a Japanese martial art) equipment from Japan to India was conducted on 7 April 2014, at the Embassy of Japan. On behalf of the All Japan Kendo Federation, H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India, presented the Kendo equipment to Mr. Hideki Kitamura, Chairman of Ken-In-Kai (Kendo Club in India) and Mr. S.M. Siddiq Mahmoodi, founder of Kendo India Federation.

Seven sets of Kendo-gu (Kendo protectors), 20 Shinai (bamboo swords) and 10 Tenugui (facecloths) were donated to the Kendo India Federation from Hyderabad, and seven sets of Kendo-gu were donated to Ken-In-Kai (Kendo Club in India).

Every year, the All Japan Kendo Federation donates Kendo equipment to Kendo Federations in foreign countries. This is the first time that Kendo groups in India received the donation from the Federation.

Discover Touch
with our Hospitality



Discover Smells
with our Green Tea



Discover Taste
with our Cuisine



Discover Sounds
at the Matsuri Festival



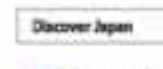
Discover Sights
with our Bullet Train

Discover all your senses.
Rediscover yourself in **JAPAN.**

Welcome to Japan. It's a whole new world of fresh flavours, sounds, sights, feelings and aromas, all waiting for you. It's a journey of self-discovery, for your senses and your sensibilities.



Japan.
Endless
Discovery.



Website: <http://www.jnto.org.sg/india/>



<http://www.facebook.com/VisitJapanIndia>

Discover all your senses.

Rediscover yourself in JAPAN.



Come and discover the beauty of Japan, this summer. It's a whole new world of fresh flavours, sounds, sights, feelings and aromas, all waiting for you. It's a journey of self-discovery, for your senses and sensibilities.

Tokyo

This exciting metropolis is truly a heaven for the gourmet, shopping and culture enthusiasts. Indulge yourself at the elegant Ginza district or head to Akihabara for electronics and anime-themed stores. Peep into Tokyo's past at the popular Asakusa district, and while you are here, look out for the Tokyo Sky Tree, the world's tallest freestanding broadcasting tower.



been revered by Japanese people since ancient times. If you are pressed for time to climb its summit, don't worry, you can always catch a glimpse of it while travelling on the Shinkansen (Bullet Train) near Shin-Fuji station. Clear sky days offer the finest views, especially in the morning.



Traditional Festivals

Discover festive sounds by joining the locals in celebrating the traditional Japanese Matsuri (traditional festivals). Every nook and cranny in Japan rejoices with

its own festivals mostly coinciding with the transition of the four seasons. Besides, a series of several mega-events like snow festivals and firework displays keep the calendar busy for the tourists.



Sushi

Pamper your taste buds with Sushi – one of the most popular Japanese dishes. Japan's robust food culture with its refined taste is created by using seasonal ingredients, making it the ideal flavour for connoisseurs worldwide. But don't fret in case you are looking for Indian and Vegetarian options in Japan,

there are many Indian restaurants in all Japanese cities.



Hot Springs

Discover the soothing sensations at the *Onsen* (hot springs), an intimate part of Japanese culture. The water here is considered to have restorative properties with natural minerals that heal aches and pains, ease illness to maintain a healthy body. *Onsen* maintains a tranquil, zen-like equilibrium contributing to the Japanese appreciation for nature.



Mount Fuji

Discover magnificent sights like the iconic Mt. Fuji - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which has



Discover Japan



Website: <http://www.jnto.org.sg/india/>



<http://www.facebook.com/VisitJapan.india>

Summer Festivals in Tohoku

We highlight six colourful summer festivals celebrated in the Tohoku region, the north-eastern part of Japan.

Aomori Nebuta Festival (August 2nd to 7th, 2014 - Aomori City, Aomori Prefecture)



Aomori Nebuta Festival 2012 [Aomori Prefecture]

©Yasufumi Nishi/©JNTO

During the Aomori Nebuta festival, designated as a significant intangible folk cultural asset of Japan, more than twenty large nebutas – large lantern floats decorated with human figures – are wheeled along the parade route in the city of Aomori. Ahead of each float, Nebuta dancers, called haneto, dance wildly to the hayashi music of the Nebuta Festival, making the summer night festival lively and exciting. The fantastic view of lantern-lit floats and the dancers' shouts of “rasse rasse” are overwhelming. It certainly is a genuine fire festival of Japan. The Aomori Nebuta Festival attracts as many as 3 million tourists a year. (Source: http://www.atca.info/nebuta_en/nebuta.html)

Learn more at Aomori Prefecture's tourism page, <http://en.aptnet.jp/detail/xml/detail.html?xmlid=00000015> and Aomori Nebuta Festival 2014 official website, http://www.atca.info/nebuta_en/nebuta.html



Aomori Nebuta Festival 2012 [Aomori Prefecture]

©Yasufumi Nishi/©JNTO

Morioka Sansa Odori Festival (August 1st to 4th, 2014 - Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture)



Morioka Sansa Dance [Iwate Prefecture]

©JNTO

Sansa is a parade that is visually and aurally stimulating. Imagine a big parade of marching bands in Japanese costumes playing Japanese instruments: that's Sansa. A team consists of three major sections: the taiko drummers, the flutists, and the dancers. All participants wear colorful costumes and dance while marching, even those playing instruments. Each taiko drum is quite large, about 50 cm in diameter and weighing about 6 to 7 kg; you will surely be impressed to see rows and rows of colorfully-clad dancers bouncing around all while playing the taiko and calling out “Sakkora Choiwa Yasse,” which is a call to bring in good luck. (Source: http://www.japan-iwate.info/app/location_detail.php?lid=56)

Learn more at Iwate Prefecture Tourism Portal site, http://www.japan-iwate.info/app/location_detail.php?lid=56 and Morioka Sansa Odori official website, http://www.sansaodori.jp/pdf/pamphlet_english.pdf



Morioka Sansa Dance [Iwate Prefecture]

©Iwate Prefecture/©JNTO

Japan Calling

**Sendai Tanabata Festival (August 6th to 8th, 2014
- Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture)**



Sendai Tanabata festival [Miyagi Prefecture]

©Yasufumi Nishi/© JNTO

This beautiful summer tradition of Sendai city has its roots in the seasonal event of Tanabata, or Star Festival. It is characterized by colorful bamboo decorations that brighten up the shopping arcades to delight the two million visitors who come from all over Japan to see the festival. A leisurely stroll along the shopping arcades to view the brightly colored streamers waving overhead is a must for all visitors. (Source: <http://www.sentabi.jp/en/event/tanabata.html>)

Tanabata decorations consist of seven features essential to the festival. These seven types of decorations express wishes and prayers for good business and sound health, for example. (Source: <http://www.sendaitanabata.com/en/features.html>)

Learn more at Sendai city's tourism website, <http://www.sentabi.jp/en/event/tanabata.html> and Sendai Tanabata Festival official website, <http://www.sendaitanabata.com/en/index.html>



Sendai Tanabata festival [Miyagi Prefecture]

©Yasufumi Nishi/© JNTO

**Akita Kanto Festival (August 3rd to 6th, 2014
- Akita City, Akita Prefecture)**



Akita Kanto Festival [Akita Prefecture]

© Yasufumi Nishi/© JNTO

With the signal of echoing sound of the bamboo flutes, 230 Kanto poles are risen at the same time. In the swirl of cheering shouts, musical accompaniment, spectators' shouts of admiration and encouragement, performers' attention is concentrated to the Shinto offering of cut paper (Gohei) which is placed at the very top of the 15 meters high bamboo pole - the Kanto.

The true charm of the Kanto festival is the show of the performers - simultaneously checking the slightest move of the Gohei that shows the direction of the wind and the tiniest unbalance, and at the same time managing freely the Kanto pole on their foreheads and lower backs. (Source: <http://www.kantou.gr.jp/english/index.htm>)

Learn more at Akita Kanto Festival official website, <http://www.kantou.gr.jp/english/index.htm> and Akita Prefecture tourism page, <http://www.pref.akita.jp/koho/foreign/en/0110.html>



Akita Kanto Festival [Akita Prefecture]

© Yasufumi Nishi/© JNTO

**Yamagata Hanagasa Festival (August 5th to 7th, 2014
- Yamagata City, Yamagata Prefecture)**



Hanagasa Festival [Yamagata Prefecture]

©Yamagata Prefecture/©JNTO

The Yamagata Hanagasa Festival is highlighted by the booming cries of "Yassho, Makasho" accompanied by the gallant sound of the Hanagasa Taiko drums and gorgeously decorated floats leading more than 10,000 dancers adorned in beautiful costume with Hanagasa flower hats through the main street of Yamagata city. It is said that more than one million people flock to the city during the term of the festival.

In the past, the beauty of the groups dancing in perfect order was the highlight of the 'Yamagata Hanagasa Festival'. However, in recent years, a variety of dances captivate the crowd. (Source: <http://www.hanagasa.jp/en/>)

Learn more at Yamagata Hanagasa Festival official website, <http://www.hanagasa.jp/en/> and Yamagata Prefecture tourism page, http://yamagatakanko.com.e.db.hp.transer.com/eventdetail/?data_id=2955&c=event&yp=1



Hanagasa Festival [Yamagata Prefecture]

Photo: Yamagata Prefecture Hanagasa Council

**Soma Nomaoui [Soma Wild Horse Chase] (July 26th
to 28th, 2014 - Soma District, Fukushima Prefecture)**



The Soma Nomaoui [Fukushima Prefecture]

Photo: Fukushima Prefecture Tourism & Local Products Association

The Soma Nomaoui is a 1,000-year-old traditional festival which introduces the code of the samurai of the Warring States Period (15th–16th centuries) to the present day.

The highlights of the three-day festival are the Koshiki Kacchu Keiba, in which twelve samurai horsemen clad in armor and helmets, and carrying katana swords all race over a distance of 1,000 meters, and the Shinki Sodatsusen, in which several hundred samurai horsemen compete for 40 shrine flags shot into the air with fireworks. Other events also worth seeing include the solemn opening ceremony and the procession. (Source: <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/spot/festival/somanomaoui.html>)

Learn more at Fukushima Prefecture tourism page, <http://www.tif.ne.jp/lang/en/sightseeing/topic.html?id=272&category=5> and the Soma Nomaoui official website, <http://www6.ocn.ne.jp/~nomaoui/english.htm>



The Soma Nomaoui [Fukushima Prefecture]

Photo: Fukushima Prefecture Tourism & Local Products Association

EXPLORING JAPAN - A Cultural Heritage Site in North-eastern Japan



Poetry Reading (Motsu-ji Temple) - [Iwate Prefecture]

Continuing our series on World Heritage sites in Japan, this time we focus on a Cultural Heritage site called “Hiraizumi – Temples, Gardens and Archaeological Sites Representing the Buddhist Pure Land”, dating from the 11th and 12th centuries, located in Hiraizumi town, Iwate Prefecture, in the Tohoku region, the north-eastern part of Japan.

To see more pictures or find information about travelling in Japan, visit the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) website <http://www.jnto.go.jp/>

©Iwate Prefecture/JNTO



Chusonji

Photo: Kawashima Printing Co., Ltd.



Kanjizaoinato

Photo: Kawashima Printing Co., Ltd.



Kinkeizan

Photo: Kawashima Printing Co., Ltd.



Muryokoinato

Photo: Kawashima Printing Co., Ltd.

Champions for Societal Manufacturing Project develops the Visionary Leaders for Indian Manufacturing

By Masaaki DOI, Project Coordinator, CSM, JICA

CSM (Champions for Societal Manufacturing) Project, a flagship programme under the Indo-Japan Joint Technical Cooperation, is set up to develop "Visionary Leaders" to lead and strengthen dynamic growth of Indian manufacturing sector in the coming years.

The Project developed more than 1100 Visionary Leaders through a unique Partnership amongst National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC), Ministry of HRD, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM-C), Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K), Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). CII and Academia (IIT-C, IIT-K and IIT-M) execute the training courses with the support of JICA.

The Project aims to introduce and transform Indian Manufacturing companies to become more competitive by introducing "Big M Manufacturing concept" and "Breakthrough



Management", which extracts the scientific principles from Japanese "Monozukuri" (manufacturing).

A structured approach for mindset transformation and skill sets for implementing breakthrough in their respective companies are developed through VLFM (Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing) Project (2007-2013) and CSM Project (2013-2016).

The unique design of course gives the participants to learn and apply the art and science of managing manufacturing holistically.

Hence they target improvements not only in the production and supply chain but also in the entire business process of manufacturing.

Many Japanese companies also support this programme through sending the participant to the courses and recruitment of the graduates.



The Project provides "Japan Visit Module" which is a unique opportunity for learning the best manufacturing practices from Japan.

The participants learn how Manufacturing is a way of life in Japan.

Visionary Leaders completed in the courses confirm that they have improved their capabilities through the mindset transformation and practical skills learnt. As a result, Graduates developed unique products like "ChotuKool", "EPAM", "Submersible pumps" etc. and many breakthrough results.

Many CEO's appreciated the mindset transformation in their managers.

More than 25 manuals and published success stories contribute to developing a VLFM Community and reaching beyond.

The academia partner, IIM-C, IIT-K and IIT-M formulated the first MOT (Management of Technology) in India and designed the first partnership programme: PGPEX-VLM.

The VLFM initiative has been recognized by the Academia, Indian industry, and Government of India by conferencing Professor Shoji Shiba with Padma Shri in 2012. He is Emeritus Professor of University of Tsukuba, Chief Advisor of VLFM Project and also Chief Advisor of CSM Project now.



In this year, 2014, the new "Village Buddha Project" which develops Indian villages along with the Indian manufacturing industry is going to take off.



Chotu Kool

For more details of VLFM/CSM Projects (VLFM Programme), please access the following sites:

- www.vlfm.org

- www.cii.in

- www.iimcal.ac.in/

- www.jica.go.jp/india

- www.nmcc.nic.in/

Updates from Consulates

Kolkata



Mr. Kazumi Endo, Consul-General of Japan at Kolkata, and Mrs. Misako Endo, attending the Reception of the National Day of Nepal, held at Taj Bengal, on 27th May 2014, together with Prof. Krishna Bose, Chairperson - Netaji Research Bureau in Kolkata.

Photo credit: Calcutta Times



Mr. Mitsutake Numahata, Deputy Consul General, delivering his address during the inauguration of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project (Government of Japan) for treatment of Haemophilia by upgrading the medical facilities at Haemophilia Society Calcutta Chapter, on 11th March 2014, at Kalikapur, Kolkata.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Kolkata



A skit being enacted during 29th ANNUAL CULTURAL FUNCTION – IN NICHI BUNKASAI organised by Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society in collaboration with Consulate-General of Japan, Kolkata, on 8th March 2014, at Triguna Sen Auditorium, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Kolkata



Japanese Language Teachers' Seminar (Eastern India) conducted by Mr. Yasujiro Takei, Japanese Language Advisor, Japan Foundation New Delhi, held at the Indo-Japan Welfare and Cultural Association, Kolkata, on 10 April 2014.

Photo credit: Japan Foundation New Delhi

Chennai



Participants running from the start line at the Mini Marathon in commemoration of 'Olympics and Paralympics TOKYO 2020', as part of the Japan Cultural Festival organized by Consulate General of Japan at Chennai and ABK-AOTS Dosokai Tamilnadu Centre, on 23rd March 2014, at the Marina Beach, Chennai.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Chennai



Mr. V. C. Perumal, IPS, Retired Additional Director-General of Tamil Nadu Police (Front row: 1st from left), Mr. Masanori Nakano, Consul-General of Japan at Chennai, and Mrs. Nakano (Front row: 1st and 2nd from right) along with participants.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Chennai



Japanese Sushi masters demonstrating Sushi-making at the International Sushi Training Workshop organized by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and Indian Federation of Culinary Associations (IFCA), on 6-7 March 2014, at the Leela Palace, Chennai.

Photo credit: JETRO, Chennai



Mr. Masanori Nakano, Consul-General of Japan at Chennai, making a speech at the Seminar on Highway Development and Intelligent Transport System (ITS) in Chennai, organized by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, and Ministry of Urban Development of India, on 19th March 2014, at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Chennai.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan at Chennai

Mumbai



Mr. Kiyoshi ASAKO, Consul General of Japan, conferring "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" on Mr. Vinaya Mehrotra, President of Indo-Japanese Association - Mumbai (left), on 20th May 2014, in Mumbai.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Mumbai



Mr. Yoshimitsu KAWATA, Deputy Chief of Mission, at the Wall Art Festival 2014, held from 15th to 17th Feb. 2014, at Ganjad, Dahanu, Thane.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Mumbai



Mr. Kazushige HIRAISHI, Vice Consul, and Ms. Sarita Sundaram, President of Teachers Association of Japanese, at the Japan Quiz Contest 2014 held on 14th March 2014, in Mumbai

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Mumbai



Fashion Show organized by the Indo-Japanese Association, Mumbai, on 1st March 2014, in Mumbai.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Mumbai

Bangalore



Consul and Head of Consulate - Bangalore, Mr. Yamamoto, celebrates Mrs. Ganesh, dedicating herself to cultural exchange between Japan and India, on 6th March 2014.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Bangalore



Screening of a Japanese movie, ROBO-G, at TCS, on 9th May 2014.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Bangalore



Bangalore Metro, Green line, supported financially by the Government of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has launched operations since 28th February 2014.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Bangalore



An inside view of the Bangalore Metro train.

Photo credit: Consulate General of Japan, Bangalore

Studying And Living In Japan - My Experiences

My name is Dinesh Kumar, and I was a MEXT scholar in the Undergraduate Program (College of Technology Program) for a period of 6 years from April 2006 till March 2012.

I completed my high school education in 2004, after which I got myself enrolled in Delhi University for B.Sc. (Hons.) in Chemistry and was also taking a part-time Japanese language course at MOSAI Institute. The main purpose of doing so was to get an additional qualification along with my major to help me in my career in future. During this time, I came to know about scholarships for undergraduate courses sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) - Japan. Fortunately, I could pass the exam and the interview that followed, and was selected to come to Japan for the College of Technology program for a period of 4 years. Considering all the future prospects, I decided to drop out of my undergraduate degree course in India, and came to Japan on 2nd April 2006.



A brief overview of my life in Japan (April 2006- Present)

- 1) After 1 year of intensive Japanese Language Training in Tokyo, transferred to the 3rd year of Associate Degree course in Material Engineering at Toyama National College of Technology in Toyama Prefecture.
- 2) After completion of my Associate degree course in March 2010, transferred to 3rd year of 4 years Bachelor's degree course in Polymer Engineering at Tokyo Institute of Technology. Finished B. Tech. in March 2012.
- 3) Currently enrolled in the M. Tech. degree course in Polymer Engineering in the same University, scheduled to be completed in March 2014.
- 4) After completion of M. Tech. Degree, will start working in Kaneka Corporation, Japan, from April 2014.

Tokyo Institute of Technology, which I belong to, is one of the top ranked universities in the world in the field of Technology and Engineering, and the education and research standards in most of the Japanese higher educational institutions are world-class.

Living and studying in Japan for the past 7 years has helped me achieve a lot and develop myself in numerous ways. I remember having read a real-life story in my elementary school Hindi textbook about the honest and polite nature of Japanese people. After living here for a long time, I can confidently say that all of this is true. I have had the good fortune of meeting Japanese families who welcomed foreign students like me to their homes and helped us to gain first-hand experience of Japanese culture by inviting us to festivals and gatherings organized by them.

In my case, the medium of instruction for my major's studies has been Japanese language, for which I had to take an intensive Japanese language course in the 1st year. I feel this allowed me to develop a very strong command and understanding over a new foreign language, in addition to my major. Learning Japanese language helped me to communicate more freely with the Japanese people as well as other foreign students like me, which deepened my understanding about a wide variety of cultures and the fascinating differences and similarities among them. In this rapidly globalizing world, it has been my good fortune to get such an opportunity to experience and respect all these cultures, and develop myself as a global citizen.

I hope my experience will encourage students in India to consider Japan as a destination to pursue their higher studies. Language is not a very big issue, as many universities are now offering Graduate Course classes in English language, and learning Japanese to a certain basic level is sufficient to live comfortably. Besides, there are government-funded and private scholarships available. I do hope that in future there will be many more student exchange programs between our two nations to further strengthen their cooperative and friendly alliance.

To conclude, I would like to express my heartiest gratitude to the Government of Japan and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for providing me and many other students with this priceless opportunity.

Dinesh Kumar

M. Tech. 2nd Year (Polymer Engineering), Department of Polymeric and Organic Materials
Graduate School of Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
(This article was written on 30th August, 2013)

For further information on studying in Japan, visit

http://www.in.embjapan.go.jp/Education/Education_Guides.html



Japan Education Fair 2014

The Japan Education Fair 2014 will be held on **Monday, August 4th, 2014**, at the Lalit Hotel, New Delhi. For further details, please check the website of the Embassy of Japan <http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/>, as more information will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

*Snapshots from
the Japan Education Fair 2013
in New Delhi*



ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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Fax: 4768-5555
<http://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/>

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)

1st floor,
The Metropolitan Hotel
New Delhi
Bangla Sahib Road
New Delhi 110 001

Tel: 4352-2900
Fax: 4352-2950
<http://www.jbic.go.jp/en/about/office/new-delhi/>

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

4th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower
Nehru Place
New Delhi 110 019

Tel: 4168-3006
Fax: 4168-3003
<http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/jetro/worldwide/asia/>

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Lajpat Nagar 4
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New Delhi 110 024

Tel: 2644-2967
2644-2968/71/72
Fax: 2644-2969
<http://www.jfindia.org.in/>

New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

7th Floor,
Hotel Le Meridien Commercial Tower
Raisina Road
New Delhi 110 001

Tel: 4351-0101
Fax: 4351-0102
http://www.nedo.go.jp/english/india_office_index.html

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 Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chhattisgarh and M.P.: The Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai

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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In case of change of address, please communicate the old as well as new address.

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