

Japan Calling

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Japan extends Soft Loan Package to India under the Second Batch of FY 2010 (6 June 2011)

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AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO INDIA MAKES OFFICIAL DEBUT

Hosting his first formal hospitality function after taking over charge as the new Ambassador of Japan to India, H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, held a reception at his residence at the Embassy of Japan, on 18 May 2011. The event, so to say, marked his official debut in New Delhi in front of the numerous invited distinguished guests comprising members of the diplomatic corps, bureaucrats, politicians, business leaders, artists, journalists, and other eminent personages.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Saiki started by recounting the disastrous impact of the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on 11 March 2011, which occurred just five days after his arrival in India.

Japan suffered casualties of more than 15000 deaths, over 9000 missing people, and damages to property estimated between 200 to 300 billion US Dollars in this calamity. However, Ambassador Saiki said, despite these huge losses, “what Japan has gained is something uncountable and extremely important, which is, the warm friendship and assistance extended to us from all over the world to mitigate this unprecedented tragedy”. He used the opportunity to convey Japan’s deep thanks to India as well as all the countries represented by the Ambassadors who graced the occasion that evening.

He added that “in the regions where the earthquake and tsunami hit hardest, people have resumed their daily lives and duties by embracing deep sorrows within. The reconstruction



efforts are still underway, and at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, experts are making all out efforts, day and night, to keep the situation under control. Another nuclear power plant in central Japan, Hamaoka, has suspended the operations of its three reactors until further safety measures are taken.” He also sought to dispel the misgivings in the minds of the general public by assuring that cities like Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, and the rest of Japan, are not contaminated by radiation, and are perfectly safe places. He exhorted them to resume their visits to Japan on business or tourism, and emphasized that their travel to Japan will encourage Japan’s reconstruction efforts.

Ambassador Saiki rounded off his remarks by saying that “Japan will rise again as a more dynamic country, and with its stronger resilience, it will demonstrate its appreciation for the help that the world has generously given. As the new Ambassador of Japan to India, I will put in all my efforts to further deepen and broaden the cooperation between Japan and India as strategic partners. I ask the Government of India, the business community of India, and friends of Japan in India, for their continued assistance and cooperation.”

The evening progressed pleasantly, with the guests enjoying the large variety of drinks and Japanese delicacies served on the occasion.



RECOVERY OF JAPAN AND THE JAPAN-INDIA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

On his recent official visit to New Delhi, Mr. Shinichi Nishimiya, Deputy Minister (Economy) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, addressed a gathering of distinguished businesspeople at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), on 7 June 2011, on the topics of Japan's recovery following the recent earthquake and tsunami, and the Japan-India economic partnership.

Mr. Nishimiya started by expressing the deepest gratitude of the Japanese Government for the numerous messages of condolence and sympathy as well as assistance from the Government and people of India following the Great East Japan Earthquake that hit Japan on March 11. He said, "Not only did the Indian Government generously provide us with such relief supplies as 25,000 blankets, 13,000 bottles of

mineral water, and 10 tons of biscuits, the Indian Government also dispatched a 46-member relief team of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as its first ever overseas operation. The team was very well received in Japan and we are so very grateful to its members for all they have done. I also take this opportunity to thank the many Indian citizens for their kind messages of encouragement, relief supplies and donations for the people of Japan."

Thereafter, he briefed the audience on the current status of Japan's recovery efforts in response to the earthquake and tsunami, which was followed by discussing the Japan-India economic relationship. He also briefly touched upon three global issues, namely, the world economy, climate change, and the Doha Round.

Given below is an abridged version of his speech:

Enormous human and material losses caused by the earthquake have greatly affected the Japanese economy and the total damage is estimated to be in the range of 200 to 313 billion US dollars, or 3-4% of Japan's annual GDP. However, economic activities have been rapidly recovering and more than 60% of the production bases in the affected regions are already operating again, with the remaining 30% expected to recover by the summer.

Regarding the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, the Japanese Government has been mobilizing all available resources to stabilize the reactors at the earliest. In this connection, there is a widespread misunderstanding that Japan is widely contaminated by radiation. However, those who visit Tokyo today will find the city just as clean and active as before. Most parts of Japan are not affected and the country remains "open for business and travel".

Japan believes it can contribute to the international society by promoting and sharing advanced disaster-resistant technologies with the rest of the world. Secondly, Japan intends to strengthen international cooperation towards developing mutual assistance networks in Asia that will function in the event of disasters. Thirdly, Japan wishes to work towards further improvement of the safety of nuclear energy by sharing with the international society the lessons learnt from the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and is committed to working for the highest level of safety including in coping with earthquakes and tsunami.

With regard to the bilateral economic partnership with India, the volume of Japan-India trade still occupies merely

1-2% of the total trade volume of each country. The total number of Japanese and Indians who visit each other's country each year is approximately 200,000, which is less than 5% of the number of visitors between Japan and China, which is around 4.73 million. Although the current situation of our bilateral economic relationship is not fully satisfactory, we are beginning to witness a rapid acceleration of economic activities, and are pretty optimistic about the future. In terms of the volume of Japan-India trade, there was a significant increase last year to reach 12.9 billion US dollars, up from 9.3 billion dollars the year before. On investment, 725 Japanese companies had established their presence in India as of October 2010, which was an increase of 101 from the previous year.

In order to further accelerate this trend, the Japanese and Indian governments are working closer than ever before, based on our "Global and Strategic Partnership" and the Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of our two countries regularly visit each other for annual summit meetings and the Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue. One of the outcomes of our bilateral talks is the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in infrastructure development, evidenced through projects such as the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC). It is hoped that these ambitious projects will further our economic ties.

Another area of cooperation is technology, especially in the manufacturing industry. The Japanese government, in collaboration with its academic and corporate experts, has provided extensive assistance to the Indian Institute of Information Technology Design & Manufacturing, Jabalpur (IIITDM-J), as well as the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH). We have also launched the "Visionary Leaders for

Manufacturing (VLFM) Program”, which aims at developing national competitiveness of manufacturing in India.

From India, we will welcome more foreign direct investment, especially in areas of their competitive advantage, such as IT and services industry.

In order to see further increase in the number of Indian visitors, Japan Tourism Agency is running the Visit Japan Campaign which offers various events that will be held in Japan. According to 2010 statistics, there were 70,000 Indian visitors which account for 13.5% increase from the previous year. I would call upon all of you to visit Japan to explore our beautiful culture and nature.

The younger generation is the foundation of better understanding. Based on this idea, Japan launched the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme four years ago. This programme aims to deepen understanding of the different faces of the Japanese society including politics, diplomacy, economics and culture. Through this scheme, many Indian high school and university students make a ten-day, well-planned visit to Japan. In addition, the JENESYS also has the Invitation Programme for Training Science and Technological Human Resources which offers an opportunity for an internship at Japanese private corporations for eighteen days. Through this programme, graduate and undergraduate students receive training in Japanese language, cutting-edge science and technology. They also establish relationship with Japanese researchers and engineers. Every year, many students from India including those from IIT-H and IIITDM-J, visit Japan taking advantage of these programmes. These programmes provide young people with a great opportunity to learn and understand each other’s country better.

Japan and India are commemorating their 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2012. Japanese public and private sectors, including the Japanese Embassy and Consulates General in India, are planning to celebrate this memorial year focusing in particular on the young people of both countries.

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between Japan and India was signed last February. With the approval from the Japanese Diet last month, both governments are now working towards its entry into force in the nearest future. The CEPA covers comprehensive areas including trade in goods services, movement of natural persons, investment, intellectual property, government procurement and improvement of business environment. We strongly believe that the CEPA will boost our bilateral trade and investment significantly.

Recognizing the growing potential of a greater economic partnership in the Asian region, including with India, Japan took an initiative to establish the East Asia Summit (EAS) in

2005. Through regional cooperation, Japan, India and ASEAN can play a very important and complementary role for further development of Asia.

It is very encouraging that, having quickly recovered from the financial crisis, India and other emerging economies are driving the world economy. The growth of the emerging economies is underpinned by external demand and private sector-led domestic demand. International cooperation through the framework of the G20 will be even more important to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Japan and India share a common interest in tackling the issues of high and volatile commodity prices. As chair of a G20 study group on this matter, Japan will work closely with India to address this important issue.

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges to mankind. Japan welcomes measures taken by India to reduce emissions and is ready to support India’s further efforts for the transition to a low-carbon economy. A successful transition to a low-carbon economy will require low-carbon technologies and market based mechanisms. Towards this end, we look forward to constructing stronger cooperation between India and Japan at various levels, including government, private sector and civil societies. With regard to the international negotiations on climate change, we welcome fruitful outcome we achieved last year in Cancun and need to cooperate closely for the successful outcome of COP17.

The WTO is the most important foundation of the global multilateral trading system and the guardian against protectionism. However, the Doha Round is now in a very difficult situation despite intensive negotiations since 2001. Since both Japan and India attach great importance to strengthening the multilateral trading system and receive great benefit from it, I am confident that Japan and India will closely cooperate in contributing to the discussions in Geneva for salvaging the Doha Round from the current impasse.

In addition, I would like to emphasize the importance of resisting protectionism in light of realizing sustainable economic growth under the current global economic situation. Japan and India should continue to fight protectionism and work together in pressing other countries to follow our paths.

I should like to close my speech by emphasizing once again Japan’s strong determination to strengthen the Japan-India Strategic Global Partnership. Our bilateral relationship, based on shared values and interests, and now put on a much stronger economic footing by the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, is complementary in many aspects. I am firmly convinced that our cooperation, which is critical to the stability and prosperity of Asia, will be further enhanced over the coming years in wide-ranging areas with the good will and determination of Indian and Japanese people.

“JAPAN IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS”

– Contribution to the International Herald Tribune (30 Apr - 1 May)
by Mr. Takeaki Matsumoto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan –

After the earthquake and tsunami disaster, many foreign dignitaries, including French President Nicolas Sarkozy and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, have expressed their solidarity with Japan. “The Japanese are indomitable and courageous”, Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard said when she visited an evacuation shelter in the afflicted region.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami are the worst natural disasters Japan has encountered since the end of the Second World War. However, Japan will not simply rebuild what used to be, but aim for an innovative reconstruction that focuses on the future by fully mobilizing its signature strength: a society with high levels of technology, safety and security.

We promise all of you that Japan will reshape itself into a more dynamic country, harnessing the support and solidarity offered to us from all over the world.

Japan is and will remain open for business and travel. International organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the World Health Organization have been making objective assessments, and state that excessive travel restriction measures are unnecessary.

I would call on all readers to trust such information, rather than being misguided by sensational media reports, and come to Japan with peace of mind for sightseeing, study, business or any other purposes.

Regarding the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, a Roadmap was released by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO). We expect to move from the “emergency response phase” to the “planned and stabilizing action phase”.



These are some current photographs of Sendai, which is now almost fully back to normal, after being one of the hardest hit areas to suffer the devastation of the massive earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011.

The government will regularly follow up, monitoring the progress of the work and making necessary safety checks in order to ensure the implementation of the roadmap by TEPCO in a steady and safe manner.

The government has been constantly monitoring air, water and food. Most of the radioactive materials were released in the first several days of the accident, and radiation levels in the air have been gradually declining since.

In Tokyo, for instance, the level of radiation has never reached a point at which it would affect human health. It has been declining steadily, and has reached the level at which it was measured before the accident.

As for food products, measures have been taken to prevent domestic distribution of those products that have a higher radiation level than the standard set in accordance with the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

Naturally, such products will not be exported. Radiation levels that exceed the authorized threshold have thus far been found only in limited kinds of agricultural and fishery products in limited areas. When necessary, certification is issued to declare that a product does not originate in the affected region.

Industrial products are manufactured in factories outside of the no-entry zone, and remain under strict quality control. It is therefore unlikely that those products will be affected by radioactive materials, and their safety is ensured. Data on the

radiation levels in ports and airports are published regularly. In addition, a guideline on radiation measurements for export containers and ships was published by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. Attestation of measurement results started at the Yokohama port on April 28.

If you imagine that the whole of Japan is covered by debris, that is completely wrong. Most of Japan remains unharmed by the disaster, and the streets have leapt back to life. The major highway that runs through the most affected Tohoku region was reopened only two weeks after the earthquake. The Shinkansen, the bullet train that connects Tokyo and Tohoku region, became fully operational again on April 29.

Many affected companies and factories are recovering at surprising speed, helped by innovative approaches to tackling the crisis. Domestic and international supply chains are being reconnected. Japan's strength for manufacturing remains on full display.

Allow me to quote Dr. Donald Keene, Professor Emeritus at Columbia University, expressing his will to obtain Japanese nationality after the disaster: Japan was hit hard for the moment, but it "will surely resurrect to become an even more splendid country".

If you are thinking of supporting us in our path towards the recovery, the most effective way would be to visit Japan and buy our excellent products, just as before. I call on all of you to be more engaged in the exchange with Japan.

JAPAN EXTENDS SOFT LOAN PACKAGE TO INDIA UNDER THE SECOND BATCH OF FY 2010

– Exchange of Notes for Rs.8,632 crore loan package concluded on 6 June 2011 –

The Government of Japan recently agreed to extend soft loan assistance to seven projects, totaling 155,549 million yen (approximately Rs.8,632 crore). The Exchange of Notes to formalize the arrangements to this effect was concluded on 6 June 2011 at a ceremony held at The Lalit Hotel in New Delhi. The Notes were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India, and Mr. Prabodh Saxena, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, on behalf of their respective Governments. The signing took place in the presence of Mr. Shinichi Nishimiya, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, and Mr. R. Gopalan, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, on the occasion of the Japan-India Strategic Dialogue on Economic Issues.

This loan package was initially scheduled to be extended in the FY2010. Although it was postponed due to the earthquake which hit Japan in March, the Government of Japan is fully

committed to its pledge with the Government of India and extended the loan without any deduction from its previous commitment.

The loan package covers seven projects in the areas of power, transportation, afforestation and energy. These concessional loans will be made available through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at the interest rate ranging from as low as 0.4% to 1.4% per annum, with the repayment period of 15 to 40 years including the grace period of 5 to 10 years.

India is the largest recipient of Japan's ODA for FY2010, making itself as the top recipient partner for eight consecutive years since FY2003*. This reflects the growing Japan-India development partnership and the importance Japan attaches to the bilateral ties with India.

The main objectives of the Japanese loan assistance to India are to support India's efforts to sustain economic growth, to

reduce poverty, to build economic and social infrastructure, and to tackle environmental issues.

* *The volume of ODA for FY2010 in this context is counted with this loan package which was requested for FY2010.*

JAPAN'S ODA LOANS TO INDIA FOR FY2010 (The Second Batch)

LIST OF PROJECTS

PROJECT	AMOUNT (in million yen)
1. Andhra Pradesh Rural High Voltage Distribution System Project	18,590
2. Bangalore Metro Rail Project (II)	19,832
3. Bihar National Highway Improvement Project	22,930
4. Madhya Pradesh Transmission System Modernisation Project	18,475
5. Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (Phase 2)	15,749
6. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Energy Saving Project(Phase 2)	30,000
7. New and Renewable Energy Development Project	30,000
Total	155,549

The Government of Japan extended Engineering Services Loan for Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) (Phase 2) of 1,616 million yen in July 2010, and Loan Packages under the first batch of FY2010 of 46,401 million yen in February 2011.

Brief Outline of Yen-Loan Projects for FY 2010 (The Second Batch)

1. Andhra Pradesh Rural High Voltage Distribution System Project

This project aims for the improvement of the power grid in Andhra Pradesh. The state's growing demand for electricity reflects the expansion of pumps for irrigation system. Through the improvement of the power distribution, the project is expected to contribute to meet the increasing demand of electricity in the rural area.

2. Bangalore Metro Rail Project (II)

Bangalore is one of the most rapidly developing cities in India and its population has increased enormously. The city is facing the severe problem of traffic congestion and is in need of a mass rapid transport system of metro. On the basis of such a situation, Japan has extended a loan for Bangalore Metro Rail Project in FY2005. Bangalore Metro Rail Project (II) of today is expected to compliment the previous metro project.

3. Bihar National Highway Improvement Project

Around forty percent of all the transportation by road is carried out on national highways, though the four-lane sections are limited to only fourteen percent of all the national highways. In Bihar, the number of vehicles has been increasing rapidly, reflecting its rapid economic growth. Combining these situation altogether, the state needs a speedy solution for improving the national highways to meet its increasing demand for road usage. This project is expected to contribute to lessening of traffic congestion and an investment-friendly environment through the improvement of infrastructure.

4. Madhya Pradesh Transmission System Modernisation Project

One of the major problems with the Indian energy sector is its high rate of loss during the transmission of electricity. Madhya Pradesh is located in the middle of the western region where the electricity demand is highest in India, and has many trunk transformer substations within the state. This project will contribute to the stabilization of electricity distribution not only within Madhya Pradesh but also in the western region of India as a whole.

5. Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (Phase 2)

Rajasthan has the largest area in India, though two-thirds of the state is covered by the desert, leading to very low rate of forested area. On the other hand, the state is famous for its rich biodiversity with many parks and sanctuaries for wildlife. Japan has already extended a loan for Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project in FY2002, and today's loan is expected to compliment the previous project.

6. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Energy Saving Project (Phase 2)

This project aims to promote the energy saving activities of micro, small and medium enterprises by the means of offering medium and long-term loans specially designed to be utilized for energy saving activities by those companies. Accordingly, the project is also expected to contribute to environmental improvement and sustainable economic development in India through the efficient use of energy. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Energy Saving Project was already extended in FY2008 and today's loan is expected to further strengthen the previous efforts.

7. New and Renewable Energy Development Project

India is the fifth largest country in the world in terms of energy consumption and its demand for energy is increasing rapidly. Though the new and renewable energy is expected to contribute to India in the future, its current share is merely nine percent in the total power generation. This project offers medium and long-term loans specially designed to be utilized for the development of new and renewable energy through IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited), and is expected to contribute to narrow the gap between demand and supply in the power sector.

JAPANESE TUNNEL BORING MACHINES FOR BANGALORE METRO

Two Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) have been imported for drilling twin tunnels for the Namma Metro project in Bangalore. Each tunnel will be 2.4 km. long, and each TBM will drill 11 meters every day along the East-West corridor. Manufactured by Hitachi Zosen in Osaka, Japan, both the TBMs are slurry type boring machines used for drilling work in highly permeable, unstable terrain or under civilian structures. The TBMs will not only dig the tunnels but also install pre-cast reinforced cement concrete elements along the cut sections.

The official inauguration of the tunneling work on the Namma Metro project took place on 20 May 2011, with H.E. Mr. B.S. Yeddyurappa, Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka, switching on the machine in a ceremony in Bangalore, in



A view of the Majestic Metro underground site in Bangalore, after the inauguration of the tunneling work on 20 May 2011



the presence of distinguished Indian and Japanese dignitaries.

On the occasion, a message from H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India, was read out, in which he congratulated the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation on the launching of the operation of the first TBM, and expressed the hope that, just like the Delhi Metro, the Bangalore Metro would become another shining example of the cooperation between Japan and India.

While emphasizing on the importance of Bangalore not only as an IT hub, but also as a manufacturing hub for automakers such as Toyota, Ambassador Saiki conveyed his best wishes for the grand success of the project.

AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN ATTENDS THE INAUGURATION OF NEW FACTORY OF HONDA MOTORCYCLE & SCOOTER INDIA

H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India, attended the inauguration ceremony of the new factory of Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd., on 1st June 2001, by the Honorable Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr. Ashok Gehlot, at Tapukara in Alwar District, Rajasthan.

The factory, situated at a distance of 90 kms. from Delhi, is set up on an area of 240,000 sq. m. It is slated to become operational by 1st July 2011 to manufacture 600,000 units of motorbikes. The capacity is expected to be enhanced to 1,200,000 units by March 2012.

AMBASSADOR SAIKI UNDERTAKES FAMILIARIZATION TRIPS TO KOLKATA, BANGALORE AND CHENNAI

After recently taking over charge as the Ambassador of Japan to India, H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, paid a visit to Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai this June, to acquaint himself with the Consulates General of Japan operating in these metro cities, as well as to pay courtesy calls upon the high-ranking dignitaries of the respective states of West Bengal, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



Ambassador Saiki paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal, on 2 June 2011

(Photo courtesy: The Indian Express)

The first of these visits was to Kolkata from 1st to 4th of June, during which Ambassador Saiki called on H.E. Ms. Mamata Banerjee, Honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal and the State Finance Minister, Dr. Amit Mitra. He congratulated Ms. Banerjee on her party's remarkable and historic victory in the recent Assembly elections and offered Japanese cooperation to revitalize the state's economy, especially in the infrastructure sector. He said that Japan wishes to strengthen its relations with the state of West Bengal by inviting more Japanese companies to set up operations there and increasing Japanese investments in the near future.

Ambassador Saiki also visited Netaji Bhavan and Museum, and paid homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Besides, he paid a visit to *Apanjan* - the residential support programme of the NGO 'Organization for Friends Energies and Resources' (OFFER) for mentally and physically challenged children in Baruipur, which is supported through Japanese grant assistance.

The visit to Bangalore took place from 13 to 14 June, during which Ambassador Saiki made a courtesy call on

the Honourable Governor of Karnataka state, H.E. Mr. Hans Raj Bhardwaj. In their meeting, besides other issues, imports of foods from Japan were discussed. On 13th June, the Ambassador paid a visit to the construction site of the Bangalore Metro project and took a test-ride on the Metro. On 14th June, he visited the Toyota-Kirloskar Motors manufacturing facility at Bidadi, near Bangalore.



On 15 June 2011, Ambassador Saiki called on H.E. Ms. J. Jayalalithaa, Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

(Photo courtesy: Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai)

The Ambassador's visit to Chennai was from 15 to 16 June, when he paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ms. J. Jayalalithaa, Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and congratulated her for the resounding victory in the recently held Assembly elections. During the meeting with the Chief Minister, Ambassador Saiki emphasized on the importance of improving the condition of roads leading to the Ennore Port. He added that Japan is interested in investing in infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu, and assured that the Chennai Metro Rail Project would be fully accomplished as planned. The Ambassador also called on H.E. Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala, Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Ambassador Saiki paid a visit to the Renault-Nissan Automotive India Limited manufacturing facility at Oragadam, near Chennai. Addressing a meeting hosted by CII, Ambassador Saiki stressed upon the need to improve infrastructure, particularly proper roads and connectivity to ports, in order to attract more Japanese investment to the state. He also mentioned that a high-level Japanese delegation led by the Japan Chamber of Commerce is scheduled to visit New Delhi and Chennai mid-September this year.

OVERVIEW OF THE DEAUVILLE G8 SUMMIT

This year's G8 Summit was held on May 26 and 27 in Deauville, France, chaired by President Sarkozy of the French Republic. Prime Minister Naoto Kan represented Japan at the Summit.

KEY OUTCOMES

The Summit issued three declarations: the G8 Declaration, which touched upon such issues as solidarity with Japan, nuclear safety, the Internet, development, and peace and security; the Declaration of the G8 on the Arab Spring; and the G8/Africa Joint Declaration, which was the first of its kind.

(1) Solidarity with Japan

French President Nicholas Sarkozy, chair of the Summit, began by extending his condolences to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and expressing the G8's solidarity with Japan, which is overcoming great challenges. At his request, Prime Minister Kan made remarks at the beginning of the Summit. In response, the other leaders renewed their heartfelt sympathy to and solidarity with Japan, paying tribute to the courage and dignity shown by Japanese people amid the difficult situation.

(2) Global Economy and Trade

A number of leaders pointed out that downside risks remain in the global economy, including fiscal sustainability in some European countries, commodity price volatility, oil and food prices in particular, and the overheating of emerging economies, and expressed the need to address these issues at the G20 and other forums. Prime Minister Kan stated in his opening remarks that although the Japanese economy undergoes a temporary setback as a result of the disaster, more than 90 percent of Japan's supply chain would recover by this summer, and economic activity would be back on track in the second half of this year. He also explained Japan's resolve to steadily continue its policy of achieving both fiscal sustainability as well as economic growth in line with the Fiscal Management Strategy, the New Growth Strategy and the Basic Policy on Comprehensive Economic Partnerships.

The G8 leaders shared concern over the present situation of the Doha Development Agenda, which has proved difficult to conclude within this year. Some leaders pointed out that advanced countries should discuss themes that they can agree on in an effort to achieve some results by the end of this year.

(3) Nuclear Safety

Prime Minister Kan made a five-point proposal to promote the highest levels of nuclear safety worldwide:

(a) strengthening of the Safety Standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and promotion of their utilization, (b) expansion of the IAEA's Operational Safety Review Mission, (c) enhancement of an international support system in times of accidents, (d) strengthening of cooperation among national safety authorities, and (e) ratification of nuclear safety-related conventions. He also announced an initiative to host an international meeting in Japan in the latter half of 2012 in cooperation with the IAEA, taking into account the results of a review of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Leaders expressed support for the initiative. They acknowledged that countries may have different approaches regarding the use of nuclear energy, but they shared the need for joint efforts to promote the highest levels of nuclear safety.

(4) Climate Change

G8 leaders shared the view that it is important to operationalize the Cancun Agreements in particular at COP 17 in South Africa scheduled for the end of this year. Prime Minister Kan maintained that it is important from the perspective of protecting true global interests to establish a fair and effective international framework with the participation of all major economies, instead of fixing the existing framework that imposes obligations only on some developed countries.

(5) Internet

With the Internet on the Summit agenda for the first time, the G8 leaders touched upon its critical role as a driver for improving administrative transparency and for promoting economic growth and employment, and affirmed that freedom and openness would continue to be key to the development of the Internet. They also shared perceptions on the need for further cooperation in protecting intellectual property, personal data and privacy, and in responding to cyber security. Also present at the Summit for participation in the discussions were six Internet company executives who attended the e-G8 Forum, which was held immediately before the G8 Summit.

(6) Middle East and North Africa

The G8 leaders welcomed the historic changes taking place in the Middle East and North Africa, affirming the G8's collective support for the efforts. On the second day of the Summit, the leaders of Egypt and Tunisia, both in the process of political transition, were invited to the Summit. The G8 leaders expressed their intention to launch the Deauville Partnership to support the changes and to extend short-, medium- and long-term

assistance together with the IMF, World Bank and regional development banks. The G8 leaders asked their foreign and finance ministers to advance the Partnership within the next few months together with countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Prime Minister Kan, referring to Japan's contribution to democratization, stability and growth in Southeast Asia, expressed Japan's intention to contribute to assistance for the region, focusing on (a) fair political process and government, (b) human resource development, and (c) job creation and fostering of industries.

(7) Political Issues

- i. North Korea: Prime Minister Kan emphasized that North Korea's uranium enrichment activities constitute a clear violation of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and that they pose a major challenge to the efforts of the international community to demand North Korea's abandonment of its nuclear programs. He stated the Security Council should issue a strong message about the problem. Other G8 leaders expressed views sharing Japan's concern. Prime Minister Kan also raised Japan's concern about the human rights situation in North Korea, including the abduction issue. The concern was included in the G8 Summit Declaration.
- ii. Middle East peace: In view of the historic changes taking place in the entire Middle East region, the G8 leaders confirmed the added importance of

progress in the peace process between Israel and Palestine.

- iii. Others: Some G8 leaders expressed views justifying the intervention in Libya as action necessary to protect civilians while others made remarks critical of the Syrian government's use of military force against its people.

(8) Dialogue with Africa

The G8 leaders, convinced that it is important to further strengthen partnership between the G8 and Africa, invited the leaders of African countries and exchanged views on challenges facing the region. In particular, with the participation of the leaders of Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Niger, they welcomed progress toward democratization and political stability in Africa. They also shared the recognition that it is important to encourage not only aid but also private-sector investment and trade to achieve self-sustained growth in Africa.

Prime Minister Kan expressed Japan's resolve to continue to implement its comprehensive pledges made at the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), and stated that in an effort to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Japan would host a follow-up meeting in Tokyo in June 2011. He also pointed out that, building on Japan's experience with Southeast Asia, the key to economic growth lies in the enhancement of intra-regional trade and the improvement of connectivity through developing wide-area infrastructure.

CONFERRMENT OF DECORATIONS ON

**Dr. K. V. Kesavan, Former Professor - School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and
Dr. Shoji Shiba, Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba, Japan, and Distinguished Honorary Professor - Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur**

On 29th April 2011*, His Majesty The Emperor of Japan honoured **Dr. Kunnavakkam Vinjamur Kesavan**, Former Professor of School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, with the *Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon*, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement of Japanese studies and the promotion of the understanding of Japan in India, and **Dr. Shoji Shiba**, Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba, Japan, and Distinguished Honorary Professor - Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, with the *Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon*, for his immense contributions towards fostering academic exchanges between Japan and India.

About Dr. K.V. Kesavan:

Dr. Kunnavakkam Vinjamur Kesavan is a distinguished and pioneering scholar in the field of Japanese Studies in India, especially in the areas of Japanese domestic politics, history, defence and foreign policy. He was a professor on the faculty of the Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, from 1970 onwards, and served as Chairman of the Centre during 1985-87, 1993-95 and 1999-2000. He is currently a Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi.

Dr. Kesavan joined the Indian School of International Studies (now known as the School of International Studies,



Dr. Kesavan receiving the decoration from Ambassador Saiki

JNU) as a Research Scholar in 1963 and completed his Doctorate in 1970. Dr. Kesavan has published extensively on Japan in scholarly journals and books, both in India and abroad. He has organized national and international seminars, projects and conferences on a wide range of subjects connected with Japan and East Asia. Recipient of several prestigious fellowships – such as Fulbright, Japan Foundation, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, the Australian National University, the Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo – he has been connected with universities in Japan, United States, and Australia. He has held visiting professorship at Ritsumeikan University, Kobe Gakuin University, and the Ship and Ocean Foundation, Tokyo. During his tenure, Dr. Kesavan has trained numerous research scholars in India and Japan.

He received the Commendation award from the Japanese Foreign Minister in August 2001 for his contribution to the closer understanding of Japan in India, and his efforts in training the subsequent generation of Indian and Japanese scholars.

About Dr. Shoji Shiba:

Dr. Shoji Shiba is currently Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba, Japan, Advisory Professor, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, and Distinguished Honorary Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He was earlier the Adjunct and Visiting Professor at Sloan School of Management, MIT, from 1990 to 2004.

He is also Chief Advisor to the Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing Programme (VLFM) in India. It is the first worldwide innovative management transformation programme being implemented in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency, to create a critical mass of Visionary

Leaders to lead India's manufacturing sector in to future growth. It is a globally successful experiment in collaboration with the Indian Industry (Confederation of Indian Industry), Indian Academia (Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Madras) and Indian Government (National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council), and includes faculty of highest level from Japan and India. This innovative program has been covered by the media globally.

Dr. Shoji Shiba, an international expert in TQM and Break-through Management, has received a number of awards for his contribution to the industry in various countries. In July 2008, he was felicitated by the Government of India for his contribution to the transformation of India's manufacturing sector and for helping to build the critical Industry, Academia and Government collaboration.

His recent books include "Four Practical Revolutions in Management" (2000) and "Breakthrough Management" (2003), which won the Nikkei Quality Management Literature Award in November 2004, in Japan.

On 5th July 2011, H.E. Mr. Anand Sharma, Honourable Minister for Commerce and Industry of India, also issued a message extending his heartiest congratulations to Prof. Shiba on the conferment of the decoration, and acknowledging his contribution to designing and implementing the VLFM Programme, which has been very successful in training visionary leaders and management professionals for the Indian manufacturing sector, and is a key pillar of Indo-Japanese knowledge partnership.

** The conferment of Decoration was officially decided on 29th April; however, the announcement was postponed until 18th June due to the Great East Japan Earthquake.*

JAPAN TOURISM PROMOTION EVENT HELD IN THE JAPANESE EMBASSY

On 14th July 2011, the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi hosted the “Travel to Japan” seminar and reception. This is the first tourism promotion event sponsored by Japan Travel Agency (JTA) and Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) after the Earthquake and Tsunami which devastated eastern Japan. In the seminar, the participants shared the impressions gathered by the members of the VIP FAM tour on their recent trip, and rediscovered Japan as an attractive tourist destination.

The Seminar covered wide-ranging issues beyond tourism. The panelists highly praised the sense of responsibility and solidarity of the Japanese people in the tsunami devastated area. They also stressed that enhancing a win-win economic relationship is crucial for the economic recovery and reconstruction of Japan, and concluded that increasing trade and investment through CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement), which will take effect on 1st August, is important. Besides, they agreed that expanding business ties between the two countries through steadily implementing flagship projects including DFC (Dedicated Freight Corridor) and DMIC (Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor) is extremely valuable.



Ambassador Saiki addresses the Japan Tourism Promotion event (14 July, 2011)

JNTO announced that it would actively continue its tourism promotion efforts. While three FAM tour groups have already been invited to Japan, in August, the JNTO will invite well-known Bollywood actress, Ms. Dia Mirza, and others in the cinema business, to visit Japan. They will share their experiences in Japan with the people in India after they come back. In October, the JNTO will appoint a representative in India, to be followed by an

active “Visit Japan” campaign, including seminars and participation to Travel expos.

Panelists of the Seminar

- Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India
- Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Former Union Minister
- Mr. Sudheendra Kulkarni, Chairman of Observer Research Foundation
- Ms. Sathya Saran, Ex-editor of Femina
- Mr. Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Travel
- Mr. Jagdeep Rikhy, Vice President of Travel Agencies Association in India

OUR VISIT TO JAPAN UNDER THE JENESYS PROGRAM

IIIT - Jabalpur Group

On 15th May, we, the students of IIIT Jabalpur, commenced a journey that has since ended, leaving impressions about Japan on our minds that are difficult to express with mere words. Starting with a brief orientation at Delhi by Ms. Yukari Nakanishi, Ms. Yamaguchi and Mr. Ishiro Jun, we were eased into the life that we would be living over the next week and a half.

Getting off at Narita Airport, we were taken aback in awe in a matter of minutes over the architectural landscape that Japan has developed. The immediately visible achievements spoke volumes about how a country that suffers from periodic, rather sad, lapses of prosperity can keep intact the courage and spirit to bounce back to normalcy and success.



Hardly has our generation seen such rapid rates of recovery from disasters of such great magnitude as the earthquake and subsequent Tsunami on March 11, 2011, that caused destruction in terms that cannot even be qualitatively summarized. To be able to boast of the effectiveness of such a dependable support system as theirs is not just pride, but also Japan's right.

The trip progressively became more eventful, with days becoming as much enjoyable as hectic. Moving from one city to another (Yokohama-Kyoto-Osaka), traveling hundreds of kilometers in a matter of hours by the Shinkansen Bullet Train never seemed so possible. The pace of life becomes surreal for a person who experiences this for the first time. But this fast paced and certainly disciplined lifestyle is what has brought Japan to the forefront of world economy.

It is hard to call one event as the best of all. All of the events had a cumulative effect on us. But one aspect of Japan that affected us the most was the sense of civic responsibility in the general population. It is this feeling of moral obligation that has brought Japan to one of the top steps of human echelons.

Our trip was full of such examples. From something as small as the streamlined recycling process, to the most sincere commitment to their jobs and national commitment, everything showed us that personal traits like punctuality and honesty, imbibed in people early on in life, go a long way into shaping up the future of one's country. People in Japan believe in upholding the highest standards of morality and job-loyalty above all else. Even though the world calls punctuality a Japanese stereotype, it is something that has aided the formation of a highly productive work-culture in Japan. This is how we think that Japan accelerated its way through to modernization. But being serious and committed are not all that the Japanese are good at; characteristics such as being humble, hospitable, helpful, deep respect towards nature, contribute to forming a very good picture of Japan in the world panorama. The best instance of hospitality was the one right next to us during the whole trip, in the form of our Trip Coordinators, Ms. Chieko, Ms. Sarah Sohma, and Ms. Yamada Rie. They made us feel right at home even though we were worlds apart from India.

The most told example about Japanese people by travelers is perhaps an anecdote in which a Japanese person will not fail to take time out of his/her schedule, even if you ask for help from them on the street! Only in visiting Japan can one realize the true worth of phrases like "A country is by its men" and



"Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

But another observation that we had was not of Japan, but about ourselves. As future engineers, we had braced ourselves to be thoroughly amazed at some of the technology that we would get to see in Japan. Instead, we were conversant with most of the technology that was shown to us, so that we could really appreciate how Japan has put what we learn in theory to actual use. The use and penetration level of technology in everyday life was seen assisting the human decision making process in ways that were novel to us, and every time we saw each application, it appealed to our common sense. This made us realize that the Indian education system has done a deft job of evolving rapidly over a short span of time. Our education system has created awareness and a sense of comfort about technology that earlier generations in India were not aware of, let alone accustomed to.

It would be safe to say that this JENESYS visit was more than just an eye opener. It was a journey that influenced our lives significantly like nothing had ever before. The trip successfully showed us a glimpse of Japanese life and culture in the shortest time period possible, leaving us wanting to experience more. We have to keep peace with keeping in touch with our new Japanese friends over the internet, which is one bond that we want to keep alive for a very long time.

We are sure that the worth of this trip will continue to evolve throughout our lives. Firstly, we were mesmerized, then appreciative, and we hope that the next stage will arrive soon enough – motivation. After seeing the development abound in Japan as a result of the population's hard work, we feel inspired to bring India to the same level of prosperity by putting our best efforts at whichever line of work we end up in.

Manu Rakesh
Final Year Undergraduate Student (Mechanical Engineering)
PDPM Indian Institute of Information Technology,
Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur

IIT - Hyderabad Group

We, the students of IIT Hyderabad, got the opportunity to visit globally reputed universities, internationally acclaimed corporations, and also temples and castles depicting the traditions of the Japanese, during our short stay in Japan under the JENESYS Program.

After the pre-departure orientation, we left for Tokyo on the 15th of May from New Delhi. We stayed at the Prince Hotel, Shin Yokohama, where we had an orientation session on the first day. Then, we were given a keynote lecture by Dr. Kiuchi, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo (UT). We were taken to the Graduate School of Engineering and Institute of Industrial Science, UT, and were introduced to the frontiers of research in the fields of Information and Computer Science in UT and Keio University.

We then left for Osaka by the *Shinkansen* bullet train. We visited Dr. Ise Lab in Osaka University and had the chance to interact with about a dozen students of Osaka University with whom we had our lunch. The students made a really nice gesture of gifting each of us with Manga comics. We had the cultural experience of pot painting at Nara; all of us were made to draw designs of our choice on a clay dish. Apparently, the dishes would have to be baked for a month in a pottery kiln before they could be mailed back to us in India. We also got to spend a night at a Japanese style Farm Inn in Shiga Prefecture, which acquainted us with the ways of the Japanese. During our stay at the Farm Inn, we were offered some Japanese traditional dishes, such as *sushi and mochi*. We also went on visits to



Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Panasonic Centre (Osaka) and Fujitec Corp., where we chanced to see the overwhelming level of technology of the Japanese.

On the last day, during the farewell ceremony, I gave a presentation regarding our findings in Japan, along with a friend of mine. I also delivered a speech during the ceremony. Finally, we made our way back to New Delhi from Tokyo on the 24th of May.

We found that the people of Japan are extremely hospitable, kind, hard-working, determined, and also possess high moral values. The one aspect that really impressed us was the fact that the Japanese do not even mind going out of their way to help others, as we witnessed on two different occasions. On the first occasion, a group of us asked a Japanese woman for directions to a shop selling consumer electronics, and she accompanied us all the way to the first floor of a building which was about a kilometer away. In the second instance, when we were in the Yokohama World Porters Mall, a friend of mine was looking for glue. When he asked for directions to a stationery shop, a woman who had been shopping for a mobile phone and had shortlisted two or three models, asked the shopkeeper to put them aside and accompanied my friend to the stationery shop. She saw to it that he had gotten what he wanted, and only then went back to the mobile store. These incidents impressed us a lot and go on to show the incredible level of hospitality that the Japanese possess.



Aditya Srinivas T.
Leader - IIT Hyderabad contingent

ANIME CONVENTION 2011

Encouraged by the outstanding success of the first-ever Anime Convention held in August 2010, Cine Darbaar, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan and Japan Foundation, is planning to hold the 2nd Anime Convention, at Siri Fort Auditorium II, New Delhi, from the 9th to 11th of September 2011.

The highlights of this year's convention will be screening of selected anime films, like, Keita Kurosaka's *Midori-ko*, Hiroyuki Okiura's *Jin-Roh*, Jun Iwazu's *Planzet*, works from CALF (Group of independent film makers: Mirai Mizue, Kei Oyama, Atsushi Wada, Mika Seike) and ComixWave Japan, which will be preceded/followed by interactive sessions and quizzes.

There will also be workshops/talks on anime, manga, and gaming, dealing with the aesthetics, design, popularity and influence on Japanese and world culture.

In Japan, people of all ages read manga. The medium includes works in a broad range of genres, such as, action-adventure, romance, sports and



Two fans who travelled 1000 kms. for the first Festival



Anime 1



Anime lovers



Manga on display

games, historical drama, comedy, science fiction and fantasy, mystery, horror and business/commerce, among others. Manga-influenced comics are popular in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, USA and France. Many manga have been turned into anime.

Other events will include gaming tournaments and cosplay. Manga books and figurines will also be on display. Like last year, there will be a short-film competition, and the 10 best short films will be screened during the festival. The event will also witness launching of a gaming magazine. The launch of the official website of the Convention will be held in mid-July, and anime, manga and gaming lovers of India will get updates on the Convention from time to time.

The event is expected to help building an otaku (fans of anime/manga) culture in India, particularly among the youth.

Cine Darbaar has tied up with Marwah Studios, Gamesmint, Indian Auteur, Radio Noida and Buzzintown to be the partners for this event.

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The Japan Foundation

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