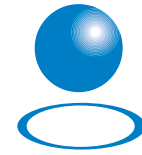


JAPAN

CALLING



June 2010



Following the resignation of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama on 2nd of June 2010, Mr. Naoto Kan, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister in the Hatoyama Cabinet, was elected by the Japanese Diet on 5th June as the new Prime Minister of Japan.

Photo courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan.



Mr. Masayuki Naoshima, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (left) calling on Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India (right).

Photo courtesy: METI, Japan.



The Japanese Defense delegation (left) having discussions with their Indian counterparts at a meeting held in the Ministry of Defence, New Delhi.

Photo courtesy: Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

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MR. NAOTO KAN ELECTED AS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

Following the resignation of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama on 2nd of June 2010, Mr. Naoto Kan, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister in the Hatoyama Cabinet, was elected by the Japanese Diet on 5th June as the new Prime Minister of Japan.

Mr. Kan formed his Cabinet on 8th of June, retaining 11 ministers out of 17 who served under Mr. Hatoyama, including Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada, Defense Minister Toshimi

Kitazawa, and Transport Minister Seiji Maehara.

After the formation of his Cabinet, Prime Minister Kan said he aims to rebuild Japan and create a society where unhappiness of the people is minimum, such as by reducing poverty. Mr. Kan added that he will try to rebuild Japan's economy, finances and social security systems to be "strong" altogether through a growth strategy featuring green technologies and growth in association with Asia.

Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet LIST OF MINISTERS	
	June 8, 2010
Prime Minister	Naoto KAN
Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Minister of State for Promotion of Local Sovereignty	Kazuhiro HARAGUCHI
Minister of Justice	Keiko CHIBA
Minister for Foreign Affairs	Katsuya OKADA
Minister of Finance	Yoshihiko NODA
Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy	Tatsuo KAWABATA
Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Minister of State for Pension Reform	Akira NAGATSUMA
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Masahiko YAMADA
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry	Masayuki NAOSHIMA
Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs	Seiji MAEHARA
Minister of Environment	Sakihito OZAWA
Minister of Defense	Toshimi KITAZAWA
Chief Cabinet Secretary	Yoshito SENGOKU
Chairman of the National Commission on Public Safety Minister of State for Disaster Management Minister of State for the Abduction Issue	Hiroshi NAKAI
Minister of State for Financial Services Minister of State for Postal Reform	Shizuka KAMEI
Minister of State for National Policy Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety	Satoshi ARAI
Minister of State for Civil Service Reform Minister of State for the New Concept of Public Service, Social Affairs, Gender Equality	Koichiro GENBA
Minister of State for Government Revitalization	RENHO

(Source: http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/kan/meibo/index_e.html)

TWO IMPORTANT JAPANESE MINISTERIAL VISITS TO INDIA

As a manifestation of the growing Japan-India engagement at the highest political level, two important Japanese ministerial visits to India took place from 29 April to 1 May 2010, brief details of which are given below:



Indian Defence Minister, Mr. A.K. Antony (left), and Japanese Defense Minister, Mr. Toshimi Kitazawa, at South Block, New Delhi.

Photo courtesy: Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

Japanese Defense Minister, Mr. Toshimi Kitazawa, on the invitation of Indian Defence Minister, Mr. A.K. Antony, visited India from 29 April to 1 May 2010, in accordance with the common understanding reached at the Japan-India Defense Ministerial Meeting in November 2009.

The two Ministers held a meeting on 30 April 2010. At the meeting, the two Ministers extensively exchanged ideas in an amicable manner regarding regional and international security, as well as defense cooperation and exchanges between both countries, and maritime security. They shared the view to continue to make active contribution to the peace, stability and prosperity of Asia as a whole. Furthermore, the two Ministers highly evaluated the progress of defense cooperation and exchanges that have been achieved in a variety of fields and at various levels. They shared the view of the necessity for comprehensive promotion of the Global Strategic Partnership to further strengthen mutual trust and increase mutual understanding through defense cooperation and exchanges.

At the meeting, the two Ministers shared the view that it was necessary to promote cooperation and exchanges, and that they would carry out major exchanges as follows:

- (1) Carry out mutual visits of Defense Ministers basically annually. The Indian Defence Minister will visit Japan in 2011;
- (2) Implement a naval exercise by 2011;
- (3) Further promote bilateral cooperation in anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden (e.g. information exchanges of escorting schedule);
- (4) Implement exchange of ideas aimed at concrete collaboration, such as joint training for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and UNPKO.

Japanese Defense Minister, Mr. Kitazawa expressed gratitude to India for the heartfelt and friendly hospitality received during his visit to India, in particular, that of the Indian Defence Minister, Mr. A.K. Antony.



Minister Masayuki Naoshima with Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia before their meeting at the Planning Commission.

Photo courtesy: METI, Japan.

The Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Mr. Masayuki Naoshima, visited India from 29th April to 1st May 2010, to hold a Policy Dialogue with the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, Mr. Anand Sharma, and an Energy Policy Dialogue with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. Minister Naoshima was accompanied on this visit by a large business delegation.

During the visit, four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed on 30 April between the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Development Corporation (DMICDC)

and six major Japanese consultants including Toshiba, Mitsubishi, Hitachi, and Itochu, who would be involved in building 'Eco Cities' in the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) region. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan, will provide DMICDC with Japanese expertise and through its consultants shall identify and implement various environmentally sustainable projects within the DMIC region. The DMIC, running through Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, is being developed in collaboration with the Japanese Government as a global manufacturing and trading hub. According to Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry of India, the corridor would benefit 230 million people living in the six DMIC states and is expected to double the country's industrial production and increase exports up to six times.

India and Japan are also negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which is expected to be signed by this year-end.

In the meeting with Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, both countries agreed to set up a working group on civilian nuclear energy, which is seen as a 'first-step' towards potential civilian nuclear cooperation between Japan and India. The first meeting of the working group took place on 30 April, with Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia), Ministry of External Affairs, leading the Indian side, while Mr. T. Ueda, Director General for Energy in the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, headed the Japanese side. The two delegations exchanged views and opinions on nuclear energy policy in this meeting.

A joint statement released after talks between Mr. Naoshima and Mr. Ahluwalia said that the two sides reiterated the important role of nuclear energy in meeting energy demands in a safe, sustainable and non-polluting manner. Japan has an active civilian nuclear sector and is supporting India's civilian nuclear programme.

JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN INDIA (JCCII) SUBMITS "SUGGESTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA"

The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCII) submitted "Suggestions for Government of India" to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, on 12th February 2009, with a view to improving India's business environment, and to facilitate Japanese companies' activities in India. The Suggestions are composed of 10 chapters (land acquisition and utilization, tax system, infrastructure, logistics distribution, relaxation of the regulation

for FDI, visa application procedure, inefficiency and lack of transparency of the administration, social security agreement, intellectual property rights, sector-specific issues).

The complete text of the document "Suggestions for Government of India" can be accessed on the homepage of the Embassy of Japan in India, <http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/index.html>, by clicking the sub-heading 'Topics' under the heading 'Japan-India Relations'.

CONFERMENT OF DECORATION ON DR. R.K. PACHAURI, CHAIRMAN OF IPCC



Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Chairman-IPCC (left), being conferred with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India.

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

The decoration was conferred upon Dr. Pachauri by H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, in a solemn ceremony held at the Embassy of Japan on April 16, 2010, in the presence of a select gathering of distinguished guests.

About Dr. R.K. Pachauri:

Dr. Pachauri has played a key role in forging a global consensus on the climate change debate. Known for his diplomatic skills, he served as the lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Second Assessment Report, went on to become the Chair of the IPCC, and in 2007, compiled the Fourth Assessment Report. Stating that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal, the report had a phenomenal impact on the Climate Change debate all over the world including Japan. It gave scientific basis for the 'Cool Earth 50' Initiative, announced by former Prime Minister Abe, aimed at creating a new international framework to fight global warming beyond the 2012 expiration of the Kyoto Protocol.

In 2008, the Nobel Peace Prize was shared between Mr. Al Gore and IPCC, for the efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay

the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.

Dr. Pachauri holds multiple positions other than the Chairman of IPCC, such as the member of Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Climate Change, the member of United Nations Global Humanitarian Forum, the member of International Advisory Board of Toyota Corporation, and the Director on the Board of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

Dr. Pachauri was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2001, and Padma Vibhushan in 2008, India's third and second highest civilian honour. Also, in 2006, he was bestowed with the Officer of the Legion of Honour by the French government for his contribution to the field of environment and sustainable development.

About the Orders of the Rising Sun:

The Orders of the Rising Sun established in 1875 were Japan's first awards. These decorations are conferred in recognition of individuals' (both Japanese and foreign) distinguished accomplishments. The Orders of the Rising Sun are classified into six ranks: Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, and The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays.

These decorations feature rays of sunlight radiating from a rising sun. The attachments are shaped into paulownia flowers and leaves.



Dr. Saroj Pachauri and Dr. R.K. Pachauri (left), raising a toast on the occasion with H.E. Ambassador Hideaki Domichi and Mrs. Noriko Domichi.



Initiatives on Climate Change

Global emission reduction of greenhouse gases is required.

Climate change is a pressing issue that threatens the security of mankind across the borders irrespective of whether those countries are developed or developing, and the concerted efforts by the international community to cope with the challenge need to be urgently enhanced. Japan is actively tackling climate change and leading international negotiations through announcing, among others, its ambitious mid-term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the "Hatoyama Initiative" for supporting developing countries.



In some island countries, their territory decreases due to sea level rise.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol

The ultimate objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which entered into force in 1994, is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Following this Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, which took effect in 2005, sets specific emission reduction commitments for developed countries. Under this Protocol, Japan is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6% as compared to the 1990 level over the five-year period from 2008 to 2012.

Japan's Specific Efforts

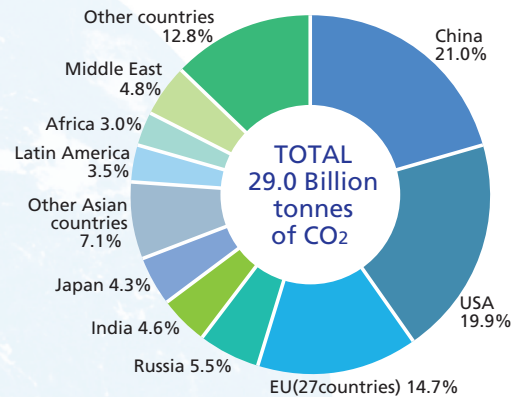
• Mid-term target

At the UN Summit on Climate Change in New York on September 22, 2009, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama announced a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020, if compared to the 1990 level, which is premised upon the establishment of a fair and effective international framework by all major economies and agreement on their ambitious targets. The mid-term target announced by the Prime Minister was highly appreciated by many leaders and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and gave momentum to the subsequent international negotiations.

• Support for developing countries

On this occasion, Prime Minister Hatoyama pointed out the necessity of supporting developing countries to tackle climate change and announced the "Hatoyama Initiative" to the world, stating that Japan was prepared to provide more financial and technical assistance than in the past, in accordance with the progress of the international negotiations. Later, concrete content of the "Hatoyama Initiative" was announced at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15). Under this Initiative, Japan will provide financial assistance in the amount of approximately ¥1.75 trillion (about \$15 billion), including public and private finance, of which public finance comprises approximately ¥1.3 trillion (about \$11 billion) up to the end of 2012 to developing countries that take measures to address climate change, such as mitigation, as well as those which are vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. One of the major factors that led to the Copenhagen Accord was the announcement by developed countries of their overarching policy on support for developing countries prompted by the announcement of the specific measures by Japan under the "Hatoyama Initiative".

Global CO₂ emission from fuel combustion (2007)



Source : IEA(2009) "CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion"



There is a possibility that many disasters are occurring due to climate change. (Photo: Japan Center for Climate Change Actions (<http://www.jccca.org/>))

COP15

At COP15, which took place in Copenhagen in December 2009, intensive negotiations continued every day with the aim of reaching a political agreement which would provide an outline of establishing a framework beyond 2012. The Japanese delegation was headed by Prime Minister Hatoyama, who had meetings with other leaders, and Sakihito Ozawa, Minister of the Environment, Tetsuro Fukuyama, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Teruhiko Mashiko, Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Nobumori Otani, Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment approached ministers and other heads of delegations from various countries. Japan participated in and contributed to the negotiations at COP15 through these efforts, and actively expressed its position. Although discussions were often interrupted by fierce confrontations in the course of negotiations, the Copenhagen Accord was reached through summit-level consultations at the last stage of the session among the heads of about 30 states and international organizations. Prime Minister Hatoyama contributed proactively to the establishment of the Copenhagen Accord by taking part in negotiations until late at night and stressing the necessity of forming a political agreement. Almost all the participating countries endorsed the Copenhagen Accord which was reached through summit-level consultations, but some opposed to its adoption for such reasons as lack of transparency in the decision-making process. However, at the final stage, the COP decided to take note of the Copenhagen Accord in order to make this Accord a step for advancing future negotiations.



Prime Minister Hatoyama delivers a speech at COP15 in Copenhagen.
Photo : Cabinet Public Relations Office

Major elements of the Copenhagen Accord

- (1) We recognize the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius and enhance our long-term cooperative action.
- (2) Annex I Parties will submit emissions targets for 2020 and non-Annex I Parties will submit mitigation actions to the secretariat by 31 January 2010 in the format given in Appendices I and II respectively.
- (3) Actions taken by Annex I Parties will be subject to MRV (measurement, reporting and verification) . Mitigation actions taken voluntarily by non-Annex I Parties will be subject to international consultations and analysis through domestic MRV and their supported mitigation actions will be subject to international MRV.
- (4) The collective commitment by developed countries is to provide new and additional resources to developing countries, approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010 - 2012, and developed countries commit to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion dollars a year by 2020. We decide to establish the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention.
- (5) We call for an assessment of the implementation of this Accord to be completed by 2015.

Future initiatives

Japan believes it necessary to establish a fair and effective international framework in which all major economies including the United States and China participate, and will work on international negotiations cooperating with other countries so that a new comprehensive legal document is established based on the Copenhagen Accord. At the same time, Japan will carry out specific assistance programs based on the "Hatoyama Initiative", in accordance with the progress of the international negotiations.



Prime Minister Hatoyama inspects photovoltaic power generation panels.

UNIQUE BONSAI TREES ON DISPLAY AT EXHIBITION IN NEW DELHI

Bonsai lovers in the city of New Delhi recently had the opportunity to witness some beautifully shaped plants showcased in a two-day exhibition of Bonsai plants at the National Bonsai Park, Lodhi Garden. The event was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, together with H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of



H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan (left), lighting the inaugural lamp with H.E. Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi (centre).



Some of the beautiful bonsai on display at the exhibition.

Japan to India, on 2nd April 2010, and was open for public viewing until the 4th of April 2010.

Almost 250 Bonsai trees, some of them over 45 years old, were displayed at the 29th Annual Bonsai Exhibition organized by the Indian Bonsai Association jointly with the New Delhi Municipal Corporation. Some of the exhibits included trees such as the Chinese Banyan, Peepal Pakhar and Gular, along with bougainvillea, bottle brush, jasmine, and small orange fruit trees of China.

Ambassador and Mrs. Domichi were quite impressed with the unique collection of bonsai trees and appreciated the growing popularity of this art form in India.



H.E. Ambassador and Mrs. Domichi (centre) with members of the Indian Bonsai Association.

JAPAN EXTENDS SOFT LOAN PACKAGE TO INDIA FOR FY 2009

THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES FOR RS.10,565 CRORE LOAN PACKAGE WAS CONCLUDED ON 29 MARCH 2010

The Government of Japan recently agreed to extend soft loan assistance to six projects in India totaling 215,611 million yen (approximately Rs.10,565 crore). The Exchange of Notes to formalize the arrangements to this effect was concluded on 29 March 2010, at a ceremony held in the Ministry of Finance in New Delhi. The Notes were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and Mr. Alok Sheel, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, on behalf of their respective Governments.

The loan package covers six projects in the areas of transportation, irrigation and environment. These concessional loans will be made available through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at the interest rate ranging from even as low as 0.2% to 1.4% per annum, with the repayment period of 30 years (40 years in case of Dedicated Freight Corridor Project) including the grace period of 10 years.

The loan package includes Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 1) (II), which amounts for 90,262 million yen (approximately Rs.4,423 crore). DFC is the flagship project of Japan-India cooperation. Western DFC was already commenced with the signing of the engineering services loan last October. By the loan extended on March 29th, this flagship project will start in full swing.

India is the largest recipient of Japan's ODA for FY2009, making itself as the top recipient partner for seven 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 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.

Given here is a brief outline of the six projects mentioned above:

Brief Outline of Yen-Loan Projects for FY 2009

1. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (Phase 2) (V)

This project aims for the construction of a total length of 414km of subway and elevated and above-ground railway in Delhi. This will help to activate the economy and improve the environment by relieving congestion and reducing the emission of exhaust gases in the capital city. In Phase 2, the target is approximately 83km.

2. Kolkata East-West Metro Project (II)

This project aims for the construction of a total length of

14km of subway and elevated and above-ground railway in Kolkata. This will help to activate the economy and improve the environment by relieving congestion and reducing the emission of exhaust gases in the city, where heavy traffic is acknowledged as one of the most serious problems of the urban area.

3. Chennai Metro Project (II)

This project aims for the construction of a total length of 43km of subway and elevated and above-ground railway in Chennai. Chennai is the largest urban area in the southern part of India with high population density. This project will help to activate the economy and improve the environment by relieving congestion and reducing the emission of exhaust gases in the city.

4. Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 1) (II)

DFC project envisages a western corridor from Delhi to Mumbai, stretching over 1,400km, to cater for the increasing container transport requirements. Phase 1 of the project covers the section between Rewari (Haryana) and Vadodara (Gujarat). By connecting the raw material production areas with the consumption centers and linking both to major ports, DFC will positively impact overall growth rates and efficiency in the Indian economy. Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) coming up along the western DFC will have a multiplier effect on industrial production, employment generation and development of the region as whole.

5. Rengali Irrigation Project (II)

This project provides new irrigation facilities in Brahmani river basin in Orissa and helps the institutionalization of irrigation association. Whereas agriculture has a significant importance for Indian economy, the project area, which is located in the middle of Orissa, largely depends on rainfall, which makes its productivity so vulnerable. Through the construction of irrigation facilities in the area, the project contributes to the increase of agricultural output and improvement of the farmers' income.

6. Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project

This project aims to improve the management capacity of Kanchenjunga National Park and the other seven wildlife reservation area in Sikkim, as well as to help the income improvement activity of the local residents. Through this project, it is expected that the biodiversity in the area would be conserved and the living standard of the inhabitants be improved.

MOSAI HOLDS 1ST SAFJUAA JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST



Mr. Masashi Mizukami, Minister, Embassy of Japan, lighting the inaugural lamp before the start of the contest.

The Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI) organized its 1st SAFJUAA – South Asian Japanese Language Speech Contest with nine participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, on 17th March 2010, at the India International Centre, New Delhi. These participants were the winners in the junior and senior categories in their respective countries’ contests. For example, in the case of India, three winners in junior and senior categories each from four zones – North, South, East and West, participated in the All India Japanese Language Contest earlier this year, and the best speakers in the two categories of this contest were nominated to participate in the SAFJUAA Speech Contest.

Welcoming the participants and guests on the occasion, Dr Ashok Jain, President – MOSAI, described the first ever South Asian contest a unique event, as the love for Japan and the Japan connection could bring the fellow citizens of these nations together to start this new process. He thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japanese Em-

bassy in India for their efforts to enable the alumnae who had studied in Japan to build bridges between Japan and their home countries, by inviting them to Japan through the *Reunion of Former Students (Tsudoi)* Program. The objectives of the *Tsudoi* reunion are to strengthen ties between former students and Japan, to build networks among alumni associations of neighbouring countries, and to promote the activities of alumni associations in each country. A network started building through this reunion, and an initiative taken by Nepal in 2005 led to the formation of SAFJUAA (South Asian Federation of Japanese University Alumni Associations). In the last meeting of SAFJUAA in New Delhi in 2009, the Rules and Regulations for the contest were finalized, and it was decided to start a SAFJUAA Regional Japanese Language Speech Contest (SRJLSC) in the coming year.

In his inaugural speech, Chief Guest Mr. Masashi Mizukami, Minister in the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, highlighted Japan’s interest in South Asian nations and added that the Japanese Government is considering to continue extending

support to SAFJUAA in its activities. He said that the SAFJUAA speech contest would provide an opportunity to the students of Japanese language to observe how other countries' students study Japanese language. Mr N. Endo, Director General - Japan Foundation, in his address, appreciated the efforts of participants to make it to New Delhi in terms of long distances they travelled just before the event, and for their diligent efforts through the tough respective national contests. Relating his earlier experience of excellent performance of these nations in an international contest in Japan, he said that participants being the winners in their respective countries of South Asia could easily consider themselves capable enough to win in international contests.

Participants of the contest spoke on a variety of topics ranging from culture, history, language learning from Japan, environmental issues and relationships. As expected, all the contestants performed very closely. The first prize in the junior category was won by Ms. Muna Thapa of Japanese Language Education Culture Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal (topic: お弁当 *Obentou*) and the second prize in this category went to Mr. Vikash Kumar of JAPROC, New Delhi, India (Topic: 恋人 *Koibito*). In the senior category, first prize was won by Ms. Kamakshi of Sethu Bhaskara Japanese Language Academy, Chennai, India (Topic: 今時の日本語 *Imadoki no nihongo*) and the second prize went to Ms. Meriya Khadgi of Yasashisa

Japanese Language School, Kathmandu, Nepal (Topic: 雨水収穫 *Amamizu shuukaku*).

Congratulating the participants and the winners, the Jury Chairman, Mr. I. Sawada of the Japanese School, gave valuable comments and important tips to the participants and students of Japanese language. Mr T. Watanabe, President - Japanese Association, and H.E. Mr Arjun Asrani, former Ambassador of India to Japan, gave away the prizes to the winners.

This first ever SAFJUAA Japanese Language Speech Contest was coordinated by Prof. Manjushree Chauhan of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Ms. Kyoko Suzuki and Mr. T. Tanabe of Japan Foundation performed the difficult task of putting on-the-spot questions to the speakers, which helped the jury members arrive at their judgement. The event was sponsored by the Japanese Embassy, The Japan Foundation, Japanese Association, Alumni Associations, and NEC HCL System Technologies Ltd. Though the contest closed with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. V. Ramalakshmi of University of Delhi, the exercise of interactions and exchanges among the participants from five nations, which started thereafter, is expected to go a long way.

*Contributed by Ashok K. Chawla,
Coordinator for the Jury*



Group photograph of the participants and jury members.

TWO INDIAN JUDOKAS GET INTENSIVE TRAINING IN JAPAN

Two regular resident judokas of the Centre of Excellence (COE) - Judo, Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) - Patiala, Mr. Ram Ashrey and Ms. Garima Chaudhary, completed an intensive judo training schedule in Japan, along with their coach, Mrs. Divya Sharma, from 27 February to 26 March 2010.

All three members were invited to Japan by a non-profit organization, “The Solidarity of International Judo Education”, managed by the legendary Japanese Judo Olympic Champion and four-time World Champion, Mr. Yasuhiro Yamashita, and partly sponsored by the Japanese Government.

The main purpose of arranging this training was to provide the best judokas from India with exposure and training before the Asian Games 2010. This training provided them a very good opportunity to train with some of the world’s top judokas at Tokai University, Kodokan International Judo Institute, and at their National Training Camp Centre (NTC), under the supervision of outstanding Japanese coaches.

Given below is a brief report of the training of the two Indian judokas in Japan, written by Mrs. Divya Sharma, Judo Coach, COE – NIS, Patiala:

REPORT OF THE TRAINING OF TWO COE JUDOKAS IN JAPAN

TRAINING SCHEDULE: Morning 9 am to 12 Noon, and Evening 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm

Morning Ne-waza Randori (grappling/ground work sparring), and evening session Tachi-waza Randori (standing sparring) and strength training, in the very big and well equipped gym, was the main task. During this period, players were fighting 15 to 20 rounds of six minutes in both the sessions with different partners. Players from Switzerland, Holland, China and Mongolia were also there, who practice there at their own cost, at least six months in a year.

Four sessions of special training were taken by World Champion and Tokai University coach, Nakanishi sensei, in which he gave tips to rectify errors in the execution of techniques under difficult and competitive situations.

During Saturdays and Sundays, participants were taken to witness the ‘All Japan Open Judo Championships’, ‘All Japan High School Judo Tournaments’ and ‘High School Team Championships’. These tournaments were well organized in 8 competition areas. Participants were also taken by the organiz-



(left to right): Mrs. Divya Sharma, Ms. Garima Chaudhary, Mr. Yasuhiro Yamashita and Mr. Ram Ashrey.



The Indian judokas (back row - middle, and front row - first and second from left) with their Japanese counterparts and coaches.

ers to see the Tokyo Disneyland and for mountain training once during their month-long stay.

Boarding and Lodging: Very good and nutritious food was provided. A special chef was provided to prepare breakfast and dinner for the participants. For lunch, there was liberty to eat outside or prepare food ourselves, and money was reimbursed on producing bills. All the participants were provided well furnished accommodation in the Tokai University international wing, with each one being provided with a separate room. Wi-Fi (Internet) facilities were available round the clock. During the international training camp at NTC, three days' five star hotel accommodation was provided.

Mr. Yasuhiro Yamashita and his organization gave a welcome party as well as a farewell party (Indian dinner) to all the participants, in which Mrs. Divya Sharma expressed thanks to Mr. Yamashita and his secretary, Ms. Keiko Mitsumoto, who helped a lot to arrange this training, and to the Tokai University coaches/NPO officials and the Japanese Government, on behalf of the Sports Authority of India and the Executive Director – NIS, Patiala.

Mr. Morio Suganami, Japanese coach, who was a foreign coach from 1979-1981 in NIS-Patiala, and Mr. Hiroyuki Mizuno, who has trained the Indian national teams before Seoul Asian Games 1986 and in 1988, and has also visited NIS-Patiala as an IOC expert to conduct Solidarity Course for coaches in 2004, also came to meet the participants, practiced with them, and provided very useful tips. They also invited our players for an Indian lunch. Mr. Takashi Ogata, the first foreign coach who conducted the first diploma course in our institute (NIS) also met us. Mr. Kozi Kumata, an international judo expert from Tsukuba

University, who has visited our institute in 1996 to conduct a short course for coaches, also came to meet us. Mr. Ram Ashrey was presented a judo dress from Tokai University. Mr. Hiroyuki Mizuno and Mr. Suganami also presented our players with a judo dress and specially-made black belts.

Standard of Judo in Japan: Since judo is a sport of Japanese origin and an Olympics discipline since 1964, Japan has world-class judo facilities and separate wings and coaches for juniors, women, seniors, and for international players. They make a strong base at junior level without stressing much on results. They organize tournaments at high school and university levels. Their Olympics and world championships' results come from university players. They have strong police teams also. National camps are being held only for very short duration (7-10 days), where they invite players. Players from all over Japan come over there to practice with the national teams. Japan sends its many players to all the major tournaments all over the world for competition exposure. Each club, high school and university has world-class facilities for every sport. Moreover, there is dedication, sincerity, hard-working nature and patriotism in every Japanese. They do not want anybody to carry away a bad impression about Japan.

Overall, this training provided an excellent opportunity to our two players, who can now feel the difference and will motivate themselves to win medals for the country. We are very thankful to the Japanese Government and Mr. Yamashita's NPO (non-profit organization) for inviting us to Japan for this training and the unforgettable hospitality.

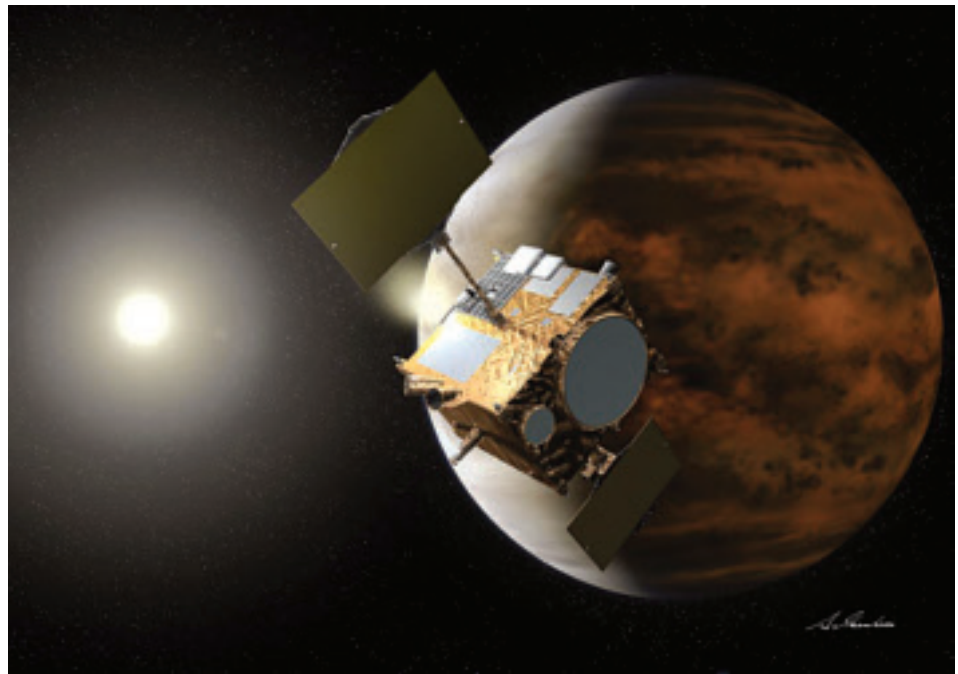
*Divya Sharma, Judo Coach
Centre of Excellence, SAI NS NIS PATIALA*

JAPAN LAUNCHES VENUS CLIMATE ORBITER “AKATSUKI” (PLANET-C)

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched the Venus Climate Orbiter “AKATSUKI” (PLANET-C) aboard H-IIA Launch Vehicle No. 17 (H-IIA F17) at 6:58:22 a.m. on May 21, 2010 (Japan Standard Time, JST) from the Tanegashima Space Center.

The launch vehicle flew smoothly and, at about 27 minutes and 29 seconds after liftoff, the separation of the “AKATSUKI” was confirmed.

Venus Climate Orbiter
“AKATSUKI /PLANET-C”
Courtesy of Akihiro Ikeshita



The Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS) of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) received the signal transmitted from the Venus Climate Orbiter “AKATSUKI” at the Uchinoura Space Center at 4:40 p.m. on May 21, 2010 (Japan Standard Time, JST), and confirmed that the scheduled sequence of events including the solar array paddle deployment and sun acquisition were successfully performed.

The Venus Climate Orbiter (VCO) of Japan aims to elucidate the mechanism of the mysterious atmospheric circulation of Venus, with secondary targets being the exploration of the ground surface and the zodiacal light observation during the cruise to Venus. The exploration of the Venusian meteorology is given a high priority not only for understanding the climate of Venus but also for the general understanding of planetary fluid dynamics. VCO is the 24th science spacecraft of the Institute of the Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and has a code name PLANET-C.

Text and photos courtesy:



◀ H-IIA Launch Vehicle No.17 Successfully Launched
Courtesy of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

ANIME CINE EXPERIENCE

The Embassy of Japan, in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Cine Darbaar, the Japan Foundation, and the Japanese Association, New Delhi, will be holding an Anime Fest from 20th to 22nd August 2010, at Siri Fort Auditorium II.

ANIME CINE EXPERIENCE is the first animation film festival to be conducted in India to celebrate the aesthetics of Japan animation. Not just the screening of a few Japanese animation films, we would also like to make the audience familiar with the aesthetics behind an animation film. So, the package includes screening of films with pre/post interactive sessions, anime film contest, and workshop/seminar. We would specially like to have the participation of animation students, film-makers, and students of schools and colleges.

Outline of the fest:

Screening of famous Japanese anime director, Makoto Shinkai's *Voices of a Distant Star* (2003, 25min, Romance/Science fiction), *The Place Promised in Our Early Days* (2004, 91min, Drama/Science fiction), *5 Centimeters Per Second: a chain of short*

stories about their distance (2007, 63min, Drama/Romance).

Japanese Anime Short Film Contest

An inter-college anime event to increase the visibility of the medium. The best anime films will be given certificates of merit and will be screened during the festival. The best short films will also be screened. To bring encouragement regarding Anime in India, independent anime short films from Japan also to be screened.

Workshop

A workshop on animation with focus on Japan and its relation to world animation, ideas on 3D and 2D, and the basic animation market by Mr. Kshitiz Anand, an IITian and currently Director of Deskala Design, Bangalore.

Talk Cum Seminar

"The Relation of Anime and Its Avatars in Popular Culture" in relation to Japanese Gaming and Beyond, Guest Speaker: Mr. Shubhank Mauria, Game Designer/Anime Enthusiast/Manga fan, of Tiger Tail Studio, Hyderabad.

Continued on page 16



Photo Courtesy: Comix Wave, Japan

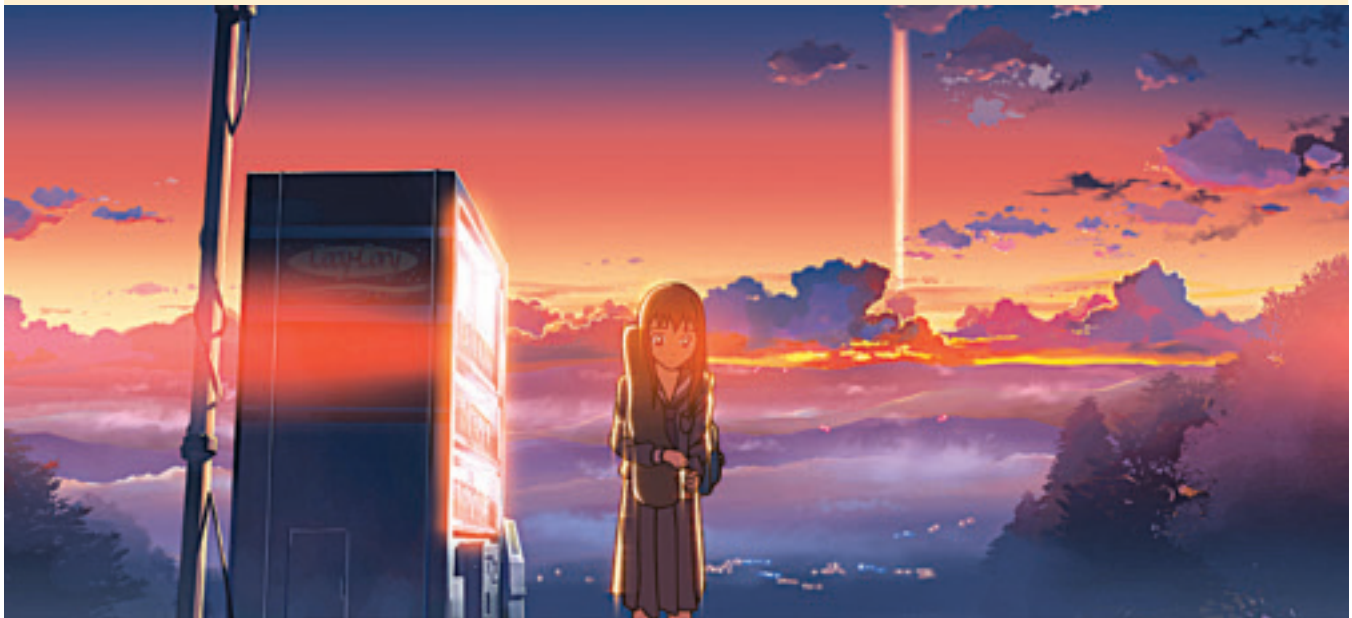


Photo Courtesy: Comix Wave, Japan

Interaction and Discussion

Every film screening will be preceded by a pre-introduction on the film and the director. Accordingly, every screening will be followed by an Open Forum discussion with the audience. At the same time, during each screening, articles on the directors and the anime films at hand will also be available.

Exhibition

Display of Manga and other Anime goods (Not for sale)

Journal

The Festival will also be launched with a special issue

dedicated to Anime and its relation to cinema and other art forms in the world. It will trace the history, tradition and outline of the industry and its directors from across the world. This will be a first-of-its-kind special study of Anime directors.

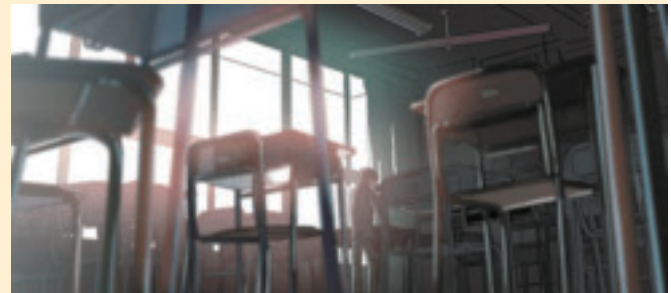


Photo Courtesy: Comix Wave, Japan

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