

JAPAN

CALLING



March 2010



H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India (left) with Dr. Raj Buddhiraja (centre) and Mr. Arjun Asrani, Former Ambassador of India to Japan, at the Book Release function of Dr. Buddhiraja's poetry compilation "Momiji Ke Rang"

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VIDEO MESSAGE BY PRIME MINISTER YUKIO HATOYAMA

AT THE LEADERSHIP AWARD CEREMONY OF THE DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT - 5 FEBRUARY 2010

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am truly honoured to receive the Sustainable Development Leadership Award, on this commemorative occasion of the 10th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

Last September, I took the initiative to announce Japan's aim to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by the year 2020, if compared to the 1990 level, consistent with what the science calls for in order to halt global warming. At COP 15 in Copenhagen, Japan also announced that it will provide assistance to developing countries in an amount totaling approximately 15 billion U.S. dollars by 2012, including 11 billion dollars in public financing. This statement of intent was made upon the premise of the establishment of a fair and effective international framework among all major economies and an agreement on their own ambitious targets.

We must admit that we did not reach a perfect solution on every single issue at COP 15. Having said so, I also recognize that the "Copenhagen Accord" was formulated through summit-level discussions, and that the decision to take note of the Accord was adopted with indications of support from almost all countries throughout the world. To this extent, the meeting was meaningful. In the course of the discussions, I myself strongly emphasized the necessity of formulating a political agreement. I believe that Japan's ambitious mid-term target and its concrete proposal on assistance to developing countries gave momentum to the negotiations at COP 15.

This wonderful award is not just for me. I can say with certainty that this award is nothing less than a message of encouragement to all national leaders who are seriously tackling the issue of climate change. What is necessary now is to ensure association with the "Copenhagen Accord" by as many countries as possible. I know that a substantial number of countries have already expressed their willingness to support the Accord. Japan will continue to play an active role in order to convince more countries to associate themselves with the Accord. I also promise that Japan will spare no effort to achieve the early adoption of a comprehensive legal document to establish a fair and effective international framework among all major economies.

I take this opportunity to reiterate my heartfelt appreciation to The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), and express my sincere hope that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), under the leadership of Dr. Pachauri, will continue its positive contribution to the worldwide efforts to address climate change. In closing, I wish to reaffirm the indispensable role to be played by India in these endeavours, as one of the major economies.

Thank you very much.

JAPANESE MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS VISITS INDIA



Mr. Kazuhiro Haraguchi, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan (MIC), visited India from the 6th of January to the 9th of January 2010. During his stay, Mr. Haraguchi had meetings with high-level Indian dignitaries, such as H.E. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy, H.E. Mr. A. Raja, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and Dr. J.S. Sarma, Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), and discussed ICT-related issues and future cooperation between India and Japan.

A Memorandum was signed between TRAI and MIC on 6th January 2010. The Memorandum was signed by Dr. J.S. Sarma, Chairman – TRAI, and Mr. Kazuhiro Haraguchi, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan.

Furthering the ties of friendship between the Republic of India and Japan and the privileged relations between the two countries, TRAI and MIC established this Memorandum, a mechanism for technical and institutional cooperation in the field of telecommunications, with the purpose of contributing to the development of both countries. TRAI and MIC are determined to strengthen the ties in the field of telecommunications by means of the establishment of technical and technological cooperation. The Memorandum would also allow mutual sharing of information on best practices between TRAI and MIC.

In Japan, the telecom sector is regulated by MIC. TRAI and MIC intend to cooperate in the fields of:

- a) Technological developments and New Technologies;
- b) Regulatory Policy;
- c) Convergence of Telecom and Broadcasting;
- d) Spectrum issues;
- e) Green Telecom;
- f) Telecom for development strategy; and
- g) Other issues as may be mutually determined.

The cooperation between both the sides will be carried out through:

- a) Exchange of official information and documentation;
- b) Dissemination of best practices of regulatory and competitive policy in the field of telecommunications regulation;
- c) Bilateral consultations through deployment of experts; and
- d) Such other forms of co-operation as may be mutually deemed appropriate.

BOOK RELEASE FUNCTION

‘MOMIJI KE RANG’ – THE COLORS OF MOMIJI

The book release of a compilation of Japanese-Hindi poems entitled MOMIJI KE RANG took place at the Embassy of Japan on 29 January 2010. Momiji is a Japanese flower that blossoms in the autumn season. The book contains poems of around thirty poets in Hindi and Japanese language, along with their English translations. The book, edited by famous writer, Dr. Raj Buddhiraja, was released by H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India in the presence of Mr. Arjun Asrani, former Ambassador of India to Japan. Present on the occasion were several distinguished guests including the former Governor of Karnataka, Mr. T.N. Chaturvedi, Mr. Lakshmi Shankar Vajpeyi, Dr. Ram Sharan Gaur, Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi, Dr. Pushpa Lata Taneja, Dr. Sher Jung Garg, and many other poets and writers.

‘MOMIJI KE RANG’ – the Colors of Momiji is a collection of poems compiled by Dr. Raj Buddhiraja, President - Indian Council for Japanese Culture, in association with Dr. Tomoko Kikuchi and Mr. Yoshio Takakura, and comprises of poems that were recited at an event held at the India International Centre on Nov.6, 2009, as part of the Japan Cultural Month organized by the Embassy of Japan.

In the autumn season in Japan, Momiji (or the maple leaves) are admired for their beauty, much like the cherry blossoms in spring. The viewing of autumn leaves has been a popular activity in Japan for centuries, which starts in mid-September from the northern island of Hokkaido, and reaches the lower elevations of central and southern Japan towards the end of November.

There are several works penned on the beauty of the autumn season in Japan as well as India, and it was indeed a wonderful idea by Dr. Buddhiraja to arrange a poetry recital session to identify and discuss the similarities of autumn beauty in the poems written in Japanese and Indian languages. This collection of poems includes not only the works of the present generation, but also throws light on the poetry that appears in classics such as Manyoshu, Murasaki Shikibu’s Genji Monogatari, Kalidasa’s Ritusamhara, Kabir, and others.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic response of the participants at the poetry recital session, Dr. Buddhiraja, along with Dr. Kikuchi and Mr. Takakura, was inspired to take up the task of bringing out these poems in a book form, primarily retaining the poems in their original language – Japanese or Hindi – while translating some of them into Hindi or Japanese for the benefit of poetry-lovers, both in Japan and India.

Dr. Buddhiraja has been playing an active role in popularizing Japanese art and culture in India by conducting various cultural programs like painting exhibitions, origami demonstrations, poetry sessions, children’s day celebrations, film festivals, and so on. She has also written several articles and books about Japan.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Domichi expressed the view that such kinds of literary exchanges help to promote better understanding and appreciation of each other’s culture, and become bridges in bringing the people of our two countries much closer.



Dr. Raj Buddhiraja delivering her speech at the Book Release Function of ‘Momiji Ke Rang’.



Distinguished guests listening to H.E. Ambassador Domichi’s address on the occasion.

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH BY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS KATSUYA OKADA TO THE 174TH SESSION OF THE DIET

January 29, 2010

At the beginning of the 174th session of the Diet, I wish to outline my thinking on the basic orientation of Japan's foreign policy.

Condolences and Aid Measures for Haiti

I would like to start by offering my heartfelt condolences for those who lost their lives by the recent earthquake in Haiti, as well as my sympathies to all those affected. In addition to the emergency assistance provided up to now through medical activities and others by the Japan Disaster Relief Team, Japan has announced its intention to extend emergency and reconstruction assistance totaling approximately \$70 million, and to participate in the peacekeeping operation in Haiti. We will continue to contribute actively to the recovery and reconstruction of Haiti, making good use of our experience and expertise as an earthquake-prone country.

Basic Policy

The international community embarks on new era of cooperation, with the United States President Barack Obama's entrance as one of the momentum. It is through global peace and prosperity and through international cooperation to realize it that the peace and prosperity of our country can be achieved.

In the current international community, we encounter various challenges. We need to constantly maintain global perspective rather than being inward-looking, to do what ought to be done, and to readily open our country to the world. Japan is called on to act proactively and to present initiatives, and thereby to respond to international expectations.

Last September, when I assumed the office of Foreign Minister, I emphasized that I considered the occasion of the change of government to be a great opportunity and that I intend to pursue foreign policy based on the understanding and trust of the Japanese people. Towards this end, in handling each foreign policy issue, I have placed premium on three principles: first, understand the reality on the ground; second, in policy consideration, always return to the basics; and third, communicate to the public in plain and

clear language.

My visits across Japan during the last general election campaign have brought home to me great public expectations of a new politics. I am resolved to make my utmost efforts to undertake new foreign policy.

Having stated the foregoing, I will now address this year's agenda for Japan's foreign affairs by sharing with the nation my basic thinking on: first, strengthening of the relations with other countries and regions, and second, dealing with the global issues.

Strengthening Japan's Relations with Each Country and Region

The Japan-U.S. Alliance is the linchpin of Japan's foreign policy and the cornerstone of Japan's security. It contributes greatly to the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region as public goods. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Japan-U.S. Mutual Cooperation and Security Treaty. In the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the 12th of this month in Hawaii, we agreed to commence a process of dialogues for further deepening of the alliance. Looking at the Alliance in the next 30 years or 50 years, the government seeks to make this a year of reaffirming in both countries the role that the Japan-U.S. Alliance plays in the security of Japan and in the peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and the world. In this context, I will explain candidly to Japanese people that the presence of the U.S. Forces in Japan plays an important role as deterrence ensuring Japan's safety, in an effort to deepen the understanding of Japanese people on this matter.

Concerning the relocation of the Futenma Air Station, with full recognition of the weight of Japan-U.S. agreements, and fully taking into account the roles played by the U.S. Bases and the reduction of the burden on Okinawa, the Government will decide on a specific site for the relocation by the end of May. On that basis, the government will work on issues of the Japan-U.S. Status-of-Force Agreement and the host nation support.

In the last meeting with Secretary Clinton, we discussed

cooperation between our two countries on the Asia-Pacific regional situations, such as North Korea and Myanmar, as well as on the global challenges such as Afghanistan, Iran, and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Japan will continue to coordinate on such broad-ranging issues with the U.S. and deepen the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

Our government will actively promote diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of growing and prospering together with the region. Japan will make use of its funds, technology, and knowledge to encourage development in Asia, the growth center of the world, while connecting Asia's vitality and demand to Japan's own growth.

The Republic of Korea is a neighboring country with which we share basic values. Japan will strengthen the future-oriented relationship with the country as mature partners, squarely facing up to our history. We will also seek early resumption of Japan-Korea EPA negotiations.

With regard to Japan-China relationship, we will enrich and give shape to the "Mutually Beneficial Relationship Based on Common Strategic Interest." We will also engage in resolving pending issues between the two countries, such as resource development in the East China Sea and food safety issues. We expect China, with its growing international status, to play a responsible role in the region and in the international community with improved transparency.

Japan will actively support enhancement of connectivity among the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) toward their integration as well as narrowing the development gap. Japan will also seek to strengthen bilateral relations with, among others, Vietnam, the presidency of ASEAN, and with Indonesia, proactively engaged in the international issues such as promotion of democracy. Particularly with the Mekong region, Japan will steadily follow up on the outcomes of the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting last November and will deepen the cooperative relationship. We will also strengthen a dialogue with Myanmar so as to see the realization of an open and fair election as well as the advancement in the process of democratization in Myanmar.

Australia is a strategic partner in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan will strengthen the relationship between the two countries in various areas including security and economic relations.

Japan will cooperate with India on a wide range of issues including security and economy, building upon the achievements of Prime Minister Hatoyama's visit to India at the end of last year, and will develop the Strategic Global Partnership between our two countries.

This administration has put forward the initiative for an East Asian community as a long-term vision. To achieve this vision, we will promote open and highly transparent regional cooperation, in areas such as trade and investment, finance, environment, energy, development, disaster relief, education, people to people exchanges, and infectious diseases.

This year, Japan assumes chairmanship of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). We will take the lead in formulating ideas to make APEC better attuned to the new era, toward further prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, in close coordination with the United States, which will be chair the next year.

As for the relationship with Russia, in light of my visit to Russia at the end of last year, Japan will advance both political and economic relations as a "two wheels on the same axle" and vigorously engage in efforts to reach a final resolution on the issue of the Northern Territories and conclude a peace treaty. Japan aims to build a new Japan-Russia relationship as partners in the Asia-Pacific region.

With regard to North Korea, Japan will seek to normalize relations through a comprehensive resolution of the outstanding issues of concern, including the abduction issue, the nuclear and missile issues, and by settling the unfortunate past, in accordance with the Japan-North Korea Pyongyang Declaration. Japan will coordinate closely with concerned countries toward the resumption of the Six-Party Talks and North Korea's abandoning its nuclear weapons program. At the same time, we will steadily implement measures based on United Nations Security Council resolutions as well as Japan's own measures. Our government will work toward early enactment of the relevant bill to enable firm implementation of the cargo inspections called upon in UN Security Council Resolution 1874, which Japan took the lead in adopting, in every respect.

Europe, with which Japan shares basic values, is an important partner in responding to global challenges and in both political and economic spheres. I will work together with foreign ministers in Europe to build closer partnership with the increasingly integrated European Union and with each individual country.

Japan will strengthen collaboration with emerging economies such as Brazil and Mexico, both increasingly influential in the Latin America along with their economic growth, and Turkey, which has historical and geographic ties with the Middle East and Central Asia.

The stability of Afghanistan and Pakistan is one of the most important issues for the international community as a whole. I visited these countries myself and have been making special efforts for the stability of the two countries. While

continuing to coordinate with the international community, Japan will provide assistance up to an amount in the region of \$5 billion in about five years from 2009, main areas of assistance being enhancement of Afghanistan's own capability to maintain security, reintegration of former Taliban soldiers, and the country's sustainable and self-reliant development. At the same time, we strongly urge the new administration of President Hamid Karzai to improve governance and tackle corruption. With regard to Pakistan, Japan continues to swiftly implement the assistance of up to \$1 billion pledged at the Donors Conference held last year.

On Iran, Japan will work closely with major relevant countries and make efforts toward a diplomatic solution of the nuclear issue so that Iran's nuclear development will be solely for peaceful purposes. As regards the Middle East peace process, we will support international efforts for peace talks and will make efforts including our assistance to the Palestinians with a view to achieving early comprehensive peace.

Global economic crisis and climate change seriously affect the people of Africa. It is important to support African people suffering from poverty, AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, among others. To fulfill the commitment at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) to "double official development assistance (ODA) to Africa," we will support Africa's development and growth through steadily implementing programs needed, and further broaden cooperation in the areas of trade and investment.

Taking a Leadership in Global Issues

Next, I shall discuss Japan's demonstrating proactive leadership in global issues.

Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation

President of the United States of America Barack Obama's speech in Prague dramatically changed the global trend toward nuclear disarmament. Japan should play a meaningful role in consolidating this trend.

This is an important year for advance toward a world without nuclear weapons, with the Nuclear Security Summit and the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference scheduled to take place. Japan strongly hopes for an early conclusion of the new nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and Russia. At the NPT Review Conference, Japan will take leadership to achieve a positive agreement in each field of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

I find worthy of attention such ideas as prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states, or making deterring others from using such weapons as a sole purpose of retaining nuclear weapons, as the concrete means to take a first step toward the "world without nuclear weapons." This government will deepen discussions with countries such as Australia and the United States on these and other issues.

Climate Change

Climate change is a crisis that confronts human being, and solving this problem is our responsibility to the next generation. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15) at the end of last year produced a certain level of progress, for example, in getting international involvement of major emitting countries. Based on this, we will lead international negotiations in coordination with the United States, the European Union, the UN, and others in order to adopt at COP16 a new legal document which establishes a fair and effective international framework. On the basis of the Hatoyama Initiative, Japan will extend assistance to developing countries which tackle climate change through measures such as emission reductions, or which are vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change. To solve the problem of climate change, it is challenge where Japan's diplomatic ability is being truly tested.

The World Economy

The world economy is still struggling on the path to recovery. Japan will work in coordination with other major economic powers to secure recovery and sustained growth of the global economy, while preventing the rise of protectionism. Japan will work to accelerate the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha round negotiations and the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiations with partners such as India and the EU, through political leadership.

Official Development Assistance

In the globalizing international community, it is the harsh reality that many people suffer from hunger and disease, and live hard lives in which they are unable to maintain their dignity as human beings. In sympathy with these people as a fellow human being, we will provide support for human development and nation-building in developing countries with a view to realizing human security. This government will work toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health,

and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, in collaboration with international organizations and NGOs.

At the same time, with the recognition that current state of development assistance has not attracted sufficient sympathy of the Japanese people, this government will conduct a basic review of Official Development Assistance (ODA) by this summer. We will then proceed to implement ODA more strategically and effectively with the public understanding and support.

Piracy, Terrorism, and United Nations Peacekeeping Activities

Japan being a maritime and trading state, ensuring the safety of maritime navigation is an important agenda for the country. The Anti-Piracy Measures taken by Japan's Self-Defense Forces and the support provided to Somalia and the surrounding countries are playing an important role in terms of both the protection of the lives and property of Japanese nationals and the safety of maritime transportation. Japan will continue to implement these activities.

Terrorism is a threat to the Japanese nationals and their economic activities. Japan will make efforts to help rebuild states and address the issue of poverty, which is one of the causes of terrorism. This government will also contribute to the peace and stability of Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, and other countries.

While Japan's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations has a prominent track record in Cambodia, East Timor and elsewhere, the level of Japan's recent contributions cannot be said to be sufficient. In order to play a more active role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, this government will consider further contributions beyond the mission in Haiti which I mentioned at the beginning.

Creating a Framework for Developing Foreign Policy

The world is becoming multipolar and thereby, we need to restructure an international mechanism for formulating agreement. Japan will engage actively in this.

While the G20 – composed of major economies including emerging economies – increases its presence, the G8 continues to play an important role representing the major advanced countries that share the basic values of freedom and democracy. Through discussion in these frameworks, Japan will lead international cooperation on the world economy and other global issues.

Japan attaches great importance to the United Nations, will make active use of it and contribute to enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency. To achieve this goal, our government will work for early realization of Security Council reform, including Japan's entry into the Council as

a permanent member. Japan will seek to increase the number and strengthen the presence of Japanese staff in international organizations and enhance its human resource contributions.

Conclusion

Since assuming this office, I have emphasized the need for foreign policy supported by the understanding and trust of the nation. It is only with the understanding and trust of the nation that our conduct of foreign policy can have the strength.

It was for this purpose that I ordered an investigation into the issue of so-called "secret agreements" immediately after assuming this office. Investigations within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have already been completed, and currently, the outside experts are verifying the findings. After clarifying the facts, I intend to explain them to the public as soon as possible, including reform[s] concerning the disclosure rules for diplomatic documents.

The taxpayers' perspective is also important. Therefore, our government will work on reforming incorporated administrative agencies and public-interest corporations administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We will also examine an appropriate form of such organizations and third-party entities such as the Incorporated Administrative Agency Evaluation Committee and the Foreign Service Personnel Council, so that those organizations can fulfill their intended roles.

By carrying out such self-reforms, we will seek to gain understanding and trust of the people, and we will tackle head-on various challenges I have mentioned above and develop active foreign policy.

I intend to enhance Japan's total diplomatic capabilities. To this end, this government will strengthen the diplomatic implementation structure so that our diplomats can act with a sense of mission. Foreign affairs is not something undertaken only by the government. At the COP15, members of NGOs participated in the government delegation. In terms of conducting foreign affairs in the broad sense, I have great expectations for the role of NGOs, local governments, private-sector businesses and organizations, and individuals involved in cultural exchange.

A dynamic foreign policy supported by the understanding and trust is indispensable in achieving peace and affluence for the people of the world and in allowing the people of this country to fully appreciate peace and affluence. In this new era of international cooperation, I am determined to develop, with fully committed efforts of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, foreign policy that inspires people to hope.

I sincerely request the support and cooperation of all Diet members and the people of this country in these endeavors.

THE FOURTH MOTHER GANGA EXHIBITION OF OIL PAINTING BY TATSUKO HIRAOKA



Renowned Japanese painter and artist, Ms. Tatsuko Hiraoka, recently held the *Fourth Mother Ganga Exhibition of Oil Painting* in New Delhi. The exhibition, co-organized by the Indian Council for Japanese Culture, and supported by the Embassy of Japan in India, The Japan Foundation New Delhi, The Japan-India Association, and Art Life Mitsuhashi (Kyoto, Japan), was on display at the Tenshin Okakura Gallery of The

Japan Foundation, from the 1st to 6th of March 2010.

Born in 1936, Ms. Hiraoka graduated in 1961 with specialization in Oil Painting, from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Kyoto City University of Arts, and also completed a Special Study Course in Oil Painting in 1962, at the National Kyoto College of Education.

After a long career (1962-1997) as Teacher of Fine Arts at Kyoto Municipal Lower Secondary Schools, Ms. Tatsuko Hiraoka held several exhibitions of her works in Japan and India.

She takes deep interest in the literary works of Indian Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, and has been greatly influenced by the mighty nature of India as depicted in Tagore's poems, novels and essays. Wishing to depict the various facets of Indian people and their way of life

through her pictures, Ms. Hiraoka has been visiting the ghats of the Ganga river in Benares for several years, and with intense concentration, she has been painting the scenes of humanity unrolled there.

Her infinite love for India and the Indian people was reflected in her paintings, and touched the hearts of all visitors to this exhibition, whether Japanese or Indians.

‘STUDY IN JAPAN’ FAIR HELD IN NEW DELHI

During the Japan-India Annual Summit Meeting held on 29 December 2009, the Prime Ministers of the two countries emphasized on the importance of bilateral exchanges at various levels.

Under this recognition, a ‘Study in Japan’ Fair was organized on 11th January 2010 (Monday) at Sadbhavana Bhawan, Daulat Ram College, Delhi University, from 2 pm to 6 pm, in order to strengthen and promote exchange of students between Japanese and Indian educational and technical institutions.

The fair was sponsored by the University of Tokyo, and supported by the Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI), and the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

13 major Japanese universities participated in this event. Many Japanese universities have degree courses which are fully offered in English, and the foreign students can do their Bachelors, Masters, and PhD degree studies without language barriers. The ‘Study in Japan’ Fair provided individual consultations by these Japanese universities in their respective stalls/booths along with face-to-face counselling on all aspects of studying in their institutions.

The ‘Study in Japan’ Fair presented a good opportunity for those seeking higher education in Japan, as comprehensive information on these study opportunities was available at the Fair.

SWYAA-INDIA TAKES PART IN THE PORT OF CALL ACTIVITIES OF 22ND SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH AT CHENNAI

A vibrant and cross-cultural society existed on board the Japanese cruise liner 'Fuji Maru' which docked at the Chennai port from 17th to 19th February 2010. A contingent of 276 youth of twelve countries were part of the 22nd Ship for World Youth Program (SWY 22), sponsored and implemented by the Director General for Policies and Cohesive Society, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. Representatives of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of India (SWYAA-India) welcomed the participating youth (PYs) at Dr. Ambedkar Dock, Port of Chennai, on 17th February 2010.

Earlier, on 22nd January 2010, ship *Fuji Maru* left Yokohama (Japan) with youth from Japan, Australia, Kingdom of Bahrain, Republic of Ecuador, Arab Republic of Egypt, Hellenic Republic (Greece), Republic of Kenya, Sultanate of Oman, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Republic of Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Republic of Yemen, and Republic of India. After cruising around Singapore, Dubai, Chennai and Naha, it returned to Tokyo on 5th March 2010. Twelve youth delegates from India represented India in the SWY 22 program this time.

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

A photo exhibition of the activities of SWYAA-India was displayed on board ship *Fuji Maru* for two days. During the reception on board in the evening, the Consul-General of Japan in Chennai, SWY 22 administrators, and eminent guests viewed this display and highly appreciated the social development initiatives of SWYAA-India under the able leadership of Mrs. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive.

Welcoming the youth delegation, the Consul-General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Kazuo Minagawa, said that the Ship for World Youth initiative was launched by the Government of



Ex-PYs and PYs in the ship

Japan over two decades ago to promote mutual understanding and cultivate friendship between the youth of Japan and other nationalities by spending nearly two months at sea.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. U.K.S. Chauhan (I.A.S), Vice President of SWYAA-India and Secretary, Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of Kerala, thanked the Government of Japan for taking a lead through such a remarkable program for enhancing international cooperation and understanding amongst youth for broadening their global perspective.

Mr. P. Michael Vetha Siromony (I.A.S), Director and Vice Chancellor of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), welcomed the participating youth and introduced RGNIYD as an autonomous organization of the Government of India, which was designated by the Indian Government as the official host of SWY 22 Program.

RGNIYD arranged for the international youth delegates to visit five different institutions, viz., St. George School and Orphanage, MITHRA Rehabilitation Centre, Winners Bakery, Montfort Community Development Society, and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. The participating youth (PYs) were accompanied by Indian Ex-Participants (Ex-PYs) in all their visits, which was of great help in understanding the work and the local culture.

SWYAA-India members accompanied the participating youth and took part in focused group discussions on seven identified themes, viz., Global Warming, Militancy, Gender Equity, Disaster Management, Life Skills, Volunteerism and Yoga for Healthy Life Style, which will be handled by eminent experts in respective fields at the RGNIYD. They also witnessed a cultural program comprising a mix of classical and folk dances, and got a glimpse of the rich Indian heritage. Later, the delegates of the ship visited seven groups for village visits to understand the Indian way of life and local governance.

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

*Ravi Chopra
General Secretary - SWYAA-India*



SWYAA-India representatives welcome the PYs of SWY 22 at Chennai port

ROCKING IN JAPAN

Wow! That was the word that came out from my mouth as I came to know that I was selected for a visit to Japan. A lot of excitement and enthusiasm was flowing in my blood at the prospect of getting an international exposure, and that too in Japan, “the Land of the Rising Sun”. 137 students and Japanese language teachers were selected from all over the country in our group. We were then divided into 6 groups. I was in the Hiroshima group. We reached Japan (Narita airport) Tokyo on 16th June early morning. Ah! I felt the Japanese air in my lungs. Such a clean, crisp, and clear environment! We sat in our bus and reached our hotel after 2 hours. My room was on the 18th floor; the whole of Tokyo could be seen from there.



We made our first official visit to the Indian Embassy, where I was chosen as the group representative. We then went for a tour around the city of Tokyo. We also met a few local teenagers who accompanied us around the shopping areas. The people over there, from the very first impression, seemed to be very helpful and kind hearted.

As I was in the Hiroshima group, I had a chance to go to the historical city of Hiroshima, where I had a wonderful experience of staying with a Japanese family. The family members were very delighted and happy to have me stay with them. They took me around and showed me the whole city. Again, along with my group members, I had a chance to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park where the historical atomic bomb ‘Little Boy’ was dropped. We offered origami cranes, as the crane stands for peace in Japan.

Back in Tokyo, I had a wonderful and spellbinding experience of meeting ‘Asimo’, the Honda robot, at the world’s best science museum. We also visited Komo High School and met Japanese students, and also learned the art of tea ceremony.

Truly speaking, this was a once in a life-time experience for me, and the best tour I ever had. The aim of this programme was to develop better friendship relations between India and Japan.

Abhishek Shandilya- XII

“Good morning, ladies and gentlemen – this is your captain speaking. We are at an altitude of 37000 ft., flying at a speed of 1000 km./hr., heading eastward, bound for Tokyo. “

That’s when I felt a surge of adrenaline rush into me as I sat nibbling on some rice crackers onboard JAL 471. It was hard to realize then, but I had to pinch myself to make sure that I was amongst those lucky few students who were selected under the JENESYS program organized by the Japanese Government, as a cultural and student exchange programme.

We finally landed at Narita Airport in Tokyo on the 16th of June 2009, at 7.30AM. I was a part of the Hiroshima group. After undergoing some security procedures, we headed for the Asakusa View Hotel in Tokyo. The first few days included mostly orientation programmes. We were acquainted with our Japanese coordinators and our other group members.

However, the most exciting moments included our city tour and the water cruise, which gave us glimpses of sky-scraping buildings and much more. Tokyo is a commercial hub, but the organization and discipline of the Japanese is worth admiration, whether it be in public places or in traffic. After taking a brief look at the various secretariat and official buildings, we headed for Hiroshima on 29th June.

Hiroshima is quite different from Tokyo, as it comprises mostly of the countryside except for the main city. It was full of greenery. We went to visit the Hiroshima Peace Park. It was very saddening to see the destruction caused by nuclear bombings. The harmful radiation continues to affect the victims even now. The next day, we visited ‘Takhibara’, a village in Hiroshima which has houses more than 150 years old. We also did some ‘basket weaving’ with bamboo – a skill for which Takhibara is famous.

After exploring ‘Takhibara’ we headed for our family stay, as we had to spend the next two days with a Japanese family in Hiroshima. I lived with the Kodama family which included four members. I had some communication problems, but their caring and understanding nature made me feel very much at home. I learnt a lot of things – such as saying ‘Hadoakimasu’ before meals and ‘Gochiso Samadeshita’ after meals.

After a tearful departure we headed for the ‘Mijajima’ island, famous for its natural scenic beauty. I clicked a lot of photographs there. After meeting students from Kamo Senior High School, we returned to Tokyo on 23rd June. The Tokyo Museum of Science and Innovation was awe-striking. Being a science student, this for me had been the best part of the tour.

Apart from all this, we also had the chance to experience tea ceremony, kimono wearing, origami, and Japanese language class. Japanese people are the epitome of honesty and hard work. I realized this after I got my wallet back, which I had lost, in the police station in Tokyo, with all the money (more than 17000 yen) intact. This is how I understood, how despite being ravaged from WW-II and suffering from many natural disasters, Japan still stands undaunted in the field of technology and power in the world. The Japanese prove it every time by their undoubted qualities.

Putting my pen down, I would just say that I couldn’t have had a better opportunity and platform to experience such a wonderful country.

Finally, after exploring Akihabara, a city in Tokyo, and spending two nights in Tokyo, we bid farewell and returned to Delhi on 26th June.

Kumari Neha – XII

IMPORTANT EMBASSY EVENTS HELD IN THE RECENT PAST

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN EXTENDS US\$750,000 FUND FOR NUTRITION STRATEGY IN MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

New Delhi: 8th March, 2010

With its commitment towards the eradication of global hunger and malnutrition, the Government of Japan decided to allocate US\$ 750,000 to a fast-track nutrition strategy in the state of Madhya Pradesh, in response to a request from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The allocation is made from Japan’s WFP International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR).

The fund extended from Japan to WFP will be used to train local women in rural Madhya Pradesh to deliver improved services, such as vaccination of infants, supplementary nutrition to curb malnutrition, improved school enrolment, sanitation, and hygiene awareness to local communities. The project aims to generate employment opportunities for the community members by building their capacity so that they themselves become agents of change.

The Government of Japan has also implemented “Reproductive Health Project in Madhya Pradesh” since 2007. The two health-related projects are expected to collaborate mutually and contribute to the improvement of the condition of health and nutrition in Madhya Pradesh.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN EXTENDS US\$70,376 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO ‘FOOD FOR LIFE’ FOR IT’S GRASSROOTS PROJECTS

The Embassy of Japan in India, under its scheme ‘Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects’, decided to extend grant assistance totaling US\$70,376 (approximately equivalent to Rs.32 lacs) to **Food for Life**, to support their primary school construction.

Food for Life has been working to provide education for girls at Vrindavan in U.P. since its establishment in 2002. The organization requires the new school building in order to expand the opportunities for girls who are illiterate and living below the poverty line.

The Signing Ceremony to formalize the arrangements took place on 12 March 2010, at the Embassy of Japan, between H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and the representatives of the above NGO.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN EXTENDS US\$86,898 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO ‘STUDENT’S RELIEF SOCIETY’ FOR IT’S GRASSROOTS PROJECTS

The Embassy of Japan in India, under its scheme ‘Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects’, decided to extend grant assistance totaling US\$86,898 (approximately equivalent to Rs.39.5 lacs) to **Student’s Relief Society**, to support their industrial training center construction.

Student’s Relief Society has been working to provide quality education since its establishment in 1987, to promote better conditions of life to the rural and backward minorities at Chittorgarh in Rajasthan. In order to provide vocational training and employment opportunities for young minorities, the organization decided to establish an industrial training center to help remove poverty in the village community.

The Signing Ceremony to formalize the arrangements took place on 12 March 2010, at the Embassy of Japan, between H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and the representatives of the above NGO.

Trends in Japan

Sci-tech

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Turning Thoughts into Pictures

INNOVATIVE PROCESS RECREATES IMAGES FROM INSIDE THE BRAIN



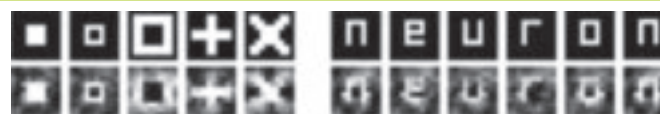
A test subject enters the fMRI machine. (C) ATR



An image from the analysis of blood flow changes. (C) ATR

A group of Japanese researchers led by the Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR) has developed the world's first procedure for recreating images processed by the human eye based on analysis of blood flow inside the brain.

The process developed by the ATR and its research partners involves showing test subjects simple black-and-white images and using data on the blood vessels in the subject's brain to recreate the viewed



The pictures shown to the subject (top row); the images recreated based on blood flow data (bottom row). (C) ATR

image on a ten-by-ten grid of pixels, each of which can be either black, white, or gray. If, for example, a subject is shown a white square centered on a black background, an indistinct yet similar image is recreated on the grid based on the patterns formed by the blood vessels in the subject's brain. This method allows for a wide range of images to be recreated without cataloging numerous images in advance.

The new technique has tremendous potential for applications in fields besides imaging. In the area of brain-computer interface (BCI), for example, it is anticipated that it will help humans manipulate machines and devices using nothing more than their thoughts. It also opens up the possibility that scientists may one day be able to turn our thoughts and dreams into visualized pictures.

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