

Remarks by Ambassador Suzuki at Signing Ceremony for the Conclusion of Joint Research in the field of Earthquake Disaster Prevention between Fujita Corporation and Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

Date: 7 November 2019

Venue: Ambassador's Residence

Dr. Pankaj Agrawal, Head of Department of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee,

Mr. Yoshinori Kumita, Operating Officer and General Manager of Technology Development Division, Fujita Corporation,

Dr. Pradeep Kumar, IAS- Additional Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to both Fujita Corporation and Indian Institute of Technology - Roorkee, upon the successful signing of the Conclusion of Joint Research in the field of Earthquake Disaster Prevention.

As you know very well, the field of Disaster Risk Reduction is increasingly becoming a shining example of Japan-India cooperation. The two countries have held the "Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction" three times, as well as some supplementary meetings already, in just one and a half year. The last

Workshop held in March 2019 focused on three themes: “Collaboration among Research Institutions”; “Collaboration among Cities”; and “Collaboration among Private Companies”. As these themes characterise, disaster risk reduction should be pursued at multiple levels, involving various actors. Covering two of these three themes, the joint research between Fujita Corporation and IIT Roorkee is definitely a valuable step forward in realising a concrete achievement in the cooperation between our two nations.

Both Japan and India are earthquake prone countries. Japan has developed highly advanced technologies and standards through its experience of numerous earthquakes. I am pleased to learn that this joint research is on response control technology, which is aimed at developing a principle of design and construction for earthquake-resilient buildings in India, based on Japan’s experience. I would like to express my sincere respect for the uncompromising efforts of both sides in this regard.

Both Japan and India are committed to effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. In

this context, responding to the proposal of Prime Minister Modi for establishment of “Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure” or “CDRI” in short, Japan has announced its participation in CDRI. Japan-India Cooperation on disaster risk reduction, including this joint research, must be a foundation for CDRI as well.

I hope the forthcoming joint research will achieve significant success and make a positive impact to materialise a disaster resilient society, both in Japan and in India.

Congratulations again. Thank you.