

Remarks by Ambassador Suzuki at The 5th STS Forum INDIA-JAPAN
Workshop (at Sheraton New Delhi, 26th February, 2020)

- Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology,
- Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- Mr. Ichiro Sone, Executive Vice President, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
- H.E. Mr. Kanji Fujiki, Executive Director of Science and Technology in Society Forum (STS Forum)

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

(Introduction)

First of all, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the STS Forum for organizing the 5th INDIA-JAPAN Workshop in Delhi. I would

also like to express my deepest respect for the leading role played by the STS Forum in advancing international dialogue on science and technology.

In recent years, the relationship between India and Japan has enjoyed a rapid and significant expansion. Both countries have been promoting their cooperation in various fields. Science and Technology is one of the most important areas on which both our Prime Ministers place great emphasis.

Prime Minister Modi is keen to promote the use of science and technology to address issues associated with the economic growth of India, such as energy shortage and environmental pollution. On the other hand, Prime Minister Abe is also actively implementing policies to promote science, technology and innovation to tackle social issues, such as Japan's aging society.

(Startup and Innovation)

Strengthening Startup Initiative, the theme of today's workshop, is one of the most highlighted fields of Japan-India science and technology collaboration. We have the responsibility to develop new technologies and promote their practical application and commercialization.

Entrepreneurship helps to deliver the fruits of science and technologies into our daily lives. That is why Japan held match-making events in India, among leading Japanese companies and Indian startups. Apart from this, the Japan-India Startup Hub was established in Bengaluru for promoting information exchange, business collaboration and investment between the two countries. We will continue to advance these efforts.

(Utilizing big data and AI)

Big Data and AI are the fundamental technologies of innovation created by ICT. The benefits of Big Data and AI are now widely visible in our lives through various services. Smartphones, web services, digital payments, and other technologies have quickly transformed the manner we conduct our daily lives. The Internet of Things (IoT) is also increasingly becoming a reality.

Japan and India are already collaborating in several Science & Technology projects in this regard. In recent times, the two countries have established three new joint research laboratories:

- ① One is the research on IoT and mobile Big Data processing by the University of Tokyo and IIT Bombay, on applying new methods to improve reliability, efficiency and design time;
- ② The second is the research on Big Data management and AI by the University of Tokyo and IIT Hyderabad, to support sustainable agricultural production in the semi-arid areas of India; and
- ③ The third is the research on Cyber Security by Kyushu University and IIT Delhi, to build highly safe IoT devices and their communication.

I am pleased to inform you that these projects have been making steady progress over the past three years.

(Closing)

Science and technology is where we can effectively combine the strengths of Japan and India, because our strengths lie in the talents of our people. The value of this workshop is demonstrated not only in the rich contents it is going to cover, but also in the exchange of ideas, as well as fostering of new and old connections between our people.

I would once again like to thank the STS Forum for providing an invaluable opportunity for such interaction, and wish you all a most successful workshop.

Thank you very much.