

Remarks by Ambassador Suzuki at the Workshop on Enabling  
Procedures for Increase of Steel Usage for the Growth of Economy,  
in Bhubaneswar on February 28, 2020

Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon. Minister of Steel and Minister of  
Petroleum, Natural Gas,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here in Odisha, a steel-producing powerhouse with rich mineral resources. Holding a workshop here on enabling procedures for increase of steel usage for the growth of economy is simply a natural consequence for us.

This workshop is being held with the kind cooperation of the Ministry of Steel. It aims at not only stimulating the domestic steel demand but also further strengthening the competitiveness of Indian steel industry, by sharing Japan's experience and expertise.

At today's workshop, experts from Japan will be sharing with you their knowledge about the constructional technology of steel structures. They will also touch upon various advantages of using steel structures, including enhancing resistance against fire, harsh weather and seismic activity. I hope the knowledge and experience shared at this workshop will contribute to improving the quality of steel products and also to creating further demand for steel structures in India.

India and Japan are strengthening their cooperative relationship in the area of steel through various opportunities. Japan and India

have been following long-term contracts for iron ore exports for over 50 years now. I must mention that the iron ore exports from India significantly helped Japan in revitalizing its economy after the devastation of WW II . Japanese people have never forgotten India's kind support to us. The long-term contract has become a symbol of the strong and stable partnership between our two countries.

Now India has become the second largest steel producer in the world, and the demand for steel in India is on an expanding trend.

Responding to the increasing demand, the Government of India has taken various steps to increase domestic steel production capacity. In the National Steel Policy 2017, the Government of India set a target to increase crude steel production capacity to 300 million tons by 2030.

Under such encouraging circumstances, Japanese steel makers are getting increasingly motivated to actively collaborate with India. For example, JFE Steel has invested in JSW; Nippon Steel has established a joint venture with Tata Steel; and recently (on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019) acquired Essar Steel in collaboration with Arcelor Mittal. This investment is the largest ever for a Japanese company to invest in India

Moreover, TRL Kurosaki Refractories Limited, which is a subsidiary of Japanese company Kurosaki Harima, has set up a factory in Odisha to manufacture and supply firebricks, primary to steel makers.

Such a move is expected to contribute to the further development of

the steel industry in both India and Japan. I would like to work vigorously on channelizing further investment in this sector from Japan.

As major steel producers, it is vital for us to jointly work to stabilize the world steel market.

In this regard, I am pleased to note that Japan and India are working on launching a “India-Japan Steel Dialogue” to discuss methods for sustainable growth in the steel sector. We are expecting to hold the first round of the dialogue early this year.

Let me conclude by expressing my best wishes to all the participants for the success of their future activities.

Thank you so much for your kind attention.