

Opening Remarks by Ambassador Suzuki at Suzuki JEC  
on 3 March, 2020

Distinguished Guests

Prof. P. S. Robi, Deputy Director, IIT Guwahati

Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa, Managing Director, Maruti Suzuki

Prof. Ashok Kumar Chawla, Advisor (Japan), MEA

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour and pleasure to join you at the opening ceremony of Suzuki Japanese Endowed Courses today. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of you.

Japan-India relations have never been stronger before than they are now. The foundation for this solid relationship, indeed, lies in the vigorous economic activities led by the private sectors of our two countries. Japan is the largest investor for India among the major developed countries. In the last five years, the amount of total investment from Japan in India has exceeded USD 10 billion.

IIT Guwahati is one of the finest universities in India, blessed with a spacious campus and excellent facilities for conducting research. I am therefore delighted to see the setting up of a new JEC here in IIT Guwahati, in collaboration with three Japanese partners, Maruti Suzuki, Suzuki Motor Corporation and AOTS (The Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships). I believe these three are the best partners the

Japanese side can offer. I hope the synergy among these partners will help create future engineers to lead India's manufacturing sector and to build new bridges of friendship between India and Japan.

JEC is one of the most important pillars of the India-Japan partnership for skill development. In the last one year, Nitta Gelatin & Frasco JEC, as well as Panasonic India JEC have been added to the growing tally, along with this Suzuki JEC. More than one thousand students have so far successfully completed the JEC program since 2017 all over India. I am confident that participants of these programs, who gain first-hand experience at each of these facilities, will eventually go on to become the backbone of and active player for PM Modi's 'Skill India' and 'Make in India' initiatives in the years to come.

Japan attaches a great importance to enhancing people's skills in India, in particular, among the youth. These youngsters will eventually shape our future, and there can be nothing more rewarding than investing in them. I hope this new JEC will help further deepening of the India-Japan partnership for skill development, and foster an even closer relationship between us. I would like to conclude my remarks by offering my best wishes for the great success of this enterprise. Thank you.