

Personal history and accomplishments of Mr. TKA Nair, Former Advisor to Prime Minister of India

Decoration : The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

Services: Contributed to the enhancement of relations and the promotion of friendship between Japan and India

He was born in 1939 in the state of Kerala, India and joined Indian Administrative Service in 1963 as Punjab Cadre. He was Advisor to Prime Minister of India from March 2011 to May 2014, following the long tenure of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India from May 2004. He was also the Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board, Government of India, from 1999 to 2004 and Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, from 1995 to 1996.

Working under former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh as his Principal Secretary and later as Advisor, he has contributed to further developing Japan-India bilateral relations. The framework of annual summit meetings has been introduced between our two countries since 2005, and Mr. Nair helped to realize this framework. Annual summit meetings are the driving force to extend cooperation between Japan and India in a wide variety of areas such as political and economic affairs as well as security and science and technology.

Mr. Nair played an important role particularly in the area of trade, commerce and infrastructure development. He has been involved in flagship projects of Japan-India cooperation, such as Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor and in periodically monitoring their progress for further development, in association with the Embassy of Japan, Ministries of Government of India, the State Governments concerned and other stakeholders. He has also played an important role in solving the problems that Japanese companies faced when they established their business in India.

In addition, Mr. Nair facilitated the conclusion of the negotiations on Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). He also strongly promoted Japan-India cooperation toward Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur (IIITDM-J) and Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H), and helped them become the centres of excellence for academic and educational exchanges between our two nations.

Personal history and accomplishments of Professor C.N.R. Rao, Honorary President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru

Decoration : The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

Services: Contributed to promoting academic interchange and mutual understanding in science and technology between Japan and India

Professor Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra (C.N.R.) Rao is one of the most prominent scientists specialising in chemical sciences in the world as well as in India. In 2014, he was awarded Bharat Rhatna, the highest civilian award of India.

Professor Rao had conducted activities related to education and research in a number of India's representative institutes such as IISc and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT Kanpur). He served as the Director of IISc for 11 years from 1984 to 1994. After the inception of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore (JNC) in 1989, he had been President of JNC until 1999 for 11 years. He is now Linus Pauling Research Professor and Honorary President of JNC and continuing his research activities.

Due to his exceptional achievements in the field of science and technology, he was granted fellowships from reputed foreign academies like the Royal Society, the National Academy of Sciences (United States of America) and the Japan Academy. Besides, he has been engaged in formulating India's science and technology policy, for example, through chairing the Scientific Advisory Committee to Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014.

Professor Rao has also been devoting himself to the development of Japan-India relationship in the field of science and technology. For 17 years from 1993 to 2009, he served as co-chairman of Japan-India Science Council which is co-organised by Japan Science Promotion Society and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The establishment of 'India Beam Line' at Photon Factory, High Energy Accelerator Organisation (KEK) in Tsukuba, Japan, which was proposed by the Council in 2007 under the co-chairmanship of Professor Rao, is one of the representative achievements in Japan-India science and technology cooperation.

In addition, he promoted cooperation between India's prominent research institutes such as IISC and JNC and Japan's outstanding research institutes such as National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN), National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), and contributed to promote youth exchange in the field of science and technology.

Personal history and accomplishments of Mr. Nikunj Parekh, President, Indo-Japanese Association, Mumbai

Decoration : The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

Services: Contributed to promoting and presenting Japanese Culture in India

Mr. Nikunj Parekh, as Co-founder and Director of Bonsai Study Group, Indo-Japanese Association, Mumbai has actively promoted Bonsai for more than thirty years. Mr. Parekh is the founder of Bonsai Friendship Federation of India (1989) and the Frangipani Friendship Group (2009). From the year 2000, Mr. Parekh has been a Director of the Bonsai Clubs International of U.S.A. He is also a Board Member of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation since 1989.

Mr. Nikunj Parekh has taught over 3000 students in India, East Africa, Hong Kong, U.K., U.S.A., and Sri Lanka. He has conducted large number of workshops and demonstrations and held many exhibitions of Bonsai. In 1985, he started NICHIN BONSAI magazine to educate people on Bonsai techniques and has co-authored the books such as the 'Wonderworld of Tropical Bonsai' and the 'Wonderworld of Bonsai & Saikei'.

From 1982, Mr. Nikunj Parekh has held several key positions with the Indo-Japanese Association, Mumbai such as General Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and Senior Vice-President. Mr. Parekh has been a 'Bridge of Friendship' between India and Japan over the last three decades. He is now the President of 60 years old, The Indo-Japanese Association, Mumbai.