

Personal history and accomplishments of Mr. Aftab Seth, Former Ambassador of India to Japan

Decoration : Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun

Services: Contributed to promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and India

Mr. Aftab Seth, who had visited Japan as an exchange student to Keio University, entered the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA) in 1968, and was posted in Japan as Ambassador of India from 2000 to 2003. He contributed to developing Japan-India relations and promoting friendly ties between the two countries by making efforts to strengthen “Global Partnership between Japan and India”, which was established at the time of Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Mori’s visit to India in August 2000, and exerting himself to realize the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Vajpayee’s visit to Japan in December 2001.

After retiring from the MEA, he served as Professor and the first Director of the Global Security Research Institute, as well as Chairman of the International Advisory Committee of Keio University. He engaged in promoting academic exchanges between Japan and India by vigorously driving forward cooperation in the field of information and scientific technology with the Indian Government and the highest education institutes in India such as University of Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology. Recently, he has been providing guidance to the Japanese institutes of higher education that operate in India through the “Project for Establishing University Network for Internationalization (Global 30)” and actively playing a facilitating role in consultations with their counterparts in India and thus contributing to expanding their international network.

He has contributed to the enhancement of understanding of Japan in India, through dissemination of information on Japan at various seminars and prominent forums, which were organized by higher education institutes and private think tanks under the theme aimed at developing Japan-India relations. Furthermore, he founded the Japan-India Partnership Forum with a view to promoting mutual understanding between the two nations through organizing intellectual forums.

Currently, as Vice President of Global Schools Foundation and Chairman of Global Indian International Schools Japan, and Visiting Professor of Business Breakthrough University Tokyo, etc., he is engaged in promoting mutual exchanges and understanding between Japan and India.

Personal history and accomplishments of Mr. Brij Mohan Tankha, Former Professor of Delhi University

Decoration : The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon
Services: Contributed to the promotion of Japanese studies in India
and academic exchanges between Japan and India

Prof. Brij Mohan Tankha graduated from Delhi University in 1968 and became a Lecturer there in 1978. He became a Reader/Associate Professor in 1996, and subsequently attained full Professorship of Delhi University in 1999. From 1997 to 2000, he also served as the Head of Department of Chinese & Japanese Studies (which was later renamed as the Department of East Asian Studies). He received the Foreign Minister's Commendation in 2001.

Prof. Tankha has made significant contributions to the development of Japanese studies at Delhi University and in India as a whole through his research articles, lectures, and publications. His publications extend from politics and security to culture and history of Japan, and his extensive knowledge has been highly appreciated by various circles, including experts in Japan and India. At Delhi University, he, in his capacity as a professor of Modern Japanese History, has also dedicated himself to training the young students in their research.

Prof. Tankha has also made a significant achievement in enhancing understanding of Japan in and out of India through his vigorous contributions to major newspapers and magazines about Japanese politics, culture and society, and through his presentations at academic conferences and universities in India and abroad.

Prof. Tankha has also served as a visiting professor in many Japanese universities. During these assignments, he not only gave guidance to youth who would engage in Japan-India relations in future, but also acted as a bridge for enhancing academic and intellectual exchanges between Japan and India.

Prof. Tankha has been extending cooperation to the activities of the Embassy of Japan in India by providing guidance to the Embassy on the situation of Japanese studies in India, as well as on the status of academic exchanges between the two countries and by participating in Embassy events. He has also contributed to activities of the Japan Foundation, New Delhi, by actively participating in their programmes. He was once dispatched, as a Japan Foundation Fellow, to a Japanese university as a Visiting Professor and has also delivered lectures in the seminars organized by the Japan Foundation.

Personal history and accomplishments of Dr. Sarita Nagpal, Former Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

Decoration : The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette
Services: Contributed to disseminating Japanese culture of manufacturing in India as well as strengthening the economic relations and promoting mutual understanding between Japan and India

Dr. Sarita Nagpal joined the Confederation of Indian industry (CII) in 1989, after working as a college lecturer. Even after she retired from the post of Deputy Director General, CII in October 2012, she still works as Principal Adviser to CII. She is also on the Board of Central Manufacturing Technology Institute.

In CII, she has been consistently engaged in works related to quality management, and assiduously organized activities to introduce and disseminate new Japanese management techniques. In 1992, she undertook training in the total quality management (TQM) by the Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers (JUSE) in Japan, and has since promoted the introduction and dissemination activities of TQM to Indian companies. This led to the winning by a number of Indian companies of the Deming prize from JUSE, one of the highest award in the world on TQM.

In addition, she played a key role in launching and implementing the "Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing (VLFM)" project, which was initiated under the framework established by the Joint Statement of the Japan-India summit meeting in 2006. She has dedicated herself to training current and potential top management people in Indian industry, who will value relationship with Japan. In the successor project of VLFM, being in place now, the number of Indian participants is constantly increasing.

Dr. Sarita Nagpal has been engaged in disseminating Japanese management philosophy and techniques in India for many years, contributing greatly to promoting Japanese culture of manufacturing in India as well as strengthening economic relations and promoting mutual understanding between Japan and India. A bulk of Indian companies which acquired Japanese way of management are suppliers of parts to the Japanese manufacturing industry, rendering strong support to the robust activities of Japanese companies in India.