

日本食の夕べ 2020 鈴木大使 ご挨拶案
(2020年2月5日(水) 19:00～於：公邸)

(Opening)

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for joining me this evening to spread the charm of Japanese cuisine in India through “An Evening with Japanese Food 2020”.

(Importance of spreading Japanese food in India)

The Embassy of Japan in India has recently been hosting a series of events to promote Japanese food and sake.

Through these efforts, the awareness of Japanese food among Indian people is gradually increasing. But we would like more Indian people to taste Japanese food and become big fans of Japanese cuisine.

As today's highlight, I am pleased to have **Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador, Chef Ogawa Hiroto**shi, and **Indian MasterChef, Chef Pankaj Bhadouria**.

Today, Chef Ogawa will make sushi by using fish imported from Japan. In 2018, Japan and India agreed on the sanitary certificate of fish imported from Japan into India. I am very happy to tell you that, today's fish is very special, because it is not frozen but completely fresh. It was exported from Japan to India only yesterday.

This fish was exported by J's cooperation from Toyama prefecture, Japan. They have their booth here today and are going to serve fresh sashimi and fried prawns. They are exporting fresh fish from Japan to India by air. Therefore, you can enjoy having fresh Japanese sushi in India by using their services now.

Chef Pankaj is particularly going to serve a special salad using Japanese apples. We had been negotiating with the Indian authorities on the export of Japanese apples for a decade, and finally, **last December, the Indian government approved a trial shipment of Japanese apples into India. Today will be the first day for us to be able to enjoy Japanese apples here in India.** Please visit the booth for Japanese apples and enjoy the taste of fresh Japanese apples also.

In addition, Japanese chain restaurants are coming into India. **The biggest curry restaurant in Japan, "Coco Ichibanya", and a Japanese style BBQ restaurant, "Pepper Lunch", are offering their dishes exclusively for tonight, before their official launch in India.**

Lastly but not in the least, in order to promote Japanese agricultural and food products and Japanese cuisine around the world, the Japanese government is certifying **"Japanese Food Supporters"**. Today, I am happy to announce that **we have certified four new outlets, which are exhibiting their food tonight.**

In 2017, we had only one certified “Japanese Food Supporter”, but as of today, its number has reached 40. Please enjoy the food served by these four new supporters, and of course, please also enjoy the other supporters’ food. We have already circulated to you the list of the supporters today.

(Closing)

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope you will enjoy relishing the variety of Japanese food served tonight, and cultivate an interest in Japanese agricultural products, Japanese food and Japanese food culture.

We are very optimistic that these activities will help us to popularise Japanese food in India, besides further promoting Japan-India interaction through our food cultures.

Thank you very much.