

Remarks by H.E. SUZUKI Satoshi, Ambassador of Japan to India,
on the occasion of
the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)
on a Basic Framework for Partnership for Proper Operation of
the System pertaining to “Specified Skilled Worker”

18th January, 2021

Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary,

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to be able to sign the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on Specified Skilled Worker with Foreign Secretary Shringla today. I would like to thank you all for joining your forces to make this happen.

“Specified Skilled Worker” was established in 2019 to allow foreign nationals who have a certain level of expertise and skills to work in Japan. With the MOC we are going to sign today, new opportunities will be open for Indian nationals to get employment in Japan.

We would like to implement this scheme smoothly so that Indian people can shine in Japan. For that end, we are signing the MOC

- to establish an effective cooperation mechanism for information sharing between the two Governments, and
- to have a channel for solving any cases which may occur.

As you know, there is another scheme called Technical Intern Training Program (TITP). Under TITP, Indian nationals are already receiving training while working in Japan. The number of TITP trainees is steadily rising, though COVID-19 caused a temporary lag.

The system of Specified Skilled Worker adds to this good trend. This new scheme is not for training but enable qualified Indian nationals to work in Japan under the same conditions as Japanese people who are doing the same job.

In this regard, Japanese language proficiency is essential; and we hope, with the introduction of Specified Skilled Worker, Japanese language studies in India will also be spurred.

I hope many Indian people will make the most out of the programs of Specified Skilled Worker and TITP. These programs are great additions to our people-to-people exchanges and thereby will further enrich the already excellent bilateral relationship between Japan and India.

As the next step, the Governments of Japan and India are going to hold in-depth discussions to ensure a smooth and proper sending of Specified Skilled Workers. I would like to conclude by expressing our commitment to work ever more closely together to make the relationship between Japan and India even stronger.

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