

【Ambassador Suzuki】

Upon the conferral of Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, I extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Rohit Relan. The Decoration conferred upon Mr. Relan is in recognition of his enduring contribution to promoting economic exchanges between Japan and India.

Mr. Relan has been earnestly dedicating himself to an even more profound economic relations between our two countries as Co-Chair of the FICCI Indo-Japan Business Cooperation Committee (IJBCC), and as Chairman and MD of Bharat Seats Ltd. He has been a driving force in encouraging and assisting Japanese companies to invest in India, while helping and cooperating with Japanese companies that were already based here. Thanks to his efforts, the Japan-India economic relationship has become deeper than ever.

I would especially like to highlight his role as Co-Chair of the IJBCC. The IJBCC has been gathering business executives of Japan and India every time the Prime Ministers of Japan and India made their annual mutual visits. On these significant occasions, as Co-Chair since 2012, Mr. Relan has led the discussions held among those business executives, and submitted to both Governments reports with proposals for a further way forward to strengthen the Japan-India economic relationship. During his tenure as Co-Chair, our economic partnership has grown stronger and the number of Japanese companies operating in India has increased by 500.

It is also important to mention his work in the area of people-to-people exchanges. As a member of the Executive Committee of India Japan Friendship Forum, Mr. Relan has been actively promoting people-to-people exchanges and mutual understanding between our two countries.

I would once again like to express my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Relan, and look forward to working closely with him in the future.

【Mr. Rohit Relan】

I am both honored and humbled by this recognition and accept the prestigious Japanese decoration -“ The Order of the Rising Sun , Gold Rays with Rosette. I am proud to say that I have a long relationship with Japan both in my work as well as have very good friends in Japan.

I have been fortunate and had the honor to have met with Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and the Empress Emerita of Japan in 2013, then Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress .and the former Prime Minister of Japan – Mr. Shinzo Abe.

Japan and India are fellow democracies and are working jointly in various areas such as infrastructure, transport, smart cities, manufacturing and clean energy. I look forward to contributing and adding value to strengthening our relationship for mutual benefit.