

【Ambassador Suzuki】

Upon the conferral of Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, I express my heartfelt congratulations to Professor Anita Khanna. The Decoration bestowed upon Professor Khanna is in recognition of her distinguished contributions to developing Japanese language education in India and promoting mutual understanding between Japan and India.

Professor Khanna has been dedicating herself to the Japanese language education as an educator at Jawaharlal Nehru University for over 30 years, and as a founding member of Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI) and Japanese Language Teachers Association of India (JALTAI). Her various activities enhanced the development of the Japanese language education, and encouraged interactions among the younger generation of the two countries.

Another important area of Professor Khanna's work to be highlighted is the promotion of mutual understanding. Her research in Japanese literature and comparative study on literatures of Japan and India cultivated academic interaction between our countries. She also contributed to the mutual understanding among broad range of people in both countries through translation of children's books in India and Japanese literatures.

Furthermore, Professor Khanna offered tremendous support for welcoming Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita at JNU during their visit to India in 2013.

I would once again like to extend my warmest congratulations to Professor Khanna for her significant contributions to deepening the Japan-India relations.

【Professor Anita Khanna】

I am humbled to be bestowed the Decoration, “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.”

I am grateful to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and Government of Japan for recognition of my contribution in furthering the Indo-Japanese Relations through Academics.

When I began to study Japanese Language there was dearth of Indians opting to study Japanese as a foreign language and today we know that learning Japanese language is one of the most sought after option among the Indian students. We have indeed come a long way in building a strong bond between the two countries in diverse fields especially academics.

My research work on Japan started with children folk literature upon noticing striking similarities and common folk themes that eventually resulted in my discovery of Japanese classic, “Konjaku monogatari shu” 『今昔物語集』 which is a glaring but rare example of the confluence of our two cultures facilitated by the philosophy of Buddha. In this store house of information I could trace the diversity of this confluence be it folk themes, literary themes, personalities, locales etc.

I had been fortunate to be guided by reputed scholars to further my study and research in this unfathomable field. I am truly grateful to them.

In my teaching career spanning three decades, in post graduate classes while teaching advance Japanese I made sure to take my students to higher level of awareness of this aspect of Indo-Japanese cultural relations so that in their course of higher studies and research in this field, they could discover and gather more pearls of commonalities.

This will not only enhance and energize our academic scholarship but shall also prove to be a valuable cultural asset in the fast changing dynamics of today.