

【Ambassador's remarks】

I have the distinct honour and privilege to celebrate with you the conferral of Foreign Minister's Commendation upon Confederation of Indian Industry, CII. It gives me great joy to see that the contribution and efforts of CII are complimented in the form of this Commendation by our Minister. The Commendation today is in recognition of CII's enduring contribution towards strengthening the economic relationship between Japan and India.

CII celebrated 125 years of dedication to the development of India last year. CII's cooperative relationship with Keidanren goes back more than a quarter century, when they hosted a Keidanren delegation to India in 1995. Since 2007, they have co-hosted the Japan-India Business Leaders Forum (BLF) on the occasion of our Prime Ministers' mutual visits, which have contributed enormously to enhancing the level of commitment from business leaders from both sides.

CII has also contributed to the important work of increasing people-to-people exchange between our countries. For example, they have been working with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation to send Indian Parliamentarians to Japan. Lastly, it would be remiss if we forgot to mention CII's contribution to developing human resources for the manufacturing sector as well as the logistics sector in partnership with various Japanese organizations.

The relationship between Japan and India is one of a kind. And as we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic relations next year, I firmly believe that we will be working even more closely with CII to make the upcoming year a meaningful one. In fact, CII's contribution to our economic relationship will only continue to grow in the future, and will become much more important than it is now to every stakeholder from both countries.

Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, in celebration of your achievement, I would like to request everyone present here today to kindly join me in giving a big round of applause. Congratulations, CII!