

Remarks by Ambassador SUZUKI Satoshi  
on the Book Launch of “India- Japan relations @ 70:  
Building Beyond the Bilateral”  
(April 29, 2022)

H.E. Mr. Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary and Life  
Member Trustee, India International Center,  
H.E. Mrs. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Former Ambassador of India  
to Japan and Chairperson of India Japan Friendship Forum,  
Professor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Vice Chancellor,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU),  
Dr. Srabani Roy Choudhury, Professor of Japanese Studies and  
Centre Chair, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of  
International Studies, JNU,  
Mr. Koji Sato, Director General, Japan Foundation New Delhi,  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaskar and good evening.

I am deeply delighted and honoured to join today the Book  
Launch of “India- Japan relations @ 70: Building Beyond the  
Bilateral”, edited by Professor Srabani Roy Choudhury, Dr.  
Shahana Thankachan and Ms. Parul Bakshi.

It is truly significant that Professor Roy Choudhury along  
with ten young scholars of Japanese studies published these  
outstanding works of research on India-Japan relations at a time  
when we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the  
establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.

The Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU, is the leading department that has contributed to outstanding academic researches on the Japan and other East Asian regions. The Japanese division of the Centre has produced innumerable eminent scholars who are making significant contributions to India-Japan relations today. It is very encouraging to see that the senior professors are nurturing this young generation of scholars with excellent talent and intellectual capacity, while preparing them for the pivotal role of promoting academic exchanges between India and Japan in the coming decades.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have witnessed the very successful official visit of Prime Minister Kishida to India on March 19. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to review bilateral cooperation in wide-ranging areas, to chart the future course of our Special Strategic and Global Partnership and to reaffirm our strong commitment for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, free from coercion.

As Professor Roy Choudhury emphasises in this book, our long-lasting relationship needs to explore new frontiers to promote bilateral and plurilateral partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region, including COVID-19 vaccines, critical and emerging technologies, climate action, infrastructure coordination, cybersecurity, space and education. At the Summit Meeting, the two leaders renewed their commitment to delivering tangible outcomes on the Quad's positive and constructive agenda. On this note, I am pleased to announce that we have provided vaccines produced in India to Cambodia and Thailand under the QUAD's cooperation this month.

Our mantra for celebrating the 70th anniversary is

“Building a future for our Centenary”. The message is to create our future together and propel ourselves towards the 100th anniversary landmark and beyond. I strongly believe that the future offers enormous possibilities for our partnership and we firmly resolve to continue supporting our young scholars of Japanese studies.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of you success and prosperity.

Thank you so much. Dhanyavaad.