

Address by Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki
on signing of collaboration agreement between Delhi
Board of School Education (DBSE) and the Japan
Foundation New Delhi
(July 14, 2022)

Mr. Manish Sisodia, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister &
President of Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE)

Mr. Ashok Kumar, Secretary and Vice President of Delhi
Board of School Education (DBSE)

Mr. Himanshu Gupta, Director & Chairperson Executive
Committee of Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE)

Mr. Koji Sato, Director General, the Japan Foundation
New Delhi

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

[Introduction]

Thank you very much for kind introduction.

It is my pleasure to join you at the ceremony for signing
of collaboration agreement between Delhi Board of School
Education and the Japan Foundation New Delhi.

I am very grateful to the DBSE for its decision to offer
Japanese language courses to the students in many
schools run by the DBSE in Delhi, with the support of the
Japan Foundation under this MOU.

By enabling students to gain proficiency in Japanese
language, I am sure that they will widen their future
options such as pursuing higher education in Japan, and

by learning a new language, they will be encouraged to widen their knowledge about other peoples in different countries as well.

[Japan-India Relations]

The importance of Japan-India relations has been consistently increasing.

On 24 May, The Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Kishida held the Summit Meeting in Tokyo.

The two leaders shared a view that it is important for the like-minded countries to work more closely to continue our efforts to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

The two leaders also agreed that we should give more emphasis on the promotion of people-to-people exchanges and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Human interaction is always indispensable in enhancing relations, as is shown in the recent reciprocal visits of the Japanese and Indian prime ministers to each capital this year.

I believe that deeper mutual understanding of each other is a key to build stronger foundation of our bilateral relations. To achieve this, it is crucial to be able to communicate in each other's language and to understand each other's culture and history.

I therefore sincerely hope that the DBSE students with good proficiency in Japanese will become key players in the further advancement of Japan-India relations.

[Support from the JF and the Embassy]

In order to revitalize people-to-people exchanges between Japan and India, we hope that the DBSE students will not only learn Japanese, but also learn about Japan and most importantly have the opportunity to interact with their counterparts in Japan.

Based on this MoU, the Japan Foundation will offer support such as assistance in recruiting Japanese language teachers, training teachers, and providing expert advice for curriculum and course programs.

The Japanese Embassy would like to consider how it is possible to meet the request we received from the DBSE' and provide necessary support to them to organize student and teacher exchanges with Japanese schools.

I think that this can be achieved by introducing Japanese schools to the DBSE schools in order to carry out school-to-school exchanges between them, to share information on study opportunities in Japan, and to offer opportunities for the DBSE teachers to receive long-term training at Japanese universities.

These are some of the ways we are now considering to help DBSE achieve their goals necessary to provide quality education to their students.

[Closing]

I am convinced that for the DBSE students, the opportunity to learn Japanese, to learn about Japan, and to interact with Japanese students will be very

meaningful for their future career development and for further advancing Japan-India relations.

I sincerely hope that this MoU will mark the beginning of a brighter future for the DBSE and will play as a catalyst for much wider Japan-India relations.

Thank you very much.