SAHYOG
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JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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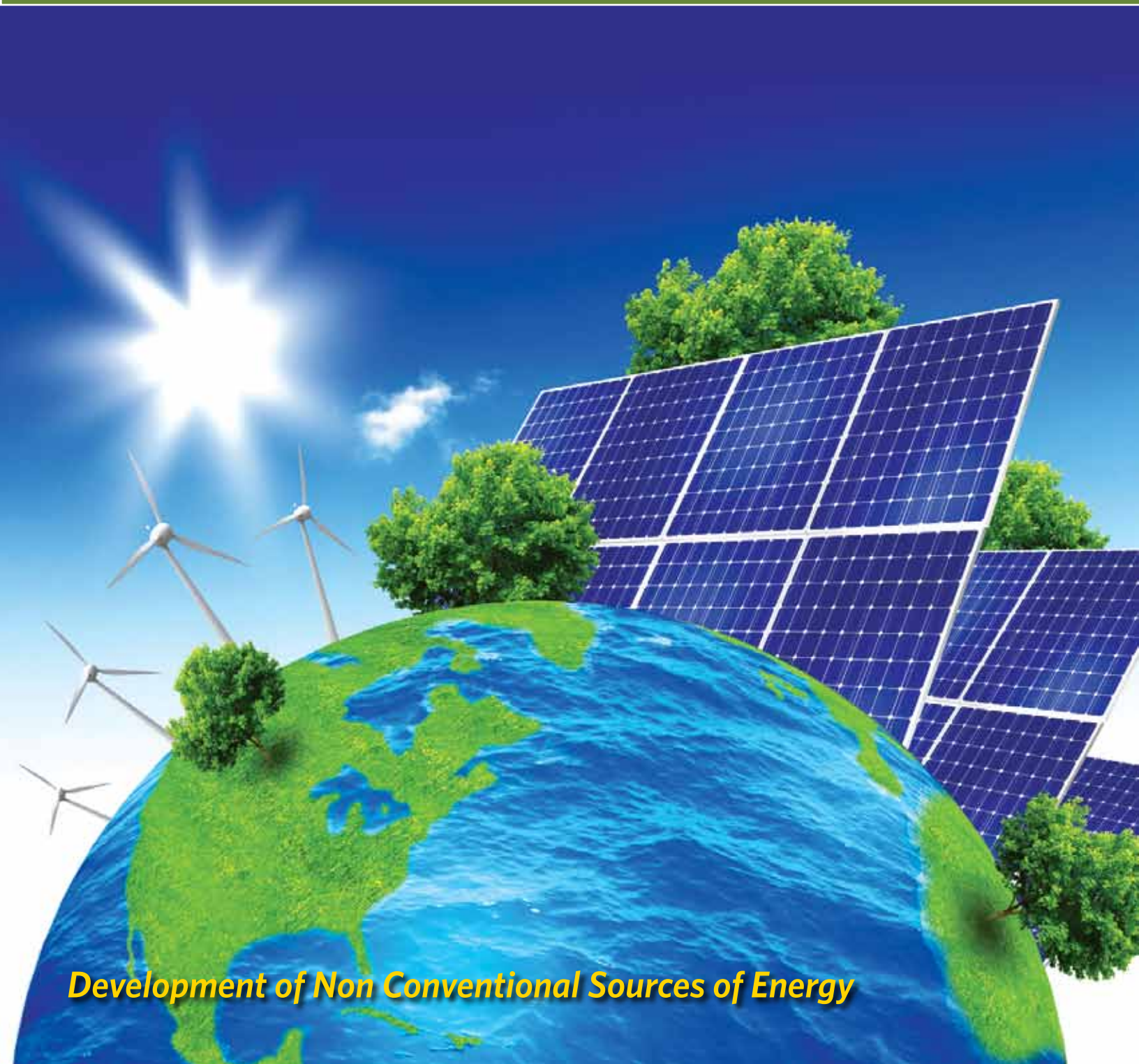

Development of Non Conventional Sources of Energy

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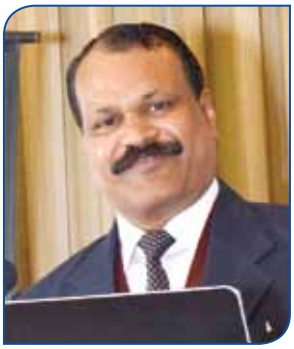

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It is my great pleasure to extend this message of felicitations to all readers of"Sahyog"magazine,published bythe JICAAlumni Association of India (JAAI). Since the assumption of my office as Japanese Ambassador to India in November last year, I have been in touch with a great number of different organisations, entities, group, etc., which have been contributingtowards the enhancement of relations between Japan and India, and I am glad to know that the JAAI is one of the pioneers of such organisaitons. My heartfelt appreciation goes to the JAAI, which has supported former Indian participants of different JICA training programmesover the last 45 years, to nurture and maintain their close relations with Japan.

In December 2015, the Prime Minister of Japan, H. E. Shinzo Abe made a historic visit to India, which opened and heralded a new era in Japan-India relations. In "Japan and India Vision 2025 -Special Strategic and Global Partnership- Working Together for Peace and Prosperity of the Indo-Pacific Region and the World" issued by the two leaders,they resolved to transform the existing partnership into a deep, broad-based and action-oriented partnership. While commending the efforts by various sectors of both countries, they also recognisedthe invaluable role played by JICA's ODA in broadening, deepening and strengthening bilateral relations.

Also in the Vision, Prime Minister Modi's strong initiatives such as "Make in India", "Digital India", "Skill India", "Clean India", and "Smart City" are commended, and Prime Minister Abe also expressed Japan's intention to support India's efforts by sharing its advanced skills and technologies and through active mobilization of Japanese public and private activities, including ODA. Needless to say, Japan's technical cooperation has been playing and will play pivotal roles in this context.

In February 2015, the Government of Japan adopted "Development Cooperation Charter", which underscores the importance of infrastructure development, one of the key areas for Japan's cooperation with India. Thiswill not be limited to constructing physical infrastructure and also tries to address the non-physical aspectsthat encompass developing systems for operating and maintaining such infrastructure as well as human resource developmentand institution building. In this regard, I would like to encourage the JAAI members to keep constituting an important part of our efforts to focus on human resource development.

In conclusion, I would like to express my best wishes to all member of JAAIfor their promising bright future, and hope that JAAI would continue to play its significant part in boosting the economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties between our two countries.

Kenji Hiramatsu
Ambassador of Japan to India

MESSAGE

Dear Readers

I am happy to know that JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) is bringing out its 17th Annual Issue of magazine 'SAHYOG'. On this occasion, I extend my heartiest congratulations and good wishes to JAAI members, to all ex-participants of JICA and also to those presently undergoing training in Japan.

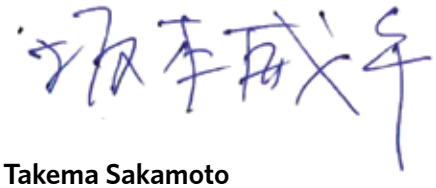
I understand that JAAI was established way back in 1968 by a few JICA ex-participants, with the principal objective of establishing personal linkage on a long term footing to foster Indo-Japanese friendship. A number of measures initiated by JAAI have translated into its present growth and strength. Presently, JAAI comprises of over 1000 members, many of them are active life members. I sincerely hope that many more members can be added to the JAAI family, because I believe JAAI is n incomparable valuable asset of JICA in which ex-participants can contribute to the activities of JICA by sharing their knowledge and experience gained in Japan.

Apart from its contribution to promote interaction with JICA participants, JAAI has an important role to play in promoting the friendship between our two countries. In this direction, JAAI has taken a number of measures to deepen mutual understanding and to promote friendship between the two countries by organizing field-wise activities such as environmental awareness program for school children, program with special children, technical seminars as well as cultural programs like Yukata (Japanese summer dress) wearing ceremony and updating its website. We are also thankful to JAAI for supporting our Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program for facilitating home stay to enable the JOCV to acquaint themselves with Indian culture and family relations.

On this occasion, I along with my colleagues extend our warmest welcome to

Dr. O P Dewal, the newly elected President of JAAI and the other officer bearers of the executive committee. We also welcome the JICA participants and humbly request them to continue to contribute to the task of experience-sharing and friendship-building.

I wish JAAI every success in all its future endeavours.



Takema Sakamoto
Chief Representative
JICA India Office

Dear Readers,

It is an immense pleasure and honorto present to you the 17th edition of the annual JICA Alumni Association magazine 'Sahyog'. Since its inception JAAI has been playing a significant role in helping the two nations of India and Japan strengthen their friendship and co-operation, and it's a humbling experience to be a part of its rich long history.

As one of the oldest JICA Alumini organizations, JAAI has become a great community to connect people who have been a part of JICA training programs. Our community has been one of learning and growth, and is a hallmark of mutual co-operation.

This year the tenure of His Excellency Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India, as well as tenure of Mr. Shinya Ejoma, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, got over. We thank the former Ambassador as well as the former Chief Representative for their service and support toward progressing India-Japanese co-operation, and at the same time extend a warm welcome to the new Ambassador to India His Excellency Kenji Hiramatsuand the new Chief Representative of JICA Mr. Takema Sakamoto. We are excited about working with them and continuing the good work we do here at JICA and JAAI.

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), a leader in best city municipal practices in not only Delhi but whole India, also got the opportunity to extend Indo-Japanese co-operation. To advance the goal of the Swachh Bharat Mission, NDMC sent a team of ground level workers to Tokyo to learn from the cleanliness practices being followed by the Japanese Society. This provided motivation to the workers to work with further zeal towards achieving the goal of Swachh Bharat Mission and making NDMC area a global benchmark amongst smart cities.

Continuing the yearly tradition, a technical seminar was conducted this year on the topic of renewable energy. It was highly praised and appreciated by the members in attendance.

In the midst of all our regular work, we give equal importance to our responsibility to give back to the society. Recently, we visited an orphanage in Karnal and donated two hammams (water boilers) and exhaust fans to the children living there. This gesture of JAAI was a sincere attempt to help the students to have a better standard of living by having access to hot water during extreme winter climate and fresh air in their rooms.

To conclude, I would like to thank all the members of JICA Alumini Association of India for their continued support for the organization and request you to continue with the same will and zeal in the future. Co-operation and hard work is the backbone for any success and it's important that we continue our initiatives of strengthening the bond between our two great countries.

Anant Kumar
President JICA Alumni Association of India

ANNUAL CONVENTION 2015

Mr. T P S OBEROI

Annual Convention 2015 of JAAI was held onMarch 14, 2015 at Jacaranda Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi. Chief Guest of this event was His Excellency, Former Ambassador of Japan, Mr.Takaeshi Yagi, and Guest of Honour was Mr. Jalaj Srivastava, Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council. Mr. TPS Oberoi, Secretary JAAI, introduced all the dignitaries on the dais including Mr. Shinya Ejima, the then Chief Representative, JICA India Office, officials from JICA India Office and Embassy of Japan, JAAI members and their families.

Mr. Anant Kumar, JAAI President, delivered the Welcome Address. All JAAI activities decided and organized by JAAI Executive Body Members in coordination with Representatives of JICA India Office were enumerated. He thanked JAAI Members and their family members for heartily appreciating and actively participating in all JAAI functions.

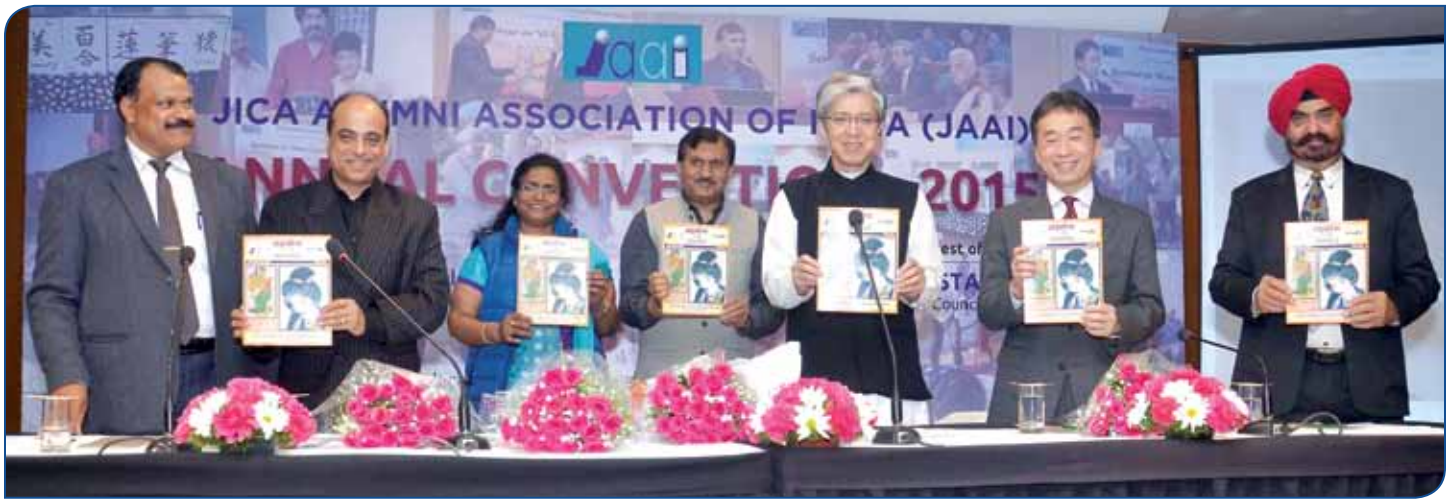
His Excellency, Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India, saw all the pictures displayed in the corridor, especially of Calligraphy and admired the efforts in organizing the cultural exchange programmes by JAAI. In his address, he highlighted the progress on JICA funded projects in India, which areabout to change the economic scenario of this great country. Cultural and technical cooperation is visible in JAAI activities, he emphasized. Accomplished, on-going and up-coming industrial and infrastructure projects will change India's position globally, he opined.

Mr. Jalaj Srivastava, Guest of Honour at JAAI Convention, highlighted the achievements with help from Japan in all fields. Sharing the facts with the audience, Mr. Srivastava said that a visible example of cooperation between these two countries is Maruti Udyog Ltd. One of the top automotive sector units in India. All existing and upcoming projects with Japanese assistance, as he said, have been need-based and are going to contribute significantly to India's development.

Mr. Shinya Ejima, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, summed up the ongoing JICA-funded projects and appreciated JAAI's role in bringing together cultures of India and Japan by organizinga number of events. As per JAAI's prevailing practice, the 16th issue of Sahyog was released by His Excellency, Ambassador of Japan in India, Mr. Takeshi Yagi.

Finally, he proposed a 'Toast' for bringing more closeness in industrial, infrastructural and transportation sector projects of Japan in India.

Annual 2015 Convention was followed by dinner and informal interactions between families of JAAI Members and Japanese Friends.



ORIGAMI AND PUPPETEERS SHOW – FIRST EXPERIENCE OF COMBINED CULTURES

In an effort to bring cultures of India and Japan in one place, JAAI EB Members for the first time experimented by organizing 'ORIGAMI' and 'INDIAN PUPPETEERSSHOW' in its first function of 2015-16 on August 16, 2015, at 'NDMC managed Baraat Ghar (Marriage House) located at Mandir Marg, in the heart of Delhi.

JAAI and Japanese Members' Families with children were thrilled to participate in these two programmes, clubbed together as one event. Origami is regularly being organized for years and children enjoy learning this Japanese paper art by making different shapes using papers. India's traditional art from Rajasthan, 'Puppet Show' and 'KachiGhodi' with loud 'dhol'(Drum) music were witnessed by all present. Also, they were enjoying this function in a 'Marriage House' – BaraatGhar'. Indian and Japanese families, specially the children present, enjoyed the presentation by Indian artists called from 'Kathputli Colony' (Puppeteers' Street). The function was followed by lunch with choicest menu.

HELP TO AN ORPHANAGE – MDD BAL BHAWAN

In the series of JAAI activities organized every year for a human cause, JAAI EB Members and JICA India Office decided to help an orphanage named MDD Bal Bhawan located in a remote village of Karnal in Haryana. A preliminary visit was made by four JAAI EB members to ascertain the prevailing conditions and details of inmates. In our meeting with MDD Bal Bhawan Management, assistance was sought for two diesel based water heaters of 500 liters capacity for male and female inmates. Second item in order of priorities conveyed to JAAI EB Team was 17 exhaust fans. For years in biting cold weather, all the male and female inmates in the age group of 3-21 years were using cold water for taking bath. These two items were within JAAI's allocated budget. Quotations were invited from suppliers of both these items and in coordination with JICA India Office, two water heaters of 500 liters capacity (locally called Hamams) and 17 exhaust fans were procured. On November 21, 2015 a team of six JICA EB members and a JICA Representative visited MDD Bal Bhawan and formally handed over the water heaters and exhaust fans to the management for inmates' use. Managing Committee members and children conveyed their hearty thanks to JICA India Office and JAAI for this help.

SPECIAL LECTURE ON 'KIDNEY CARE AND TRANSPLANTATION'

As a Health Sector Project, JAAI organized a Special Lecture on 'Kidney Care and Transplantation' at Dr. B.L.Kapoor Super Speciality Hospital, Pusa Road, New Delhi, on December 12, 2015. Dr. Sunil Prakash, Head of Nephrology Department and Director in this Hospital, with his team of Medical Specialists addressed JAAI participants and provided all information on the subject. Dr. Sunil Prakash having visited Japan in 1992 on a JICA sponsored programme is JAAI Member. For this special lecture all arrangements including Hospital's Seminar Hall, literature on the subject and most informative lecture discussion including interaction followed by High Tea was a gesture of this most prestigious hospital of Delhi. Mr. Anant Kumar, President and Mr. TPS Oberoi, Secretary, on behalf of JICA India Office and JAAI, thanked management of Dr. B.L.Kapoor Super Speciality Hospital, especially Dr. Sunil Prakash for their assistance in conducting this programme.

JAAI TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON 'NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY'

As per decision arrived at JAAI EB and JICA India Office Representatives meeting, Technical Seminar on 'Non-Conventional Sources of Energy' was organized on January 31, 2016 at Metropolitan Hotel, New Delhi. After registration of participants, JAAI President, Mr. Anant Kumar, welcomed Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, Mr. KP Philip, Senior Manager(TS), Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd and Mr. Rajneesh Srivastava, Executive Officer, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Management Centre, Govt. of Delhi,by presenting bouquets. Giving details of activities organized by JAAI, JICA India Office was thanked for providing financial assistance and cooperation in conducting cultural exchange and other programmes during 2015-16. Mr. TPS Oberoi, Secretary, JAAI, presented bouquet and thanked Mr. Anant Kumar, JAAI President for heading the Alumni Association and providing all assistance including hospitality in JAAI EB meetings. Mr. Oberoi supplementedby placing on record reciprocity and support provided by JICA India Office to JAAI.

Mr. Takema Sakamoto, being himself an expert on Renewable Energy, presented the key note address and apprised participantson the existing and forthcoming global scenario with respect to renewable energy. He elaborated on the ongoing developments in Japan and need for dependence on renewable energy sources,highlighting benefits derived from these technologies. Entire presentation of Mr. Sakamoto was supported with authentic data on the subject.

Mr. Philip shared his rich experiences with participants by highlighting all renewable energy projects undertaken by his Organization(IREDA). Ill-effects of traditional technologies in power generation – thermal and hydro-based - were compared with the benefits by shifting to renewable energy sources, viz., solar power, wind-mill and nuclear based energy sources. IREDA's efforts with support from Govt.of India in setting up pollution-free power generation projects were shared with participants.

The third speaker, Mr. Srivastava, representing Delhi Govt., made his presentation by sharing benefits of renewable energy sources for Delhi and NCR based residents. Comparative picture of solar energy vis-à-vis thermal power projects, cost analysis, direct effect on pollution elaborated by Mr. Srivastava left no doubts that the future lies with renewable energy sources. Making use of roof tops and open spaces in all Delhi Govt. buildings including schools, colleges, hospital, etc., MRTC operated railway stations and their own buildings, corporate houses in public and private sectors for setting up solar panels on roof tops and all available open space is going to help Delhi residents in reducing pollution and dependence on power sourcing significantly.

The JAAI Seminar concluded with healthy interaction among audience and the eminent speakers. All queries raised were satisfactorily responded. Mr. TPS Oberoi, JAAI Secretary, appreciating the richness in expertise of all three speakers thanked all present for their valuable contribution and invited them for a sumptuous lunch.

JAAI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2015-16) AND ELECTION

JAAI's Annual General Meeting for the year 2015-16 was held at Metropolitan Hotel, New Delhi, in the afternoon of January 31, 2016 and was attended by_JAAI members. Mr. Anant Kumar, President, JAAI, welcomed all members and JICA Representatives present, highlighted the developments and thanked JICA India Office for their continued support. Mr. T P S Oberoi, Secretary, JAAI, shared with members present the change in the system of releasing funds by JICA India Office on the directives of JICA HQ. Entire amount of JAAI's approved budget is being kept by JICA Office and is released for each activity with laid down constraints. A number of activities organized till last year and listed in the budget could not be repeated by JAAI in the current year owing to strict conditions and guidelines laid down by JICA India Office. Accounts for the year 2015-16 circulated among members and presented by Mr. K. Sitaraman, JAAI Treasurer, were adopted and approved by members present.

Elections for JAAI Executive Body for the years 2016-18 were conducted by Mr. ShekharDevasagayam, Training Program Officer, JICA India Office, who was appointed Returning Officer by JAAI EB. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Jt. Secretary and Treasurer were elected unanimously and for six members voting was done. JAAI EB elected for the next two years, 2016-17 and 2017-18, is as under:

President : Dr. OP Dewal, **Vice President** : Mr. T P S Oberoi, **Secretary** : Dr. Pradeep Kumar Gupta, **Jt. Secretary** : Ms. Nita Srivastava,

Treasurer : Mr. MA Khan , **Members** : Dr. Manju Bala, Ms. Meenakshi Saxena, Mr. K. Sitaraman, Mr. Sanjay Dhakate, Mr. Pankaj Bhartiya and Mr. V.K. Mishra.

JAPAN'S MULTI-FACETED ASSISTANCE THROUGH JICA

By **Mr. TAKEMA SAKAMOTO**, Chief Representative, JICA India Office

India is a large countrywitha population of over 1.2 billion, and has an economy that is growing exceptionally. The Indianeconomy has ahighpotential to be one of the largest in the world, and in order to realize this potentialthe Government of India has been making efforts in thedevelopment of infrastructure such as roads, railways, urban transport systems, power, water supply, sewerage and increasing the agricultural productivity, on an unprecedented scale to support and sustain economic growth.

Japan has been actively supporting social and economic development in India according to Government of India's priorities, since the first assistance of 18 billion Yen in Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan was extended by Japan in 1958 to supplement implementation of the 2nd Five-Year Plan. Japan, through JICA, has been partnering the development process in India by extending various forms of assistance including concessional ODA loans, technical cooperation, grant aid, dispatch of volunteers and partnership with the private sector.

The assistance from JICA over the years has facilitated development across various sectors, including metro rail systems in urban areas like Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai and Ahmedabad, arterial road and Intelligent Transport System in Hyderabad,piped water supply across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Delhi, Agra, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Nagaur and Puruliathat has also been promoting loss reduction for efficient usage of water,sewerage system and rejuvenation of water bodies across Varanasi, Delhi, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Hyderabad,power availability through greenfield power plants and enhanced transmission and distribution system across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad, forest resource management, where environmental education programs are also implemented,through active involvement of local communities and technology deployment like Geographic Information System (GIS) and Management Information System (MIS),including initiatives for Carbon Financing mechanisms, agriculturalproductivityenhancementthrough new irrigation facilities and crop rotation, upgradation in healthcare facilities at referral hospitals in major centers like Delhi and Chennai and human resource through development of Indian Institute of Technology at Hyderabad with linkages to academic-industry networks in Japan and 'Visionary Leaders ForManufacturing/Champions for Societal Manufacturing' program for human resource to grow the manufacturing sector.

JICA has been supportingnot only physical infrastructure development, but also institutional capacity development through knowledge sharing from Japan to foster self-reliance. JICA follows the concept of, "Do not give a fish, but share knowledge and experience on how to fish".

JICA's approach to development is to encourage people to recognize the issues they face and to participate in creating a self-reinforcing virtuous cycle of mid to long-term sustainablegrowth, an example of which is JICA's support to the metro rail systems in urban areas which have increased mobility of people and reduced traffic congestion and air pollutionthereby enhancing local economic output. At the same time, JICA'sassistance creates opportunitiesfor the underprivileged to participate in and benefit from the economic development, an example of which is the facilitating of market linkages of forest produce such as aloe vera, turmeric, tamarind and bamboo furniture, as sustainable alternative sources of income for forest dependent communities.

There are over 100development projects facilitated by JICA currently underway in India. Private sector participation is the key for sustainabledevelopment, and infrastructure and human resource development leads to improved investment environment for private sector participation.Out of the many projects, the following three exemplify JICA's contribution to enhancing Indian infrastructureand competitiveness in attracting domestic and foreign capital.

URBAN TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

The Delhi Metro has exemplified urban mass rapid transport system.The present route length of the Delhi Metrois 190 kmandit carries nearly 30 lakh passengers every day. According to an estimate by the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Delhi Metro enabled 3.9 lakh vehicles to remain off the roads in 2014 and saved 32 minutes every trip on an average for a commuter.

JICA has extended 650,000 million Japanese Yen (approx. Rs 35,000 crore) since 1997 for Delhi Metro, which has

covered nearly 50% of the development cost of Delhi Metro. Furthermore, JICA has facilitated co-creationwith Delhi Metro of several aspects of Japanese work-culture, includingsafe and timely construction, safe and punctual operation,and comfortable mobilityfor people at large. Delhi Metro has been hailed as a shining example of India-Japan partnership, and the transformational benefits of the Delhi Metro are being replicated in other cities.

Furthermore, JICA is happily observing that Delhi Metro Rail Cooperation (DMRC) Limited is proactively working as a rich experienced advisor for developing metro projects not only in other cities in India but also in other countries.For example, Dhaka in Bangladesh is fully utilizing its experiences gained under the collaboration with JICA. Such experience sharing is more than welcomed by JICA for replication of the good impact of JICA's support.

The 'Shinkansen', which isJapanese proven high-speed rail system,has also brought about transformational economic benefits to the regions in Japan where it has been introduced.Its introduction in India on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route is expected to yield similar results, andits implementation will also contribute to the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India.

INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS

Industrial corridors are considered among the most innovative programs in the world to boost economic growth. In India, JICA is providing assistance to the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC). DMIC involves construction of a dedicated freight railway line between Delhi and Mumbai as a backbone, which would be flanked by industrial complexes, logistics centers, power plants and other infrastructure facilities to support industrial development. DMIC extends upto 200 kilometers on either side of the dedicated freight rail line, extending into Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra encompassing 17.3 crore of India's population. Also, JICA has been dispatching Japanese experts to advise on more effective and smooth development of the DMIC region based on Japan's past experiences and lessons.`CBIC region spans an area of over 90,000 square kilometers across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, encompassing 4.75 crore people. The plan for CBIC region aims at construction of railways, roads, ports and airports, power plants & transmission lines, water supply and waste management. Recently, master plan for development of CBIC has been prepared through JICA's technical cooperation, and JICA is willing to consult with Government of India for further possible support to projects/programs.DMIC and CBIC would contribute to Government of India's aim of increasing the manufacturing sector's share of GDP from 16 percent currently to 25 percent by 2022, and creatingover 100 million employment opportunities in the process.

While such industrial corridorsare expected to boost the entire Indian economy, environmental and social negative impact mitigation andany regional imbalances should be appropriately addressed simultaneously,which are important issues where JICA can share experiences and lessons learnt.

VISIONARY LEADERS AND CHAMPIONS OF SOCIETAL MANUFACTURING

A JICA supported project 'Visionary Leaders For Manufacturing (VLFM)'and its succeeding 'Champions for Societal Manufacturing (CSM)' aims to build a manufacturing ecosystem in India that is driven by innovations and not on cost arbitrage alone.The VLFM/CSM project is being implemented through industry, government and academia partnership, of institutions such as the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur & Madras (IIT Kanpur & IIT Madras) and the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM Calcutta).The project has trained over 1,800 people, including plant supervisors and top managers in India's manufacturing industry and has facilitated development of innovative products like electronic steering system by Sona-Koyo for off-road vehicles like tractors and a portable refrigerator by Godrej & Boyce which does not require constant electricity to operate. Among the attributes the program aims to inculcate is 'mindset change', such as looking from customer's viewpoint rather than technology viewpoint. Indian companies that have availed of the VLFM/CSM programs are becoming preferred partners of Indian and foreign manufacturing companies.

JICA is the biggest bilateral donor to India, and India has been the largest beneficiary of ODA from JICA. Such support from JICA is expected to cover substantial parts of the effort to mobilize 3.5 trillion Japanese Yen (approx. Rs 1,85,000 crore) of Japanese investment into India in five years as announced during the 2014 Tokyo summit meeting between Prime Ministers H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi and H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe. Japan and India have been long time friends, and this partnership is poised to get stronger.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO INDIA, SINCE 1958

- 400 billion Japanese Yen, approx. Rs 2,40,000crore: ODA loanswith very concessional terms extended to India.
- 6,800: Indian personnel have received training in Japan, facilitated by JICA.
- 5,500: Experts from Japan visited India to share know-how in JICA-supported projects.
- 945,668 million Japanese Yen, approx. Rs 50,000 crore: ODA loans extended for development of metro systems in Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi.
- 230,000 million Japanese Yen, approx. Rs 12,100 crore: ODA loans extended for development of dedicated freight railway line between Delhi and Mumbai.

Seminar on the Development of the Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) region.

CSM project Chief Advisor and University of Tsukuba Professor Emeritus Shoji Shibaat a session with leaders of Indian manufacturing.

JICA's ongoing support to Delhi Metro is a "shining example" of India-Japan cooperation.

LAUGHTER YOGA IN INDIA AND JAPAN

Mr. J N ARORA

It is well known that laughter is the best medicine. But in today's high tension and competitive world, laughter is fast disappearing. Children can laugh unto 300-400 times a day, but for adults the frequency drops to only 15 times. It has been scientifically shown that laughter lowers blood pressure, relaxes muscles, improves blood circulation, elevates mood and boosts immune system. Laughter has the ability to unwind the negative effects of stress.

Until 1994, there was no effective way to deliver laughter. Laughter Yoga is a breakthrough laughter delivery system that enables a person to laugh continuously for 15 to 20 minutes. It is a powerful exercise routine fast sweeping the world. Today there are more than 8000 laughter clubs in 101 countries. In fact, laughter yoga is a major trend for wellness in the future.

Laughter Yoga is the brain child of Dr. Madan Kataria who first started a laughter club on March 13, 1995 in Mumbai. The concept of Laughter Yoga is based on a scientific fact that the body cannot differentiate between fake and real laughter. One gets the same physiological and psychological benefits. Laughter Yoga combines unconditional laughter with yogic breathing, stretching, clapping etc. It is usually done in a group with eye contact and childlike playfulness. It soon turns into a real laughter.

Laughter Clubs have featured on many international TV channels including NHK (Japan). A laughter Yoga session took place in Tokyo on 2nd March, 2008 which was conducted by Dr. Kataria. A number of senior citizens in Osaka are rapidly taking to Laughter Yoga. According to Laughter Yoga Japan, an incorporated non-profit organisation, the exercise helps to refresh the mind and body; ease stress and improve the lymphatic and circulatory systems. Dr. Tetsuya Ohira, a professor at Fukushima Medical University has conducted a detailed study on benefits of Laughter Yoga. A Japanese study says that Laughter Therapy is an efficient low-cost medical treatment.

Laughter Yoga has been introduced in many schools, business companies/ corporations, prisons, hospitals and aged care facilities. At all these places regular laughter sessions have benefitted the participants.

The world's first International University of Laughter Yoga and headquarters of International Laughter Clubs has come up at about 45 km from Bangalore International Airport. This will not be a conventional university giving academic degrees and diplomas; instead it will be one of its kind to explore all aspects of human body, mind, emotions and relationships, art, culture, music and dance through the basis of unconditional laughter. It will teach, coach and train laughter leaders and teachers who will help set up thousands of laughter clubs around the world and make the whole world an extended family, thereby achieving the mission of bringing world peace through laughter.

World Laughter Day was created in 1998 by Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement. The celebration of World Laughter Day is a positive manifestation for world peace and is intended to build up a global consciousness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter .The World Laughter Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday Of May.

Ref. www.laughteryoga.org

DISASTER MANAGEMENT
ROLE OF NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE

Mr. O P SINGH, IPS, Director General NDRF

India is considered as one of the most disaster-prone countries of the world. India is plagued by various natural disasters every year, such as floods, drought, earthquakes, cyclones and landslides. Nearly 4.8 million people are affected every year in India and the economic losses caused by natural disasters amount to a major share of the Gross National Product (GNP). Natural Disasters are huge economic burdens on developing economies such as India. Every year, huge amount of resources are mobilized for rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations following natural disaster occurrences.

The late 1990s and early part of this century marked a watershed in Disaster Management in India. The super cyclone in Orissa in October, 1999 and the Bhuj earthquake in Gujarat in January, 2001 underscored the need to adopt a multi-dimensional endeavor involving diverse scientific, engineering, financial and social processes. Over the past couple of years, the Government of India has brought about a paradigm shift in the approach to disaster management. The new approach proceeds from the conviction that development cannot be sustainable unless disaster mitigation is built into the development process. Another corner stone of the approach is that mitigation has to be multi-disciplinary spanning across all sectors of development. The new policy also emanates from the belief that investments in mitigation are much more cost effective than expenditure on relief and rehabilitation. Disaster management occupies an important place in this country's policy framework as it is the poor and the under-privileged who are worst affected on account of calamities/disasters.

The steps being taken by the Government emanate from the approach outlined above. The approach has been translated into a National Disaster Framework (a roadmap) covering institutional mechanisms, disaster prevention strategy, early warning system, disaster mitigation, preparedness and response and human resource development. This roadmap has been shared with all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Ministries and Departments of Government of India, and the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to develop their respective roadmaps taking the national roadmap as a broad guideline. There is, therefore, now a common strategy underpinning the action being taken by all the participating organizations/stakeholders.

RESPONSE SYSTEM FOR DISASTERS

Disaster management is a State subject and a prompt, well-coordinated and effective disaster response for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation and reconstruction measures rest with the government of the affected states/UTs. In India, we have three tier disaster response mechanism within the country. NDRF is at the apex level to handle disasters of level-III and above. State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)acts as state-level responder to handle disasters at level-II in the States and at district level, personnel of civil defence, Home Guards and Fire & Emergency Services deal with the disaster at level-I and to respond within "golden hours'.

Disaster Management Act, 2005 empowers States to take necessary measures for preparedness and capacity building in accordance with the guidelines laid by National and State Authorities to provide prompt and effective response during disasters or a threatening disaster situation.

NDRF, a multi-skilled response Force for disaster response in India, was established under Disaster Management Act, 2005, Chapter-VIII, section 44 (I & II) for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster. Accordingly, in 2006 NDRF was constituted with 8 battalions. Now with 02 more battalions, NDRF has raised its strength to 12 battalions. The NDRF Battalions are located at different locations in the country based on the vulnerability profile of country. The placement has been done keeping in view mobility to adjoining States with a view to minimise the response time for their deployment at any disaster site. All NDRF battalions are equipped with state-of-the-art disaster management equipment and trained as per International standard to respond to all the natural and man-made disasters in the country and abroad; like landslide, flood, cloudburst, flash flood, cyclone, train accident, road

accident, industrial disaster, chemical disaster, nuclear disasters, building collapse, and drowning case.

The prime task of NDRF is to provide expert and specialized response during disasters. Often, NDRF is called upon to plan and prepare the masses where disasters are anticipated, such as impending cyclones or expected flood situations.

The reasons why the role of NDRF is very prominent in handling the disasters areas follows :

- NDRF is a multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled, high-tech, specialist Force, capable of responding to any disaster or Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) emergency.
- It is perhaps the largest dedicated Disaster Response Force in the world, equipped as per international standards.
- It has highly trained personnel from premier disaster management institutes in the country and abroad.
- It is capable of carrying out disaster response operations within the country and abroad.
- Each NDRF team is self-contained with doctors, engineers, paramedics, laboratorytechnicians and electricians.
- It has trained canine for searching trapped victims.

NDRF has been very active in responding to natural and man-made disaster since its inception in 2006. The First major test of disaster for the NDRF was the Kosi flood in Bihar in 2008, where NDRF teams were immediately moved to Bihar after the breach in Kosi barrage. The situation was handled by NDRF on a war footing, by airlifting 153 high speed motorized boats with 780 flood rescue trained personnel to the five flood affected districts with utmost promptness. As a result, over 1 lakh affected people were rescued during the initial stage itself. The prompt and professional response of NDRF was appreciated by all concerned.

In September 2014, NDRF, equipped with boats and flood rescue equipment, conducted operations to save lives of the people. The teams of NDRF safely evacuated more than 58,000 flood victims. In cyclone Hudhud, the pro-active deployment of NDRF along with excellent co-ordination with the respective state machineries was the hall mark of the rescue operation. During Nepal earthquake in 2015, NDRF was the first international rescue team to land in Kathmandu within a few hours. The NDRF teams comprising more than 700 personnel pulled out 11 live victims from rubbles out of 156 rescued by any international team and retrieved 133 dead bodies. In the recent Chennai urban flood too, NDRF swung into action and saved more than 20,000 persons from the affected areas.

In addition, another landmark achievement of NDRF was in March 2011, when Japan was struck by a triple disaster (Earthquake, Tsunami and Radiation leakage). A 45 member NDRF team from India was the only International team to stay back in Japan and carry on with search and rescue operations in highly hazardous conditions at sub-zero temperature. The outstanding work done by the force in Japan attracted appreciation from all walks of life, including the Japanese government, people and the media. The force had rightly received compliments from the then Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Yoshihiko Noda, at the meeting of "Strategic and Global Partnership" at New Delhi on December 28, 2011.

On account of its professionalism and prompt availability, NDRF is being increasingly requisitioned by the States for rescue and relief operations in floods, cyclone, landslides, train accidents and chemical leakage. There have been over 1072 operations of search and rescue in connection with various disasters, natural or man-made, including building collapse, train accidents, drowning etc, saved/rescued around 4,73,488 people and retrieved 2259 dead bodies.

Other Activities of NDRF:NDRF is engaged in the following other activities besides search and rescue operation undertaken during emergency situation:

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Since the community is the first responder in any disaster situation, there is a great need for community level initiatives in managing disasters. The initiatives taken by various agencies, including the state, need to be people-centric and the level of community participation should be gauged through the role played by the community in the process of planning and decision-making. Efforts should also be made to strengthen local economies, thereby making people independent of external disasters .

During the peace time all efforts are invested in its outreach programme. Capacity building and awareness building in the

public, especially at the grass route level, is being carried out on a mission mode. Empowering these first responders by NDRF has tremendous potential in preventing disasters, mitigating the sufferings and reducing the risk. Therefore, the initiatives by NDRF has untold potentials and value.

In order to assist the State Government in capacity building and awareness generation activities, NDRF conducts Familiarization Exercises, Mock Exercises and Joint Mock Exercises with other stakeholders in their respective areas of operations. So far, NDRF has undertaken 2369 community Awareness Programmes across the nation which have been attended by 39,99,395 persons. In addition, the Force has conducted 615 mock exercises with various stakeholders. More than 3,88, 895 persons have benefitted from these exercises.

PREVENTATIVE DEPLOYMENT

NDRF has been pre-positioned in floods and cyclones and in many other big events like parliament sessions, MahakumbhMela, Amaranth Yatra, Sabarimala Festival, Commonwealth Games, Cricket World Cup, Aero India Show, KartikMela, SonepurMela etc. as preventive measures to meet any emergency situation, such deployments where NDRF personnel function round the clock with alacrity and commitment have indeed been of immense help to the public in saving precious lives and property. NDRF teams are also placed at 22 cities as a part of proactive deployment to meet the emergency if necessary.

TRAINING OF STATE DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Disaster management is a state subject and a prompt, well coordinated and effective disaster response for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation & reconstruction measures rest with the government of the affected States/UTs. The State Govt. is now raising its own SDRF on the lines of NDRF.

RESOURCE MAPPING

It is very important to locate essential resources at the very beginning of rescue and relief work. NDRF personnel regularly conduct resource mapping in their respective areas under the guidance of local administration.

MADE IN JAPAN - VALUES FOR SALE ? !!

Dr. AMANDEEP SINGH

Development is not only the setting up of big buildings, wide roads or enrolling students in educational institutions. It is more to do with the Social, Economical, Spiritual, Physical, Physiological & Cultural development in every human being. I am glad to share a couple of truths about my brothers and sisters living in Japan.

During my stay in that country, I did not observe the Japanese practicing any religious rituals, but I did observe that they treat their spouses and fellow citizens with religious respect. Also, they may be using the English language for the sake of international relations and market with other nations, but they do not ignore their own language, and take pride in being Japanese and using the Japanese language.

Yet another observation I made about Japan upon my return from that country, is the concept of using the same uniform for all the employees and workers in the workplace. Whatever the post or cadre of the workers, from top to bottom, everyone wears the same uniform. This is done to motivate the subordinates and instill in everyone a concept of equality. Not only uniforms, they also use the same kitchen and food for all employees. So much so, that it is impossible to judge from these and their behaviour, as to who the owner, the director, the middle order worker, or the bottom rung employee is.

In my opinion, we Indians need to start buying these value systems from Japan, and not just their cars and electronic goods, if we want to make a bright tomorrow for ourselves.

JAPAN AS SCIENTIFIC BUT SURPRISING COUNTRY: LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Dr. PAWAN KUMAR
Town & Country Planning Organization,
Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Japan is a country of 6,852 islands and leading nation in scientific research particularly in transport technology, biomedical, etc. The recent developments and socio-economic profile of Japan gives an understanding that the country is not only scientific in terms of research and development, but also surprising in terms of re-vitalization of communities, magnanimous valueof citizens,recycling society, national feeling & pride, country loyalty, etc.

The zeal of the countrymen to re-build the city of Hiroshima after dropping of atomic bomb (Little Boy) on August 6, 1945, is an example of extra-oridinary bravery of the military and scientific planning of the people in providing an image of 'burnt but green city'.Further, the Nature also granted the city as 'revive but natural city' as the oleander flower was the first to bloom again after the explosion of the atomic bomb in 1945 and therefore oleander is accepted as official flower of the city of Hiroshima.The planning of the city based on site, situation and street (transport network) has provided an image and identity of the city.It is a learning experience to ake both brown and greenfield cities as smart and green .

Figure 1 : Ruins of Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall near Atomic Bomb's Hypocenter and its preserved Structure as a symbolic depiction for devastating effects of Nuclear weapons on Humanity.

Japan's high speed train (bullet train) known as "Shinkansen" is one of the examples of technological triumph in transport sector. It has an average daily ridership of 9,60,000 passenders per day but maintained 'no fatality' record during last 50 years.

According to International Union of Railways (UIC), the total length of high speed train corridor across the world is 29,792 Km as on April 01, 2015 and out of this, more than 11,000 km tracks (longest in the world) is in China. But Japan was the first to have a high speed train line between Tokyo and Osaka which became operational in 1964.The bullet train ran on this line at a average speed of 210 kmph. At present, Japan has 858 km long bullet train track and maintains average speed of 285 kmph. The bullet train (E5 Series) is able to maintain speed upto 320 kmph. Japan is earthquake prone country and there is risk to bullent trains also. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has two Earthquake Early Warning Schemes: one is for advanced users, another for the general public. When two or

more seismometers detect P-waves, the JMA analyzes the readings and issues warnings to advanced users i.e. broadcasting stations and mobile phone companies, before the arrival of S-waves. After receiving a warning, a person may have a few seconds or in some cases significantly longer to take actions. The bullet trains have "Urgent Earthquake Detection and Alarm System (UrEDAS)". It enables automatic braking of bullet trains in the case of higher magnitude of earthquakes on Richter scale. Further, anti-derailment device is also installed.

At present, The Ministry of Railways, Govt.of India has also fast tracked the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor by setting up a separate company. The cabinet has cleared this project of Rs 980 billion and Japan has agreed to fund 81% of total project cost. Japan will give loan @ 1% interest or less for up to 50 years. However, Japan wants that India should buy at least 30% of equipment including coaches from Tokyo. However, it may be first bullet train project in India having length of 505 km with journey time 2 hours. The proposed speed is 300 kmph which is much higher than Rajdhani Express @ 140kmph and proposed Gatimaan Express (Semi high speed Delhi-Agra train @ 160kmph). It is assessed that first bullet train can run in 2024 in the country if construction starts in 2017 which may fulfill one the dreams of modern India.

Air Pollution due to vehicles in Indian cities is one of the most challenging tasks for city administration, city planners, city residents, etc. which needs correct and updated fuel policy in the country. The production and use of clean fuel, alternative fuel, green fuel, safe fuel, etc.is the need of the hour to prevent global warming and promote sustainable habitat. The production of biodiesel fuel (BDF) from waste edible oil is one of the examples to recover energy from household waste. It is practiced in Kyoto City of Japan that is known as "City of Ten Thousand Shrines". The city of Kyoto is also known globally due to Kyoto Protocol which is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention o n Climate Change. The Kyoto Municipal South Clean Centre has been set up to recycle the waste edible oil discharged from the households, restaurants, cafeteria, etc and refine it to produce environmentally friendly biodiesel fuel.

The production cost of BDF is 136 yen/litre (INR 100= Yen 172). The BDF produced at the Centre is used in waste collecting vehicles and municipal buses. Such an approach contributes in reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by about 3,200 tons per year. The participation of local residents, volunteers, municipality , companies , etc in collection, transportation and treatment of waste edible oil is a concept of re-vitalization of communities for recycling society.The generation of energy from waste edible oil is a promotion of environment friendly low public hazard fuel which contribute reduction of black smoke contained in automobile exhaust gas. The approach to expand the cycle of waste edible oil recovery and reutilize it as fuel in collaboration with the local residents, citizens, companies, municipality, etc promote human exchange and vitalize local activities to create a recycling society.

Modern India needs smart planning, efficient mobility , clean and pollution free cities.Hiroshima experience of planning in the present ongoing Smart cities, is useful in retrofitting, redevelopment and redesign based on city specific model. India-Japan co-operation for high speed train between Mumbai to Ahmedabad is likely to fulfill a dream project for the country.Further, collection and disposal of waste edible oil at household level and production of fuel not only makes the city clean, but also the city and environment healthy.

कर्मयोगियों का देश जापान

डॉ० प्रमोद कुमार अग्रवाल

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MIYAMARU (LOCAL FISHERMEN'S RESIDENCE ACCOMMODATION SERVICE)

Mr. VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA

My visit to Japan (Kochi Prefecture in Shikoku) is a memorable part of my life, especially the visit to a Fishermen House, a part of our program in which we were the participants of "Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Promotion". We were fourteen members, all from India. We visited the village of Fishermen at Kuroshio town. We were divided into four groups, and in my group we were four members including me. The village of fishermen was a two hour journey from our hotel at Tosa, and we reached there at 3 PM one day.

We were welcomed by four families of Fishermen, where we were to stay for one day. The village had good infrastructure, wooden houses, neat and clean, by the sea side. We got a warm welcome and sat on the floor in their drawing room (Japanese Culture). The family of fisherman, included an old husband and wife. They were very polite, humble and nice. The hospitality we got was amazing, and made us feel we knew each other for a long time! We were free to go anywhere in their house, which was well decorated with marvelous wooden work and automatic electric fittings. The house had all the facilities, one would never imagine in a fisherman's home. Since all the members of our group were vegetarian, we could not taste the typical food of the village, especially the "Bonito Fish", but we enjoyed the fruits and vegetables. We also enjoyed the taste of green tea and coffee. We carried some packed Indian curry and snacks that we offered to them to eat. They enjoyed Indian foods and appreciated its taste. It was their first meeting with Indian people. I saw a small temple of Lord Buddha in their house. This was an authentic example of Indo-Japanese relation. They opined that they like and love India and the Indian people. We shared our culture and heritage.

The next morning we got breakfast in time, which was prepared for us by the Japanese lady since 5 A.M. We gave some gifts to the couple, which we carried from India. In the end when we were going back to our hotel they had tears in their eyes and so did we! Our hearts were full of affection and love, and I felt that love and relationships can be created anywhere, whether we lived in India or Japan or any other country. It matters only how we meet and offer our hospitality to each other. Japan is a very developed nation, but the people are really down to earth and very humble and co-operative. They love their nation, their people and work for the development of Japan. I salute the culture and hospitality that we received. I also salute our country "India", which gave me recognition, and where Lord Buddha had taken birth.

WONDERFUL INFRASTRUCTURE IN JAPAN

Dr. P P MITTAL

Japan is an island country in East Asia. Located in the Pacific Ocean, it lies to the east of the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, China, North Korea, South Korea and Russia. Japan is often called the "Land of the Rising Sun".

Japan is a stratovolcanic country with 6,852 islands. The four largest are Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku, which make up about ninety-seven percent of Japan's land area. Japan's population of 126 million is the world's tenth largest. Tokyo, the capital city of Japan, is the world's largest metropolitan area with over 35 million residents and the world's largest urban economy. Japan was ruled by successive feudal military shoguns who ruled in the name of the Emperor. Japan entered into a long period of isolation in the early 17th century, which only ended in 1853 when a United States fleet pressured Japan to open to the West. After World War I Japan expanded its empire.

Japan has the world's third-largest economy by nominal GDP and the world's fourth-largest economy by purchasing power parity. It is also the world's fifth-largest exporter and fifth-largest importer. Although Japan has officially renounced its right to declare war, it maintains a modern military with the world's eighth largest military budget. Japan is a developed country with a high standard of living and Human Development Index whose population enjoys the highest life expectancy and the third lowest infant mortality rate of any country. Some of the beautiful & unique astonishing infrastructures developed by Japan after Second World War are :

THE AKASHI-KAIKYO SUSPENSION BRIDGE

The Akashi Kaikyo Suspension Bridge is the longest suspension bridge in the world and it is probably Japan's greatest engineering feat.

It took two million workers ten years to construct the bridge, 181,000 tonnes of steel and 1.4 million cubic metres of concrete. The steel cable used would circle the world seven times. It has six lanes and links the island of Awaji and the mainland city of Kobe, a distance of four miles. The concept of building a bridge across the Akashi Straits became urgent when one hundred and sixty eight children and adults died in the disaster of ferry collision.

The Akashi Straits is four miles wide at the bridge site with sea depths of one hundred metres and currents averaging fourteen kmph. The Akashi Straits is one of the busiest sea lanes in the world with over a thousand ships per day travelling through it. Furthermore, the bridge is in a typhoon region in which winds can reach speeds of 290 kmph.

The construction of a suspension bridge involves the use of two main cables stretching between two towers. The roadway beneath these is suspended by more cables. To stop the towers, roadway and cables collapsing, they are held at either end by large anchor blocks (the Akashi anchor blocks weigh 350 000 tonnes). In the case of the Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge, suspension bridge technology was pushed to the limit.

KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Kansai is an international airport located on an artificial island in the middle of Osaka Bay, 38 km (24 mi) southwest of Osaka Station, located within three municipalities, in Osaka Prefecture, Japan. The airport is off the Honshu shore and was designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano. The airport serves as an international hub for All Nippon Airways, Japan Airlines, and Nippon Cargo Airlines, and also serves as a hub for Peach, the first international low-cost carrier in Japan.

Kansai was opened on 4 September 1994 to relieve overcrowding at Osaka International Airport, which is closer to the city of Osaka and now handles only domestic flights. During the 2006 fiscal year, it had 1,16,475 aircraft movements, of which 73,860 were international (31 countries, 71 cities), and 42,615 were domestic (19 cities). The total number of passengers was 16,689,658 of which 11,229,444 were international, and 5,460,214 were domestic, sixth in Japan and second in Osaka area. The second runway was opened on 2 August 2007. As of June 2014, Kansai Airport has become an Asian hub, with 780 weekly flights to Asia and Australasia (including freight 119), 59 weekly flights to Europe and the Middle East (freight 5), and 80 weekly flights to North America (freight 42)

An artificial island, 4 km (2.5 mi) long and 2.5 km (1.6 mi) wide, was proposed. Engineers needed to overcome the extremely high risks of earthquakes and typhoons. Construction started in 1987. The sea wall was finished in 1989 (made of rock and 48,000 tetrahedral concrete blocks). Three mountains were excavated for 21,000,000 m3 (27,000,000 cu yd) of landfill. 10 000 workers and 10 million work hours over three years, using eighty ships, were utilized to complete the 30-metre (98 ft) layer of earth over the sea floor and inside the sea wall. In 1990, a three kilometer bridge was completed to connect the island to the mainland at Rinku Town. The lessons of Kansai Airport were also applied in the construction of Hong Kong International Airport. The airport was one of ten structures given the "Civil Engineering Monument of the Millennium" award by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Congratulations !!

Dr. P.P. Mittal receiving "National Energy Conservation Award-2015" from Dr. Ajay Mathur Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India on 22nd Jan. 2016, New Delhi.

This is in continuation to the achievement i.e. same category of award was also presented by Ministry of Power, Govt. of India in 2013 to Dr. P.P. Mittal

LESSONS ON TRAVELING, FROM THE JAPANESE PEOPLE

Dr. SUMATHI MURALIDHAR (JAAI member since 2003)
Associate Professor & Senior Microbiologist, VardhmanMahavir Medical College and Safdarjang hospital, New Delhi.

How does an average urban Indian plan and execute a holiday or vacation?

In all probability, his/her course of action will go something like this-

Step 1 : Pick on a destination. Now, this is easier said than done. It depends on various factors, including the cost involved (ranks first in importance!), number of days of leave from work, distance from home, modes of travel available, chances of procuring confirmed tickets by train or flight, number of family members going for the trip, exam-free time for children (in other words, children's vacations from school), arrangements to be made for care of elderly people at home, (who may not be traveling), arrangements for care of pets, plants and so on, and so forth.....

Step 2 : Collect information on the place. For this, most Indians still resort to the time tested method of asking people who have been to the place you intend to visit. These people may be anyone- from relatives, to friends, to colleagues, to neighbours, or even friend's friends! Please do not for a moment conclude that these urban Indians are not internet savvy. Google is their middle name! They know all about the internet and may even browse casually to seek information on the places they plan to visit. But, you see, gaining first hand information from those who have "been there and done that", is truly something else!

Step 3 : Book tickets- this may be done personally by standing in queues at railway booking centres, or booking online rail or flight tickets. Some may go through travel agents or portals.

Step 4 : Pack up-This is usually a last minute, rushed affair, because most adult travellers are working at office till the date of travel.They give themselves a few hours or less to throw in a few necessities. If children are part of the traveling folks, the woman of the house spends some more time packing things for the children.

Step 5 : Leave home-This stage can be a time-consuming process, due to the elaborate arrangements one has to make for the safety of elders left behind at home, or for the safety of an empty house. If there are pets and plants that are to be left behind, arrangements have to be made for their upkeep as well.

Step 6 : Travel – Catch the train or bus or flight and set off on the vacation, finally! Visit all the places as per the itinerary- eat, drink, sight-see, take pictures, sleep (not necessarily in the same order, or in equal measure!).

Step 7 : Return home- Come back to a dusty home (if locked up), piles of clothes to be washed etc. Soon slip into the daily grind of work at home and in the office.

If you meet up with this vacationer after 4-6 months, and ask about the holiday destination, he/she may barely recall the names of the places, let alone details of all that he /she visited, saw and experienced.

Now, let us re-trace the same steps and find out how an average urban Japanese would plan and execute a holiday. I will give you an actual example of how my good Japanese friend planned out her visit to India. She gave me all these details, and I am certain that her example will serve to throw some light on how her countrymen do it too. Read on -

Step 1 : Pick on a destination - Holiday destinations are carefully planned and executed by the Japanese, because they do not want any unexpected events or expenses or anything out of place during a holiday. Thus, my friend decided on her India-destination several months in advance.

Step 2 : Collect information on the place - My friend went online and checked all the facts thoroughly, even before she wrote to me, down to the smallest detail- distance, cost, modes of travel to and within the destination place. Also, facts about the people, culture, lifestyle, places to stay, weather etc were read and understood.

Step 3 : Book tickets- Calls were made to the travel agents, destination hotels etc. Online bookings of flight, hotels and cabs were made. Arrangements for passport, visa and formalities were also taken care of, well before the date of travel.

Step 4 : Pack up- Bare necessities were packed for the trip- minimal clothes, toiletries, footwear and eatables. All packed carefully and neatly in a backpack and strolley bag.

Step 5 : Leave home – The home was carefully prepared for her absence- all furniture covered, the fridge emptied, plants and pets cared for by appropriate arrangements.

Step 6 : Travel-She travelled to her destination on the planned date, checked into the booked hotel, hailed the taxi arranged and visited all the pre-decided places of interest. She had handy booklets and print outs about the monuments she visited and often referred to her notes and read them, even if guides were hired to explain the historical details. She also kept a small pocket diary, and made notes of all that she saw and experienced in a new country, including small little details, such as simple hindi words used in conversations (Eg. "achcha", " Theekhai").

Step 7 : Return home- Whenever she moved from one place to another, during her entire trip, my Japanese friend left behind clean rooms, cars and surroundings, with no littering whatsoever. She returned to her country, replete with scores of pictures, memorabilia and mementos.

If you meet up with my Japanese friend after 4-6 months, and ask about the holiday destination, chances are, she will recall all the details of the experience and give you ample useful information from those carefully made notes and thorough reading.

The above comparison is only to highlight the importance of doing things thoroughly with a keen eye for detail. This should not only be towards our work, but even during other pleasurable activities, such as travel. After all, I am sure you will agree that, anything that is worth doing, is worth doing well!

There is an old song I was taught in primary school. The chorus went something like this-" Do what you do, do well, boy! Do what you do, do well! Give your love and all of your heart and do what you do, do well!" The Japanese seem to be living this song, in all seriousness!

EDITORIAL 2016

Dr. SUMATHI MURALIDHAR

It is amazing how negative and positive events are balanced beautifully in the world, as also in our lives! Our country, India, is now going through a turmoil with agitations by so-called anti-national students of a particular university and caste politics raising its ugly head, threatening to weaken the very roots of our democracy. While we are all waiting for this tumultuous phase to pass, there is some encouraging news on the international front. India and Japan are said to be enjoying a relationship, which is in an upward trajectory. According to recent reports, the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe, has expressed his wish to strengthen not only economic ties with India, but also strengthen co-operation in the fields of defence and security. This, in his opinion, is important not only for the betterment of the two nations, but also for peace in the region. The JICA funded projects in India are a testimony to movement in this direction.

And, of course, what is even more heartening to hear is that JAAI, in its own inimitable way, has been trudging along in promoting bilateral relations between the two countries, even if only in baby steps.

The JAAI activities, this year again, have all been well conducted and attended by members. Apart from the annual convention and dinner that JAAI organizes every year, this year witnessed a novel and unique programme– a combined event of Origami and Puppet show. What better way to showcase two deep-seated and traditional art forms of the two countries!

Apart from these, JAAI has continued its tradition of being a socially responsible association, by treating its members to an illuminating lecture on kidney care and transplantation at B.L. Kapoor super speciality hospital. Also, it has fulfilled a magnanimous task of donating two diesel based water heaters and 17 exhaust fans to the MDD Bal Bhavan Orphanage in Karnal, Haryana. Activities such as these infuse enthusiasm in the members and keep alive the spirit of participation and belonging, especially in the young members.

And, finally, Renewable Energy was the topic of discussion for the technical seminar held this year and same is the theme of cover page of Sahyog-2016. To save fossil fuel and to reduce carbon emissions, use of renewable energy is being promoted by Govt. of India.

Here's to brighter and sunnier times ahead for all of us!

PROFORMA FOR JICA PARTICIPANTS TO BECOME JAAI MEMBER

1. Name of Participant .....
2. Designation .....
3. Name of Office / Organisation .....
4. Address of Office / Organisation .....
   Telephone / Fax No (Office) .....
5. Residential / Mailing Address .....
   Telephone No (Res) .....
6. Mobile No. .....
7. E-mail Address .....
8. JICA Training Course(s) / Seminar attended (copy of certificate to be enclosed)
   A. Subject .....
   B. Period : From..... To.....
9. Details of Payment :
   Cheque / DD No..... Date.....
   Bank..... Amount.....
10. Other Information (if any) .....
11. Date .....
12. Signature .....

Membership Fees :

(a) Registration Fee is Rs.100/- (to be paid by new members as well as those old members who have not paid annual subscription for last 2 years); plus

(b) Life Membership fee is Rs.1,000/- (ie. a total of Rs.1100/- for life membership)

(c) Payment should be made by DD/Local Cheque in favour of JICA Alumni Association of India payable at New Delhi (outstation chques will not be accepted).

(d) Please indicate you name and ID no. (applicable to old members) at the back of Cheque / DD.

(e) Please inform change in address and e-mail (if any)