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*Message from H.E. Mr. Hideaki DOMICHI
The Ambassador of Japan*



It is my pleasure to convey this message of congratulations to the readers of 'Sahyog' on the occasion of annual meeting of JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI), 2010.

Over the last 42 years of its existence, since 1968, JAAI has been acting as a bridge for former Indian participants of various JICA training program to keep a close contact with Japan and to know more about the country through regular exchange of information, as well as providing a useful platform for interactions among its 872 members by organizing a wide spectrum of activities such as seminars, workshops, cultural program and get-together. I am also happy to note that JAAI is involved in socially responsible activities, such as Free Health Camps for underprivileged people, and Environment Awareness Programme with School Children, besides holding cultural events like the Japanese Tea Ceremony, Origami workshops, Painting Competitions, and so on.

Japan-India relation has been showing a steady upswing in recent years, and this is evident through the reciprocal visits of high-level dignitaries of both countries on a regular basis. In this context, I would like to mention the most-successful visit to India by the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Dr. Yukio Hatoyama, in December 2009, to hold the Japan-India Annual bilateral summit with his counterpart, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. A joint statement was issued on the occasion of the summit by both the Prime Ministers, setting the new stage for Japan-India strategic and global partnership, under which comprehensive cooperation in a variety of fields, mainly economic, was agreed upon.

Organization such as JAAI has a vital role in strengthening the economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties between our two countries, and I am sure JAAI will continue its good work towards this objective in the years to come. I therefore take this opportunity to express my best wishes to all members of JAAI for their bright and happy future.

堂道秀明

HIDEAKI DOMICHI

Ambassador of Japan to India

*Message by Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka
Chief Representative, JICA India Office*

Dear Readers,



Since I assumed the post of Chief Representative of JICA India Office in October 2009, I had a few occasions to participate in the JAAI events and interact with a few JAAI members. I am aware of the fact that it is always a difficult task to spare time to contribute to the good cause for the society, while having our own responsibilities at office as well as at home. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of JAAI Executive Committee for providing opportunities for the general members to interact with each other, with the society, and, of course, with Japan and JICA.

It is a matter of immense pleasure to see that JAAI has been organizing various activities during this fiscal year, such as Health Camp for weaker sections of the society, Tea Ceremony Workshop, Environmental Awareness Programme for school children and technical seminar on "Water and Sanitation." Besides these conventional events, JAAI also organized a cultural performance by differently-abled children this year in partnership with Amar Jyoti School. It gave a good opportunity for the members and their families to come and see the performance. Above all, this event gave an opportunity to the school children to feel proud of being able to perform before a well attended audience.

I am also thankful to JAAI members for arranging home stay for Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) which gave them a wonderful opportunity to understand Indian family culture and customs. FY 2009 gave JICA in India a new challenge as the number of JOCV working in India exceeded more than ten for the first time. As this bilateral cooperation programme has become more popular and result oriented, it is expected to reach more than twenty members towards the end of FY2010. We, in JICA, look forward to receiving continued support and assistance from JAAI for arranging the home stay for JOCV to be assigned in future also.

The Ex-participants of JICA training programme have always been very keen to have a chance to stay in touch of the things and events on Japan, no matter whether they are JAAI members or not. As a part of our initiative to keep them posted, JICA organized a debriefing seminar in March 2009 for the participants of the Youth Invitation Programme of FY2009 to meet together, review their experience in Japan and come up with the measures to be taken for enhancing their activities in India. They have been communicating with each other even now for consultation and coaching. It was also a good opportunity for the JICA staffs who are not directly involved in the training programme to get to know the impact of other JICA programme. The experience of the new participants should further be shared with larger group of ex-participants and this is the area I would like to further explore with JAAI.

I wish all members of JAAI a bright and prosperous future.

山中 晋一

SHINICHI YAMANAKA

**Chief Representative
JICA India Office**



From the President's Desk

Dear Readers,

JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI), one of the oldest JICA Alumni Associations in the world, since its inception in 1968 has been working closely with JICA India to achieve its primary objective of networking not only JICA Alumni but also Japanese families residing in India.

While the JICA participants always got warm welcome in Japanese homes, a large number of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) have started enjoying the warmth of Indian hospitality through home stay programme provided by JAAI volunteers. This opportunity has also provided a window to these volunteers to peep into the rich Indian culture and traditions. By the end of this year the number of JOCVs in India is expected to exceed more than 20.

'Our greatest obligation to our children is to prepare them to understand and deal effectively with the world; in which they will live and not with the world we have known, or the world we would prepare to have.'

In true spirit of this quote, we organised an Environment Awareness Programme with the school children of Kulachi Hansraj, model school Ashok Vihar, New Delhi. This programme was a small step in preparing our new generation to face the challenges and achieve the goal of improving welfare and living conditions in a sustainable way for the present and future generations. JAAI in collaboration with Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust had organised a cultural programme with 'Special Children' with an objective to create awareness about abilities of the disabled. This programme not only demonstrated our sense of empathy but also provided a platform to bring out the hidden talents of these special children and bringing them into mainstream of life. I remember a quote from John Ruskin:

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing,
Wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating;
There is really no such thing as bad weather,
Only different kinds of good weather.

Mr. Hidetoshi Irigaki took over as the first Chief Representative of new JICA India (after merger of JBIC and JICA) and under his leadership JAAI could start a fresh lease of life and embarked upon new activities like maiden Free Health Camp for slum children and historic signing of the Charter for establishment of 'JICA Alumni Association Forum for SAARC Countries. The JICA financial assistance to JAAI for the current year exceeded Rs One million mark, which was the highest till date. This year we have not only carried forward the Free Health Camp for slum children but also added Free Dental Camp. On successful and eventful completion of the tenure of Mr. Irigaki, we bid him farewell with all our best wishes for his new assignment at JICA, Tokyo and welcomed the new JICA India Chief Representative, Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka. I am optimistic that under his leadership JAAI will go further in its journey of progress.

Realizing the importance of safe drinking water and healthy sanitation JAAI organized an International Technical Seminar on "Drinking Water and Sanitation" which was attended not only by JAAI members but officials from Japanese Embassy as well as JICA and other concerned officials. We also organized Japanese Tea Ceremony in association with 'Delhi's Ladies Tea Ceremony Group'. The programme was well appreciated by participants as this was the first time that JAAI organized workshop on Japanese Tea Ceremony.

We have started a practice of inviting a person of eminence as guest of honour for our annual convention and the last annual convention was graced none other than the world fame Metro-man, Padma Vibhusan Dr. E. Sreedharan.

We are grateful to the Ambassador of Japan in India, H.E. Hideaki Domichi who has always been a source of inspiration and motivation for us, for sparing his valuable time from his busy schedule for JAAI.

The achievements of an organisation are the results of the combined efforts of each individual. I am very thankful to all my executive members who have been the pillar of strength in my efforts to take this organisation to its new heights. The association is running with the active participation of all its members. I shall remain indebted to them for their immense support and guidance. JAAI website has got a new look which is not only refreshing but more interactive with added features. It may be mentioned that the current Executive Committee will be completing its two year term this month. I wish the new executive members best wishes and hope that they will usher in this association to newer goals. I would like to conclude with the following quotes:

Every day is a perfect gift of time for us to use;
Hours waiting to be filled in any way we choose.
Each morning brings a quite hope that rises with the sun.
Each evening brings the sweet content that comes with work well done.

Zakaria Khan Yusufzai
President (JAAI)



Mr. R.K. JAISWAL
SECRETARY JAAI

Secretary's Report

JAAI Convention 2009

The JAAI Convention 2009 was held at hotel The Ashok, New Delhi on March 14, 2009 (Saturday). The function began at 7.30 PM with the arrival of the Chief Guest, His Excellency Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India.

Mr. R.K. Jaiswal, JAAI Secretary, welcomed the chief guest, H.E. Mr. Domichi, the Guest of Honour, Dr. E. Sreedharan, Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Mr. H. Irigaki Chief Representative, JICA India Office, and the JAAI members & their families present on the occasion.

Mr. M.Z. Khan, JAAI President, delivered the welcome address. In his speech Mr. Khan enumerated various activities of JAAI. He



H.E. Mr. Domichi
Addressing the audience

Padma Vibhusan Dr. E. Sreedharan, Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), the Guest of Honour at that day function, delivered his speech on India-Japan relations. He emphasized upon the Japanese work ethics, in particular those of Japanese companies associated with DMRC.



Gathering At Convention



Big Moment: H.E. Mr. Domichi
Releasing the "SAHYOG"

thanked the Embassy of Japan and JICA for their moral and financial support to JAAI.

His Excellency Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, addressed the gathering. He expressed that the bilateral relation between India and Japan has been strengthened and the outcome of many program have been positive. The Chief Guest emphasized upon the important role played by JICA Alumni Association in promoting technical & cultural co-operation between the two countries.



Guest of Honour Dr. Shreedharan
delivering his speech

Mr. H. Irigaki, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, briefly described JICA projects being undertaken in India. Finally, he proposed a 'Toast' for the progress of Indo-Japan friendship and cooperation.

The programme was followed by the dinner, which acted as a platform for the JAAI members to share their experiences of the JICA training. About 200 ex-participants of JICA and their spouses and many Japanese guests attended the function.

Free General Health and Dental Checkup Camps

JAAI organized Free General Health and Dental Checkup Camps for the children of Harijan Basti (Slum area), Lodi colony, New Delhi on September 13, 2009. The camp provided an opportunity for the underprivileged children to avail free medical checkup, medicines and advice.

General Health Camp: A team of specialist doctors comprising of Dr. K. C. Aggarwal (Senior Pediatricist), Dr. Vikrant Sood, Dr. Anupriya Gognen (Dept. of Psychiatry) and Mr. Praveen Kumar (Dept. of Psychiatry) from Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi examined about 425 patients. Although the camp was for the children but adults and senior citizens were also examined. Patients were provided free medicines and were advised to approach Safdarjung Hospital for necessary follow-up.

Dental Camp: The dental team comprised of specialist doctors Prof.



Doctors : Turning up for social causes

(Dr.) Tulika Tripathi (Orthodontist), Dr. Priyank Rai, Dr. Gyanendra Kumar, Dr. Harpreet Singh, Dr. Neha Gupta and Dr. Ninusha Jain from Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), New Delhi. The team provided thorough dental checkup and advice to all the 425 patients who attended the camp. Patients were provided free medicines and were advised to approach MAMC for further treatment. Free dental care kits (Courtesy-Dr. Reddy's Lab) were also distributed.

Awareness and Educational Campaigns: Useful information on oral hygiene, correct brushing technique and simple do's and don'ts for dental care was continuously disseminated through an audio-visual display. Awareness about tuberculosis was also created amongst the visiting patients by way of dissemination of information regarding the disease, its prevention & treatment (Courtesy-Delhi T.B. Association).



Registration in Full Bloom

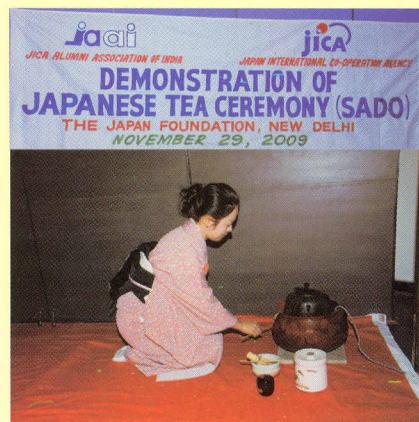
A workshop on Japanese Tea Ceremony

JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) organized a Workshop on Japanese Tea Ceremony on November 29, 2009 at the Conference Hall of Japan Foundation New Delhi. A Japanese Cup of Tea is more than implied by the name for the ceremony- "Cha No Yu". The Japanese Tea Ceremony infact captures all the elements of Japanese philosophy and artistic beauty and interweaves four principles-harmony (with people and nature), respect (for others), purity (of heart and mind) and tranquility. Chado or Sado, the way of Tea (popularly known as Tea ceremony), was developed by Sen no Rikyu as a method of inner peace through simple act of preparing tea.

During the event "Japanese Association Delhi's Ladies Tea Ceremony Group"

demonstrated this beautiful Japanese art. One member from every family had a chance to participate in ceremony and learn about this Japanese cultural form.

JAAI is deeply grateful to the members of "Japanese Ladies Tea Ceremony Group" for the demonstration of this centuries old Japanese art especially Ms. Yumiko Matsumoto, Ms. Noriko Ikeda, Ms. Yuko Tamarum Ms. Makiko Ikazaki, Ms. Hiromi Kobayashi, Ms. Reiko Miyamoto, Ms. Leilani Herman, Ms. Chiho Izumi, Ms. Akemi Kato.



Expert Preparing Tea...



Learning Moment for the audience

About 150 persons including the JAAI members and their family participated in the event. The Japanese guests presents at the event included Mrs. & Mr. Uchiyama, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Yamanaka, Chief Representative, JICA India Office and Ms. Asakuma, Senior Representative JICA India Office. The programme was well appreciated by participants as this was the first time that JAAI organized workshop on Japanese Tea Ceremony.

ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN

Nature Nurtures

JAAI and JICA in collaboration with Kulachi Hansraj Model School, Ashok Vihar, Delhi organized an Environmental Awareness Programme for school children called "Nature Nurtures" on 29th Jan. 2010. A series of events were held on that day.

As many as 30 schools participated in the programme.



Green Movement :
Mr. Y. Fukuda Planting a Sapling

In the multi-media room, the CD presentations were flagged off by our school children who presented a presentation on the dire consequences of the changing climate. They discussed the concept of carbon footprints and warned us that soon it will lead to total mayhem, in the future. The presentations were thought provoking and cautioned each of us to save the future.

In the Fancy Dress Competition, there were numerous participants who made us pledge to shift from Junk food to Healthy food for nurturing our inner selves and radiant appearances.

Mrs. P. Datta Principal-KHMS, welcomed the Chief Guest, Mr. Koji Yamada- Senior Representative- JICA India Office, Mr. Zakaria Khan Yusufzai, President-JAAI, Mr. Y. Fukuda, Counsellor- Embassy of Japan, Mr. R.K. Jaiswal, Secretary-JAAI, Dr. B.C. Sabata, Senior Scientific Officer- Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, other officials from JICA as well as JAAI and all the schools participating in the programme.

The keynote address was given by Mr. Zakaria Khan Yusufzai, the President, JAAI. He emphasized on the need for a sustainable environment and how students can contribute to an effective surrounding. He said, "Nature has enough for people's need but does not have anything for people's greed." A theme ballad was presented by the students of Kulachi Hansraj Model School. "An appeal to save the mother earth" followed by a visual treat of little damsels expressing joy and venerating our earth. Dr. B. C. Sabata, Senior Scientific Officer- Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi addressed the gathering and told them about the role of eco-clubs and the efforts being made by the Delhi Government to make Delhi clean and green.

As per the schedule the three events:

- Inter School painting competition with two Topics- Delhi of my Dreams and Climate Change and its effect on life
- Inter School fancy Dress with 2 topics, "Health and Nutrition" and "Pollution and Its Solution" and
- PowerPoint presentation the topic, "Climate change who is responsible?" and "Global Warming- How will we be affected" were organized.



Cultural Extravaganza : Children Performing At Their Best



Tiny Tots Showing their Painting Skill

The effort of each participant was praise-worthy but few had to be felicitated for their par excellence.

The results were announced and KHMS received the "All Rounders' Trophy" followed by "Prabhu Dayal Public School," Shalimar Bagh, who got the 'Runners up'. There was an address by the Chief Guest who emphasized the need to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle. In the end a vote of thanks was presented by the Environment Club Incharge of the school, Mrs. Monika Mehan. She thanked JAAI for giving this opportunity to the school. She specially thanked Mr. R.K.Jaiswal, Secretary JAAI, for coordinating with the school for all aspects related to this programme.

CULTURAL MEET WITH SPECIAL CHILDREN

JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) organized a cultural programme with special children at Amar Jyoti School, New Delhi on February 13, 2010. The theme was 'Equal Opportunities and Social Integration'. The chief guest at the function was Mr. Koji Yamada, Senior Representative and Chief Administrative Officer, JICA India Office. Also present at the function were JAAI members including the Executive Body, officials from JICA India Office and eminent social workers including those residing abroad.

The programme began with lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries present on the occasion. The guests were then taken for a guided tour of the facilities at the Amar Jyoti Complex by its founder Dr. Uma Tuli. It was amazing to watch the skills that the institute has been imparting to these children. It included physical, academic as well as cultural education. Another unique feature noticed was that the boys and girls (with and without disability) were beautifully mainstreamed together.

Amar Jyoti has the magic of convergence and has always been a trail blazer in the field of rehabilitation due to their team work. The institute provides a barrier free environment to the children. The cultural programme included Swagat Gaan and stage performances on the theme of Panch tatva (five elements that constitute the life). Watching the adorable children dressed up colourfully to perform on the stage was a novel experience indeed. The programme also included Judo demonstration by special children. All these activities by slow learners and dances on wheelchair kept everybody speechless. The vigor with which they performed clearly demonstrated their indomitable spirit.

All the members of JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) felt extremely honoured for having sponsored the cultural meet where children's performance was soul stirring and quite an eye opener for all the spectators.

The basic objective of JAAI's gesture was to create awareness about the abilities of the disabled through their unparalleled skill on the stage as well as academics.

The evening ended with a get-together for refreshment where the interactions were as interesting as the programme itself.



Shining Moment : Chief Guest Mr. Yamada Lighting the Lamp



**Meeting the Challenge:
Special Children Performing at their Best**

International Technical Seminar On "Drinking Water & Sanitation"

International Technical Seminar on Drinking Water and Sanitation was organized in the forenoon of 6th Feb'09 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Mr. Zakaria Khan Yusufzai, President, JAAI gave the Welcome address. Chief Guest for the Seminar was Mr. S. Yamanaka, Chief Representative, JICA India Office. The Seminar was compered by Mr. R.K. Jaiswal, Secretary JAAI & Dr. (Mrs.) Malti Goel, Former Adviser, Ministry of Science & Technology and CSIR Emeritus Scientist chaired the Technical Session. She complemented JAAI for taking this very important initiative for organizing International Technical Seminar on Drinking Water and Sanitation.



Dr. Chakraborti At His Eloquent Best

She invited Dr. Dipankar Chakraborti, Director (Research), School of Environmental Studies, Jadavpur University to deliver the keynote address on 'Arsenic Pollution in Ground Water'. He presented results of his survey in arsenic affected areas and crisis of water as well as need for managing the available water resources.

He presented results of his survey in arsenic affected areas and crisis of water scarcity as well as need for managing the available water resources. The issue of groundwater contamination and its adverse health effects in West Bengal, Bihar and in Tarai region of Nepal came into limelight during 1995-2005. Recent surveys have shown many other regions in upper Ganga Plains are affected with arsenic pollution and causing severe effects on health of the population.

Dr. Brijesh Sikka, Director, National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD),



Mr. Khare Addressing the Gathering

Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, presented the 'Yamuna Action Plan'. He highlighted National River Conservation Directorate, is providing assistance to the various State Governments and their agencies for implementation of pollution abatement works in 167 towns along grossly polluted stretches of 38 rivers in 20 States of India Various activities for control of Industrial pollution in Delhi through enforcement of environmental regulations & laws were explained.

Mr. Dinesh Khare "Business Leader" in Infrastructure and Waste Management Industry as Group CEO of a diversified conglomerate the Ramky Group, Hyderabad, presented his talk on 'Industrial Treatment Effluent Recycling'. He explained scientific and business side of zero liquid discharge industrial effluent testing and purification to make it reusable. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary methods of water recycling were explained and he also said that it is corporate social responsibility of industries to address environment concerns. These talks were followed by lively question and answer sessions.



Chief Guest Mr. Yamanaka Delivering the speech

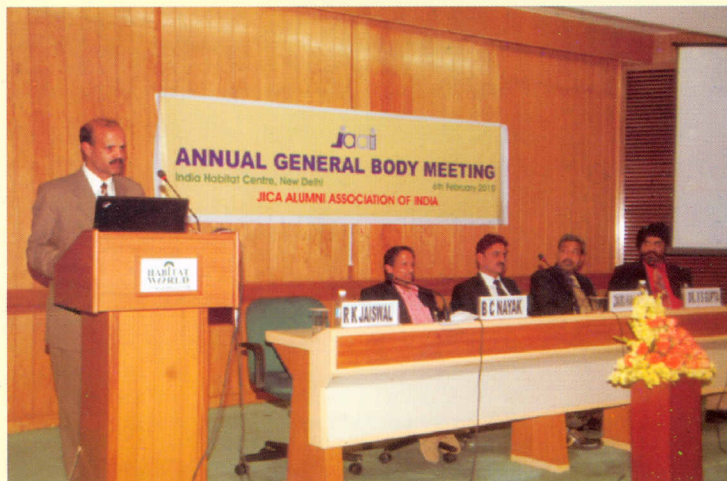


Dr. Sikka Presenting His Talk



Thinking Moment : Audience Listening the speakers

JAAI Annual General Body Meeting 2009-10



Mr. Jaiswal, Secretary Briefing the Events in AGM

International Technical Seminar on Drinking Water and Sanitation (February 6, 2010). He also apprised about the forthcoming events - Programme with Special Children at Amar Jyoti (February 13, 2010) and JAAI Convention at The Hotel Ashok, New Delhi (March 27, 2010). He requested the members to send articles for publication in the JAAI magazine, Sahyog. He also informed the House that as on date the JAAI database comprises of details of 886 members. It includes 409 active members of which 407 are life Members.

JAAI Treasurer, Mr. B.C. Nayak presented the accounts for the year 2008-2009 which was discussed and adopted. He also presented the statement of accounts for the year 2009-10 and proposed allocation for various events.

Mr. Arun Mahendru briefed the members about updation of the JAAI website in order to make it dynamic and interactive among members.

The election for the new JAAI Executive Body for 2010-12 was held, and Mr. Shekar from JICA India Office kindly consented to be the 'Returning Officer'.

The new JAAI Executive Body for the period 2010-12 comprises of:

President	Dr. S.S. Gupta
Vice President	Dr. (Mrs.) Malti Goel
Secretary	Mr. R.K. Jaiswal
Jt. Secretary	Mr. T. P. S. Oberoi
Treasurer	Mr. B. C. Nayak
Members	Dr. O.P. Dewal, Mr. Arun Mahendru Balraj, Mr. K. Sitaraman, Mr. Ramvir Singh, Mr. Sundeep Chauhan, Dr. Ashok Kumar Rawat

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

The Annual General Body Meeting of JICA Alumni Association for the year 2009-10 was held on 06th February 2010 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 55 JAAI members attended the AGM.

Dr. S.S.Gupta, JAAI Vice President, delivered the welcome speech.

Mr. R.K.Jaiswal, JAAI Secretary, thanked JICA for their active support and timely release of the fund of Rs. 10.12 lacs, the highest till date. He presented a brief account of activities already organized during the financial year - Health Camp (General Check up and Dental Check up) for slum dwellers (Sept. 13, 2009), Japanese Tea Ceremony (Nov.29, 2009), Environment Awareness Programme with School Children at Kulachi Hansraj (January 29, 2010) and



AGM in Progress...



Mr. Zakaria Khan, President Speaking in AGM

SAKURA AND DONTAKU FESTIVAL OF JAPAN



Last year I was fortunate enough to be selected by Japan International Cooperation Agency as the sole candidate from Damodar Valley Corporation to participate in the seventeen week long training programme in 'Plant Maintenance Engineering in Cleaner Production' in Japan. In the process I got one of the rarest chances to be trained in the Kita Kyushu International Techno-Cooperative Association and some of the world class Japanese Industries besides getting acquainted with the rich cultural heritage of the country of rising sun.

Throughout March it was very cold - even we witnessed the first snow fall in our life on 5th March. It was a magnificent view - Mount Sarakura was covered with frost. Slowly the weather became warmer. At the end of March cherry flowers started blooming all along the roads. These cherry flowers, Which are also called "Sakura", last only for about a week and Japanese people celebrate these days with much pomp and gaiety. Sakura is a symbol of Japan and is different from the cherry of other countries. Cherry Blossom viewing parties (Hanami) has been a Japanese custom since 7th century when aristocrats used to look at the cherry blossoms besides writing poems. People throng at under the cherry trees - drinking, eating and singing during the day and night and enjoyed with friends and relatives like picnic. Just behind our Kita Kyushu International Centre there was a street named Sakura Dori (Sakura - Cherry flower and Dori - road). There was about 100 cherry trees in the Sakura Dori and all the trees were full of pinkish white cherry flowers - the road was sprawled with cherry flower blown by spring wind. We assembled in the Sakura Dori in the morning and found a huge gathering under the fully blossomed cherry trees. Under the trees some families had assembled with foods and Sake (wine) to celebrate the day - they also invited us to join. Then there were procession of school children in colourful dresses with musical instruments followed by citizens of Yahata in which we also joined and paraded through the streets. We were given free coupons to have lunch and a bottle of water. Small gift items were sold at throw away prices and for us, sometimes with free gifts. Then there was rice ball throwing ceremony - it is a chewy snack made of rice flour. The councilors of Yahata threw rice balls to the citizens from the dais - all senior citizens, some of them in wheel chairs were seated near the dais. It is believed that only lucky fellows can catch rice balls. At the end of celebrations, Sakura Dori was thickly covered with cherry petals signaling the end of the Sakura Festival.

During Golden Week i.e the end of April to early May there are series of Japanese National Holidays and a number of festivals all over the Japan. The Hakata Dontaku Festival celebrated on 3rd and 4th May every year, which boasts of largest number of spectators, with some two million people including foreigners turning out every year. The name Dontaku is derived from the Dutch word 'Zondag' meaning Sunday or holiday, though the festivals and parades all over downtown have few ostensible links to Japan's medieval trading partner. It started in 1179 as a New Year performance known as 'Matsubayashi'. In the Edo period it evolved into a parade headed by people dressed up as auspicious Gods when visits were paid to the Lord of Fukuoka Castle. The parade was called 'Torimon'. Although the Meiji Government banned the parade because of extravagance, the citizens preserved the traditions by changing the name of the parade to Dontaku. It was also suspended during the World War II but was revived soon after the war ended to bring back life to the town and contributed to its rejuvenation. It is truly a citizens' festival.

On the occasion of this two day festival segments of people dressed up in different unique and colourful costumes paraded through the streets while clapping Shamoji Spoons. Various dance performances also took place as part of the celebration in the different areas of the city. There were parades of different ethnic groups living in Japan as well as Americans, Dutch & obviously Indians. Over 12,000 people belonging to about 120 groups performed traditional Matsubayashi - the groups vary on using traditional Japanese instruments and others performed folk songs with brass instruments. Another main attraction of the Hakata Dontaku Festival was the parade of decorated vehicles called 'Hana Jidosha'. We saw 'Hana Jidosha' of Hitachi, Coke, JR (Japan Railways) Shinkansen (Bullet Train) etc. Finally the day got over with gorgeous plays of fire works. Hakata Dontaku Festival is more appropriately described as a festival celebrating Japan's diversity and unity as different classes of the city greet each other and stand together.

Sajal Bandyopadhyay
JAAI Member
ID No. 919

*Sweet Memories of Ms. Tomoko:
Japan Overseas Cooperation volunteer (JOCV)*

JICA's Home Stay Programme gave me a great opportunity of adding a son and a daughter from Japan to my four generation family.

Under the supervision of Ms. Keiko Haneoka, Mr. Nagase Takumi and Ms. Tomoko Terada stayed for a week each with me during 25th Oct. to 31st Oct. '09 and 24th Jan. to 30th Jan '10. During their stay at different intervals, my parents, me & wife, my two sons, daughters-in-law, and specially four grand children Mehar (7), Kunwar(5), Aryan(3), Gurasis (2) were all so attached with these two Japanese guests that in the evenings all family members awaited them to have dinner together followed up with coffee and playing.

My wife, Mrs. Surinder Kaur Oberoi, fully utilized this opportunity to spare time in sharing her rich experiences of life both while working as Head of a School and also managing this joint family for over three decades. Choicest dishes were prepared as per the likings and tastes of Mr. Takumi and Ms. Tomoko and this became more enjoyable when we had meals together and had gossip to share Indian culture with them. Both these guests have continued their interaction with family members through mails and phone calls.

Ms. Tomoko requested for names and contact details of all my family members before she left our house. This list included Mr. Takumi as MY SON and Ms. Tomoko as MY DAUGHTER. A piece of paper was handed over to my wife by Ms. Tomoko on last day of her stay and a promise was taken that this should be opened only after she left. It was a letter written in her own hand writing in Hindi which is reproduced for JAAI members. Photographs taken by them with my family members and mailed later are also memorable. All my family members wish both of them a happy stay in India and a bright future in Japan or any country they prefer to stay in.

TPS OBEROI
Joint Secretary, JAAI
ID No. 527



JOCV at Oberoi's Home

मैं नहीं सोच सकती हूँ कि मैं यहाँ से नाजशी ।
मैंने आपने होमस्टे, हरि नागर में बहुत मज़ा
किया था । आपने हमेशा मेरा ध्यान रखा था ।
आप मुझे बहुत अच्छे खाना, दवाईया और कबल
देते थे । और बहुत प्यार दिया । मैं बहुत
अच्छे से आपके घर में रही थी ।
सच बताती हूँ, मैं आपसे हिन्दी में बात करना
चाहती थी । मैं हिन्दी सीखती रहूँगी । एक दिन,
हम सिर्फ हिन्दी में बात करेंगे ।
मुझे ओबेराय जी का परिवार पसंद है । बहुत
घन्यवाद, मैं बिल्कुल खुश थी । मैं सब कुछ
नहीं भूलोगी । अगर आप जापान या पुने आए,
कृपया मुझे फोन जरूर करें । अगर मैं दिल्ली
आऊँगी, तो से आपको जरूर फोन करूँगी ।
मैं 'अलविदा' नहीं बोलना चाहती हूँ ।
फिर मिलेंगे !!!

1 / 30 / 2010

मोको
(JOCV)

THE BLACK AND WHITE DREAMS

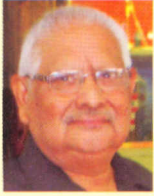


One night I was alone in a remote island. While sleeping, I dreamt a nightmare. I saw big heaps of deadly weapons scattered throughout the world. Everything was burning. People were starving and praying for peace. Endless wars were going on. I also saw that the Mid oceanic ridge was rising and a large land mass had appeared in the Atlantic. Manufacture of deadly weapons was continued by people to prove their supremacy. Destruction for short term gain had become a passion in people. Progress had lost its meaning. Different countries of the world remained busy to superimpose their power on each other. Wars of different kinds spread throughout the world. The peace loving people were tied with iron chains and were put in a single line such that the boundaries of the countries lost their existence.

All of a sudden, I woke up. After sometime, I again slept and started dreaming. But this time the dream sequence was different. I saw a milky path opened in the sky. This had changed everything on the Earth. Gradually, the natural calamities and man made disasters had died away. The bright sun appeared in the sky with golden rays. Everywhere the things were new and changed. It was green and pleasant everywhere. I found myself on a different island with tall and big maple trees. It reminded me of my visit to a forest during my stay in Japan. It also reminded me of my friends Kenji-San, Okada-San, Kuwahara-San, Ishibashi-San, Sadami-San, Keiko-San etc. What a pleasant trip it was because till today, I maintained a very warm relation with all of them. It could all happen because of JICA that a long and strong bonding is maintained till today.

Dr. V.P.Chatterjee
JAAI Member
ID No. 5

WHY I LOVE PAKISTAN



In the year 1978, I (at that time posted as Deputy Secretary in Tax Research Unit of Ministry of Finance), along with Shri D.B. Lal, Commissioner of Income Tax, attended International Seminar on Taxation in Japan, organized by the National Tax College, Tokyo, through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). As soon as we settled in our Hotel Sun Route - We started looking for the participants from Pakistan. We were told that the participants from Pakistan were also enquiring about us. Soon we located Mr. Tariq Aziz, Commissioner of Income Tax, and Mr. S.M. Kazmi, Collector of Customs. In no time, we became fast friends, moving together and enjoying our stay in Tokyo and other places in Japan. Our stay in Japan became more memorable due to our friends from Pakistan, who were more adventurous than both of us. They used to tell us about their outings with gusto.

Mr. S.M. Kazmi, along with his wife came to India afterwards, and was the guest of Shri D.B. Lal. I was also called for social gatherings organised in honour of Mr. Kazmi and his wife by Shri D.B. Lal.

On personal level, Pakistanis are well inclined towards Indians. Their hospitality is well known. They cherish their roots and are nostalgic about the places of their parents and forefathers.

There are all sorts of elements, both in India and in Pakistan. Let us not judge Pakistan by certain bad elements therein. Below the surface, both of us are the same. Whenever I read about not so friendly face of Pakistan, the smiling and friendly faces of Mr. Tariq Aziz and Mr. S.M. Kazmi flash into my inward eye, giving me peace and hope.

Lajja Ram
JAAI Member
ID No. 388



My Visit to Japan... Across the Sea

My Visit to Japan...
for Youth Leadership Training Programme
appears to me like a story....
of a fish who lived in a sea called India and
who just got slipped into an alongside pond
As the waves jumped higher...
and showered upon the pond...
it rippled a long stagnant
and mingled the waves with the pond...
establishing a new bond
of Cooperation and Integrity!!
Floating through the waves of the sea
the fish entered for a span
into another sea called Japan!
Where the colours of the water were new
and the fishes were different too...
But one thing was certain through...
that the sky ahead was again blue!!
the systems were quite different
and the languages as well...
a highly uniform environment I must tell...
but same was a strife for peace & harmony
and similar was humanity!!
A close exchange of friendship
And excelling ways of youth leadership
A deference for formality...
And a highly strong identity
An inclusive Education system...
incomparable technological innovation...

Eco-friendly garbage incineration
And pro-community administration...
Finally, the fish learned new ways of swimming...
a determined scope of transforming...
a satisfaction from experiencing...
and a direction for implementing!
Besides it brought with it...
A confident young leader actually...
With a blend of philosophy and emotionality
from across the sea!!
The fish is now looking for the words
To thank Jica and Ministry of Youth
Affairs and Sports...
Which together make.. not just a pond!
But a bond... with a difference...
And with a purpose...
of uniting many seas together indeed!!
Staying in Tokyo International Centre
and a visit to the cities of Fukushima prefecture...
A profound manifest for God
at Asakusa temple...
And a snowy night at Bandhai
was indeed unforgettable!
This all was a perfect gain...
And at many times took the soul back to
India again..
Through the path of spirituality!!

Dr. Rupinder Bir Kaur
JAAI Member
ID No. 908

BEYOND SILENCE..... CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE

PART III



One day in the morning I could not join my friends. It seemed something is forcing me to visit the monastery. On the way to Monastery I saw a girl who was traveling in the same compartment. She was looking pale and sick. She was quite and looking very restless. I wanted to talk to her but could not.

My curiosity forced me. I followed her. She was walking towards a hill in a small village. I saw many of the villagers were waiting in a ground. Perhaps they were also sick like the girl. Most of them were bald. Some of them were having severe cough. They too were looking pale and weak.

And thousands of bells rang when I saw Oshima. The same girl whom I have met in temple was distributing medicine to them. The girl from the train compartment told something to her in Japanese. She turned and she was stunned to see me. Then she told me, she was working for "Red Cross".

She told me "you should not come here. You are a foreigner .so you are our guest. There are various beautiful places in Tokyo to see and enjoy. You are not supposed to come here."

Sympathetically, I blamed other countries whose lust for power spoilt the life of thousands of innocent people. But with sad look she told me that they were suffering due to their own fault and nobody was responsible for those things.

While talking to me, her eyes filled with tears. I slowly held her hand and tried to console her. She looked worried and afraid. She told me to leave this village at once. Otherwise radiation in the air might harm me also. But I wanted to meet other people of the village. So I ignored her advice.

I met various people. They were suffering from different kinds of diseases.

A very old man told me how he felt, the day, Atom Bomb was dropped in his country. He was in his school. It seemed sun dropped from sky with thunder and light. Suddenly a dark cloud with intense heat covered the sky. He himself ran towards the river to save himself from the intense heat. But water was boiling, he got severe burns. Many people ran towards the over-bridge. The iron rod and railing of the bridge were too hot. Many of his friends died on the bridge.

The man could not narrate further because that time he himself lost his conscience. He did not know who saved him. While talking he was breathing heavily.

Oshima gave him some medicine and water and told him to take rest.

She took me to a nearby park. Fujiyama, the highest mountain of Japan was looking beautiful. I wanted to know many more things. But she was quiet. It seemed to me, in her quietness, she was praying for peace. I also joined her. We prayed quietly.

The orange flower in spring looked extremely beautiful. I told her "tomorrow I am going to India" As she had told me about her plan to visit India, so in anticipation of meeting again I gave her my visiting card.

After a few minutes of quietness, she took my hand gently. In Japanese style she bowed, kissed and told "Sayonara": I responded in the same way and left with a heavy heart.

Fujiyama, Mountain so high

It bend to see My love to say goodbye .

A whiff of fresh air Told me in the ear to pay her, some care

I smelled her hair And wiped the tear

Finally to bid her goodbye.

Smt. Jyoti Prasad

w/o Shri Bimal Nandan Prasad

ID No. 363

Kendo - Japanese Art of Sword in Delhi



Since I started working at JICA India Office in July 2007, I have had a long-lasting question to myself, Is there any place to practice kendo? While JICA has been dispatching a few judo instructors under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) programme since 2006, I had discussions with Mr. Tomoyuki Fujii, former Resident Representative of JICA India, a karate player, on the introduction of other Japan-rooted martial arts, whenever we went out together. On Japan-rooted martial arts he used to ask, "Why not karate?" I used to say, "Why not kendo?"

In Japanese, the word kendo literally translated means "way of the sword" ("ken" = sword, and "do" = the way). It is the traditional Japanese art of full-contact fencing developed by the Samurai. In modern kendo, practitioners wear padded armour and use a flexible bamboo foil called a *shinai* to stimulate combat with a katana, the traditional Japanese curved sword. The goal of kendo is not only to develop the physical skills, necessary for fencing, but also to introduce students to moral and spiritual aspects that can carry over into one's daily life. Etiquette, or *reigi*, is a critical component of kendo training.

I started kendo practice at school when I was in the 3rd grade. After joining in the intensive practice until completing the 12th grade, once I quitted in 1982. But my job assignment in the United States from the year 2000 to 2003 gave me a chance to refresh and upgrade my knowledge and skill in kendo. I got 3-dan (3rd Grade) in 2001 in New York. Although it was impossible to find time for practice while I returned to Tokyo from the United States, I thought my new job appointment in India would give me a chance to join again in the kendo practice here.

It took time for me to find practice partners and I almost gave up. However, I was so lucky to hear about a like-minded Japanese businessman at the JAAI Technical Seminar in January 2009. Some Japanese representatives and their family members had just started kendo practice at the Japanese School on Sundays, and a little later I joined in the practice squad. Up till now, having more than twenty members have been upgraded from beginners to advanced classes. Our club is called "Keninkai (India Kendo Club)."

Due to the lack of high-ranked kendo instructors in country, India does not belong to the International Kendo Federation and this further makes it difficult for the Indian kendo players to apply for grading exams. Keninkai is the only kendo club recognized as kendo dojo in India by the Japanese Kendo Association.

Koji Yamada
Senior Representative
JICA India Office

JAPANESE GEISHA



Geisha ("Person of the arts") are traditional Japanese artist-entertainers. Infact they are professional hostesses who entertain customers through various performing arts as GEI means arts or performances, and SHA means people. The word GEIKO is used to describe such persons. They became very common in the 18th and 19th centuries and are still in existence today, although there numbers are dwindling. The geisha have their roots in female entertainers such as the Saburuko of 7th centuries where they would perform for the novelty. They patiently went through extensive training to become geisha and keep improving their skills by taking many lessons. Nowadays, there are geisha who learn computer skills or English conversation to serve English-speaking customers.

The geisha tradition evolved from the taikomochi or hokan, similar to court jesters. The first geisha were all male; as women began to take the role they were known as onna geisha, or woman artist. There are two basic types of geisha. One is called tachikata who mainly do traditional Japanese dance (mai). The other is called jikata who mainly sing or play instruments. Tachikata are usually maiko (young geisha) and jikata are older geisha women.

Geisha were traditionally trained from young childhood. Geisha houses often bought young girls from poor families, and took responsibility for raising and training them. During their childhood, apprentice geisha worked first as maids, then as assistants to the house's senior geisha as part of their training and to contribute to the costs of their upkeep and education. This long-held tradition of training still exists in Japan. & often lasts for many years. However, geisha is an important aspect of Japanese culture & their elegant performances keep attracting many people from around the world.



An Artful Geisha!

Nita Shrivastava
Member, Executive Committee
ID No. 868

*Low Cost Ornamental Fishery may be an Alternative Livelihood for the Rural Women Folk:
A Pilot Project Report from Sundarban, West Bengal.*



Preface:

There is an all out effort from all corners for the empowerment of women all over, very recently a Bill on this (reservation of women in the constituent seats) is under great debate nationally. And there is no denying fact that the first and foremost need towards this is education followed by provide them work by which they can earn in a modest way. In the Towns & Cities there are many options, but in rural areas, the scenario is totally different. And as such the condition of rural women in general is not that much good as is expected, even after lot of movement for the betterment happened.

In course my working in Sundarban Development Board (under Sundarban Affairs Department), being a Fishery Officer, I executed one Pilot Scheme on "Low Cost Ornamental Fish Farming" by the rural women members, mainly house wives, without hampering their household activities, in view of the fact that there is an immense potentiality of this trade all over, especially export point of view. Prior to this they use to utilize their extra time (beyond house hold activities in catching shrimp larvae and crab, there by resulting negative impact on biodiversity; and after this they have stopped traditional practice and shifted to the modest way of livelihood by ornamental fish farming.

Conception of the scheme:

Having the experience of working in Sundarban, with a view to provide some sort of alternative livelihood to a large cross sections of womenfolk in Sundarban of some nature close to their traditional practice of livelihood, the present scheme was conceptualized by the author, in which the exposure I got during his JICA Training Programme in the year 2003 worked a lot. This project was executed in two Blocks .Basanti & Joynagar II of Sundarban. Altogether 30 members were selected from 10 Self Help Group (SHG) (10 members from Joynagar- II and 20 members from Basanti Block).

Selection of beneficiary and capacity building:

After primary selection of beneficiaries through local NGOs, several capacity building Awareness Meeting were organized for motivating the beneficiaries into this new avenue and final selection were made. And altogether 30 nos (20 nos from Basanti Block and 10 nos from Jaynagar-II block) were selected, who were members of Self Help Groups. After this two numbers of brick-cement cistern (6ft x 3ft x 2ft-1 x b x h) were constructed at each of the beneficiary's backyard at a cost of Rs 5000 through the respective local NGOs.

On hand Training Programme:

After this they were given a 5 days on hand (on campus) training programme on ornamental fish farming at Ram Krishna Ashram, KVK, Nimpith (Sundarban) where the full fledged facility for learning ornamental fish farming by doing was available.

During the training period, the members (beneficiaries) were subjected to exhaustive theoretical & practical classes. On the fifth day each trainees were provided with the following materials:

- 1) Ornamental fish fry 100 nos (Yellow molly brooder for Kultali Block and Albino shark fry for Jaynagar-II Block; Basanti Group was provided with Golden Molly (Live Bearer) brooder-23 nos (15 female: 8male) of the age group 2.5 months and Joynagar-II Group was provided with Albino shark fry-100 nos, size 1 inch; age group of 1 month.
- 2) Hand net, medicines, siphon pipe, polythene sheet etc----Total Cost Rs.500/

This enabled each of the trainees, going back home, to immediately start practicing rearing of ornamental fish with the knowledge (skill) developed during the training programme.

Post Training Technical Assistance and Monitoring:

To ensure that this prospective womenfolk does not stuck up with problems which may encounter during rearing period with their first hand knowledge, one Technical Person (a practicing ornamental fish breeder cum farmer with long experience and was a faculty also during the training period) was engaged to support the womenfolk for six months.

The objective was, during this 6 months period, two crops will be harvested and with this they will learn the technology of rearing in a better manner and their confidence level will grow.



Training Programme

Rearing by the women folk:

The women members reared those fry for 3-4 months which yielded following:

A. Basanti Group:

Yellow Molly started giving birth to baby fry after 3 months; babies on reaching age group 1-1.5 months were harvested and sold in the market. The parents giving birth to babies at every 15 days intervals and some of the babies also became mother after 3-4 months, thus population increased and selling continued. In the initial stage for selling the produce, the Technical Assistant assisted them, after which they sold out of their own and in the later stage some buyer from other place also directly came and bought the produce in bulk quantity.

B. Jaynagar-II Group:

Albino shark reached the marketable size (2.5 inch) after 3 months which were harvested in total and marketed. Subsequently, the cisterns were stocked with new batch of fry of gold fish and red tangarin platy (live bearer).

Method of Rearing:

The beneficiaries every day fed the fries with planktons (mainly daphnia), collected by hand net (at the time of their taking bath) from the adjoining tanks or at difficult times, they fed with prepared feed (with local ingredients and prepared by most farmers friendly method). This was so easy even the minor girl members could also do that and the fries love to eat it.

The Technical Assistant engaged for technical monitoring of this programme used to visit each participating member at every fortnight, helped them in rectifying their mistake if any, solving any problem if encountered, marketing the first lot, procuring the stocking fish seed from good source for ensuring quality and also to acquaint them with the inns and outs of the trade.

- (a) the members of Basanti Block has got 100 % survivality of the parents stock and sold 175 to 490 nos of fish specimen (marketable size offspring) in a period of 3 months from the date of the parent stock started giving offspring and earned a monthly income of Rs.116/ to 326/, when they had a stock of offspring (inclusive of parents) to about 300 to 480 nos with a value ranging Rs.300/ to Rs.480/. The ROI on monthly basis was 46 % to 130 %.
- (b) the members of Jaynagar-II Block has got a survivality rate of 30 % to 99 % of the parent stock and quarterly (3 months) income earned ranging from Rs.180/ to Rs.462/ and ROI on quarterly basis was 72 % to 554 %. After the first crop harvest, this Group members stocked with gold fish (50 nos) fry and live bearer (tangarin platy-20 nos, 12 female and 8 male) and at the time of completion of this project (Aug 1st week, 09) the stock of fish specimen (mixed) was 444 to 510 nos having estimated value of Rs.645/ to Rs. 810/.

Conclusion: From the foregoing observation it can be concluded that this ornamental fishery by the rural women folks may be an alternative livelihood (at least at subsidiary level) without compromising their household activities and in case where the location is well connected by roads, electricity, this business could be enlarged like anything and an entrepreneurship could be developed.

However, it may be concluded that with minimum efforts and very less investment (Rs.5000/ per individual), one rural womenfolk may be provided with an ensured monthly income of Rs. 300/ to Rs.500/ without comprising her regular household works which if judiciously promoted will certainly address the problem of meen (shrimp PL) and crab catching by the rural women folks

Action needed: This require holistic view of the executing agencies and association of one Technical Assistance at least for six months as has been done in the present study.

Acknowledgement: The author is grateful to the authority of the Sundarban Development Board for carrying out this Pilot Study and to the authority of the DRDC, S-24-Pgs for their financial assistance.



Ready to market albino fish after 3 months

Sailendre Nath Biswas
JAAI Member
ID No. 784

INDO-JAPANESE ETIQUETTE-WATCH YOUR STEP!



They say it is a small world, but when it comes to its people and cultures, the world is no small place-in fact, it is a plethora of beliefs, practices, customs and traditions. When travelling across the globe to various countries for work or pleasure, one has to equip oneself with an adequate knowledge of some of the customs and traditions of the countries being visited. This is a necessary precaution, lest one commits some embarrassing faux pas (social blunder) or causes disrespect or offense to the host countrymen.

In this regard, I must say, there are several similarities as well as differences, between some of the mannerisms and etiquette rules of India and Japan. A few examples will throw some light on these issues.

As a form of greeting, it is a common Indian tradition to fold the hands, palms inwards, in front of the chest, in a cordial 'Namaste'. The Japanese equivalent is a deep bow with both the hands placed on the thighs, while bowing. Sometimes, the hands hang by the side. But a common feature in the greeting of both these countries is that there is no physical contact in the form of a handshake or a kiss, as is customary in some of the western nations.

Both in India and in Japan, when addressing a person by name, a suffix is added as a mark of respect, be it a man or a woman. In India, it is a polite "ji", while the Japanese equivalent is a "san" after the name.

In many traditional Indian homes, (especially in South India), the guests are expected to remove their street footwear when they enter the house. A similar practice exists in Japanese homes, particularly when one is entering the tatami (prayer) room.

When invited as a guest, it is a common practice to present small gifts to the host. While there is a myriad of gift choices, it is important to remember that some items should be avoided as gifts, in some countries. For example, in India, it is quite common to gift the host some tea bags/boxes, while in Japanese homes, green tea is only given at funerals, and thus to be avoided while visiting a family for dinner. Also, in India it is considered inauspicious to gift someone items like scissors, knives etc.

So, it is always better to gift items that are non-controversial and universally accepted like, a bouquet or a box of sweets. Here, it is also worth mentioning that in Japan, the host may not open the gift received immediately in front of the guest, while in some countries it is thought impolite to put away the gift when presented.

In India guests are offered a glass of water upon arrival, while this is not in vogue in most Japanese homes, although other drinks may be offered. Sometimes, in Japanese homes the guests are seated at low tables with floor seats. In this situation, it is to be noted that women do not sit cross legged, which is a common practice in Indian homes. The Japanese sit with their legs tucked under them discreetly, although to the rest of the world this posture cannot be maintained for more than a few minutes or so because the feet tend to go numb! It is a wonder how the Japanese manage it for any length of time!

Before partaking of the food in a Japanese home, the guest politely says "Itadakimasu"(I receive), while after the meal he thanks his host with "Go chiso sama deshita" (Thank you for the feast). In India, the traditional "Namaste" says it all.

While only a few such matters of etiquette were touched upon here, it may be mentioned that there are many more such to be learnt and practised as and when possible. Since it is impossible to know and remember all such customs, and one is bound to goof up sometime or the other, it is always a safe proposition to ask when one does not know, rather than irk the sentiments of others by being reticent about it. Also, in Japan, the guest can absolve himself of any mistakes, by saying, "Shitsurei shimasu"(please excuse me), when he takes leave of his host. Happy travelling!

Dr. Sumathi Muralidhar

JAAI Member

ID No. 768

LETTER FROM GOD



As you got up this morning, I watched you and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday. But I noticed you were too busy, trying to find the right outfit to wear.

When you ran around the house, getting ready, I knew there would be a few minutes when you could stop and say hello, but you were too busy. At one point you had to wait for fifteen minutes with nothing to do, except sitting in a chair.

I thought you wanted to talk to me, but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip instead. I watched you patiently all day long. With all your activities I guessed you were too busy to say anything to me. I noticed that before lunch you looked around, and thought may be.....

Perhaps you felt embarrassed to talk to me. Is that why you didn't bow your head? You glanced across three or four tables and noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they had their meal, but you didn't remember me. I thought there was still time left, and I hoped that you would talk to me now.

You went home and it seemed as if you had lots of things to do. You spent a lot of time in front of the TV each day not thinking about anything, just enjoying the show.

I waited patiently as you watched TV and had your meal, but again you didn't talk to me..

That's okay because you might not realize that I am always there with you and for you.

I've got patience, more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others. I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one sided conversation. Well, you are getting up once again. And once again I will wait, with nothing but love for you.

Hoping today you will give me some time. Have a nice day!

Your friend, GOD

JAAI Member
P K Subnani
(ID 551)

FAREWELL AND RECEPTION



Farewell
Mr. Irigaki

On successful and eventful completion of tenure of JICA India Chief Mr. Irigaki and joining of Mr. Yamanaka as new JICA India Chief, Executive Committee of JICA Alumni Association of India organized a farewell cum reception on 20th October at Hotel Janpath, New Delhi 2009.



Welcome
Mr. Yamanaka

JAAI President in his address highly appreciated the support extended by outgoing JICA Chief Mr. Irigaki in organising various activities by JAII. The Executive Committee Members wished him good health and success.

The occasion was also marked by a warm welcome of the new JICA India Chief Mr. Yamanaka. The Executive Committee Members welcomed and wished him a very pleasant and successful tenure in India. The Members also wished his cooperation and support in JAII effort to further India Japan cultural and technical cooperation.

ATOM BOMBING NAGASAKI



When President Truman's of America was passing the executive order on 25th July 1945 to General Spaatz and General Groves for the second target atom bombing at KOKURA Arsenal, He small was perhaps not aware of the magnitude of devastations to be caused. Nagasaki was not America's primary target at the initial stage. Three potential targets for 2nd bombardment were KOKURA, KYOTO & NIGATA. Nagasaki was added when KYOTO was withdrawn because of its religious association and its cultural heritage. Likewise, Nigata was also withdrawn because it was too far from the airbase from where bombers were to be flown. Therefore Americans were left with just 2 targets i.e. KOKURA and NAGASAKI. On 9th Aug. 1945 when B29 Bomber started its journey with Major Sweney and Capt. Beahan who carried out the task from TITIAN at 3:47 AM the name of the bomber plane was Bock's Car and it headed towards the primary target i.e. KOKURA arsenal (a massive collection of war industries adjacent to the city of KOKURA).

When Capt. Beahan had a brief glimpse of KOKURA, it become clear that weather had saved the city; as the city was covered by the clouds. He made three rounds over the city but could not find break. With lack of fuel issue, he decided to move to his only other target NAGASAKI.

The atomic bomb dropped in Nagasaki was as lethal weapon made use of energy generated by fissile material i.e. Plutonium undergoes fission. Compared with TNT, atomic bombs are much more destructive because of radio active rays, such as gamma rays and neutron rays, generated at the time of nuclear fission which cause serious damage to human body over an extended period of time. This bomb was dropped by parachute at 11:02 a.m. local time and it exploded about 500 meters above the ground and it completely destroyed the city below it was the western side of the Japanese Island of KYUSHU. Smokes from fire in city were raising about 15240 meters from the ground. As the FAT-MAN was not a gun type bomb but used implosion method, it was having a circle of 64 detonators with dry pieces of Plutonium together. Prior to the atom bombing at Nagasaki, another city of Japan, Hiroshima was atom bombed on 6th Aug. 1945 but that atom bomb which was called a LITTLE-BOY, was of Uranium base bomb not of Plutonium. The capacity of the bomb dropped at Nagasaki was 40% greater than that of Hiroshima. Though FAT-MAN exploded with greater force than LITTLE-BOY, the damage at Nagasaki was not as great as it had been in Hiroshima because of Nagasaki's geographic layout and another reason that it exploded in industrial area.

All the maple trees, Oak trees and other trees were completely burnt and the heat waves with a velocity of 170mtrs/sec started blowing. All the telephone poles and other poles upto 2 k.m. radius melted and converted in rubbles. A total of 12,900 houses were completely destroyed and converted into rubbles and 5509 houses were partially damaged and in the coming years peoples suffered from leukemia, cancer, microcephaly, epileptic, and other disorders. As the damaged caused by bomb did not end at the movement of explosions. It was the radiation which was the main cause of sufferings in subsequent years.

Now it is being felt that there should be nuclear free world as **there is no wining or losing the war, there is only ruining** and the major world powers must take the lead in striving to abolish nuclear weapons. It is the primary responsibility of U.N., U.S., Russia, England, France and China, who are in possession of 95% of total atomic weapons.

We live in the age of nuclear horror whether we like it or not. Therefore in order to make our lives secure and for ensuring the perpetuation of mankind, we must abolish all nuclear weapons from the earth.

We sincerely prey from our heart for the repose of the souls of those who died in atomic bombing and pledge to work untiringly for the elimination of nuclear weapons and for the achievement of everlasting world peace.

Dr. Prem Parkash Mittal
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ID No. 921

New Executive Body of JICA Alumni Association of India (2010-12)



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EDITOR'S COLUMN



This magazine *Sahyog* is a reflection on the year that was and a mirror of various views, creativity and opinions of the members of the JAAI and JICA, which transformed all of us into confident individuals to contribute more and more to the society. As the year goes by JAAI is also scaling a new height in terms of its educational, cultural and social campaign. In the past year we have witnessed a buzz of activity and energy. In continuation of the last year activity JAAI organized *free general health checkup camp* on 13th Sept 2009 for the downtrodden, residing in the slums of Lodhi Colony, New Delhi. Many men and women including children throng at the site, where all got an opportunity to have an equal and best treatment by Dr. K. C. Aggarwal (Senior Pediatricist), Dr. Vikrant Sood, Dr. Anupriya Gognen (Dept of Psychiatry) and Mr Praveen Kumar (Dept. of Psychiatry) from Vardhman Mahavir Medical. The highlight of this camp was free dental check-up, sponsored by Dr.Reddy's laboratory. Free dental care kits were also provided to all 425 patients who attended the camp.

This year JICA has been fortunate to get its new Chief Representative, Mr. S. Yamanaka. In honour of Mr. Yamanaka, JAAI has organized welcome cum farewell party at Hotel Janpath on 20th October 2009. Newly deputed Chief Representative Mr. Yamanaka and outgoing resident representative Mr. Irigaki alongwith the members of executive committee had discussion over the future prospects of JICA and JAAI besides having a blast in the party. Mr. Yamanaka has assured all the members that there definitely would be a new horizons for both JICA and JAAI during his tenure.

Following month witnessed a workshop on the *Tea Ceremony*, depicting beautiful culture of Japan, organized at Japan Foundation, New Delhi on 29th Nov'09. Many Japanese tea ceremony experts were present who imparted the method of preparing tea to the members of JAAI. In the month of January, JAAI organised Environment Awareness Programme aptly titled "*Nature Natures*" with the children of Kulachi Hansraj School, New Delhi. This programme disseminated the ideas of cleaner, safer & better environment among the students. Following this, a programme for the special children was organized on 13th Feb'10 at Amarjyoti School, New Delhi, which truly describes the motto of JAAI.

Annual General Body Meeting of JAAI was held at India Habitat Centre on 6th Feb'10, preceded by Seminar on *Drinking Water & Sanitation*. The meeting apprised about the past & upcoming events of JAAI. Throughout the year, JAAI, indulged itself in various activities.

We at the editorial board, appreciate all the contributions we have got. I would like to put my sincere thanks to Dr. V.P. Chatterjee for his valuable contribution in preparing the cover page, with his beautiful painting, depicting, the excess carbon dioxide emission in the atmosphere which may bring blood tears in human eyes. The Orange hand symbolizes the thinking of technologists who visioned that they would toss the planet earth in the name of development. The Earth is burning due to man made disasters, which is symbolized by the burnt grey hand. Ancient sculptures give the message that we should learn from our forefathers how to live safely in the world.

The editorial board has taken great pains to bring to you great range of ordinary and unique talents of budding writers of JAAI and JICA. Hopes you enjoy reading through and will touch your lives in some way too. My good wishes to all the newly elected members of executives committee for their better efforts.

Nita Shrivastava
Chief Editor

Proforma for JICA Participants

(Please read the footnote before the proforma)

1. Name of Participant (Surname first):
 2. Designation:
 3. Name and Address of Office:
 4. Telephone No.:
 5. Fax No.:
 6. Residential/Mailing Address:
 7. Telephone No.:
 8. E-mail Address:
 9. Name & year of the Training (copy of certificate to be attached)
 10. Details of Payment:
Cheque/DD No.:; Date:;
Amount: Payment should be made by DD/Local Cheque (Outstation Cheques will not be accepted) in favour of JICA Alumni Association of India, payable at New Delhi)
 11. Other Information (if any):
Date: Signature:
- Note:
1. Registration fee is Rs 100/-; Life membership fee is Rs 1000/- Annual subscription is Rs 100/- (w.e.f. 1st April 2009)
 2. Active members need not to fill the proforma. Please indicate your name and ID No at the back of DD/Delhi local cheque and also inform your e-mail address and change in address (if any).

Passport
Size
Photograph

EDITORIAL BOARD

**Mrs. Nita Shrivastava (Chief Editor),
Dr. S.S. Gupta, Dr. V.P. Chatterjee,
Mr. R.K. Jaiswal, Mr. Arun Mahendru**

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

JAAI requests all those ex-JICA training participants, who are presently not active members of JAAI, to enrol for membership. JAAI members are requested to inform other JICA ex-participants to join JAAI if not already a JAAI member.

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