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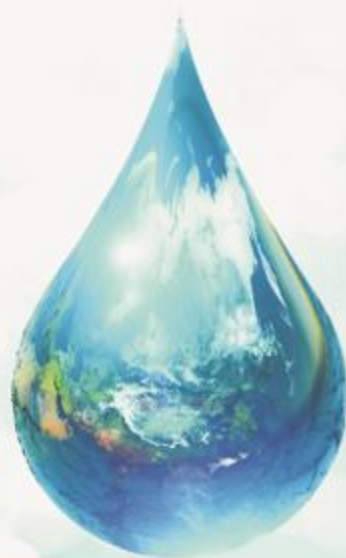


JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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21st ANNUAL ISSUE

2020



SAVE EVERY DROP OF WATER....

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सहयोग 2020

CONTENTS

1. Message from Ambassador of Japan	03
2. Message from Chief Representative, JICA India office	04
3. Message from JAAI President	05
4. Secretary's Report	06
5. Exploring overselves	09
6. Japan Diary	10
7. Education system in Japan	11
8. Konichiwa- Japan Wow moments	14
9. Chennai Regional Chapter	16
10. Small is big-Japan shows the way	17
11. Konichiwa	19
12. Down the Memory Lane	20
13. Green House Gases Emission	22
14. Congratulations	23
15. Editorial	24

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Message from Ambassador of Japan



It is my great pleasure to extend this message to the readers of “Sahyog” magazine. JAAI has been enriching Japan-India relations for over half a century, connecting a number of JICA training program alumni since 1968. I am grateful to all the diligent and enthusiastic government and civilian talents for coming to Japan and bringing what they learned back to India. JAAI has been a vehicle to enhance the value of such over 50-year experiences. I am convinced that JAAI will continue to play a symbolic role as a bridge between Japan and India.

Last year witnessed the first 2 + 2 Ministerial meeting and other important bilateral meetings, demonstrating our unwavering friendship. In these meetings, we reaffirmed that relationship between Japan and India will continue to be firm, ranging from our steady economic cooperation, human-resource development to our cooperation to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific.

As you are fully aware, Japan has a long history of assisting India through Official Development Assistance (ODA). India is the largest recipient of Japanese ODA loans. In FY 2018, the Japanese ODA loan commitment to India reached the all-time high of 422 billion yen. Japan will continue its support for important projects, including for improvement of connectivity and conservation of forest. Japan is keen to support better lives of Indian people. Most importantly, ODA nurtures bonds among our people. The members of JAAI are true assets for us.

Indeed, people-to-people exchanges are at the core of the Japan-India partnership. While the relationship between Japan and India has progressed significantly, there still exists the vast potential for further exchanges in the fields of tourism, education, research, and sports.

I hope that JAAI will continue to be an important player in deepening the economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties between our two countries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Satoshi Suzuki".

Satoshi Suzuki
Ambassador of Japan to India

Message from Chief Representative JICA India Office



Dear Readers,

It is about 1 year and 9 months since I have assumed my duty as Chief Representative of JICA India Office. On this occasion, I would like to convey my best wishes to all the members of JAAI with my sincere gratitude for the active role of the JAAI community in developing Indo-Japan relations.

We are proud of the long history of JAAI which was established in the year 1968 and celebrated its Golden Jubilee in the year 2018. It is heartening to note that JAAI organizes a variety of activities for networking among the members as well as to promote friendship between the two countries. JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programs is the main scheme to promote bilateral human resource exchange as well as capacity building of partner countries, and it is our pleasure to recognize that the total number of participants from India in the said programs has reached 6500 till 2019.

We believe that all of them have been engaged in important roles and positions for the social and economic development in India.

In this fiscal year, JAAI has been successful in launching its third Regional Chapter in Eastern India in the city of Kolkata. The first Regional Chapter was launched during the fiscal year 2017 in Western India in the city of Ahmedabad and the second Regional Chapter was launched during the fiscal year 2018 in Southern India in the city of Chennai. JICA has been strongly supporting this initiative of JAAI recognizing the value of expanding the network of JAAI across India.

As known widely, India has been our largest development partner during the past decade and JICA will continue to support the Government of India in its efforts for the social and economic development, and therefore, we highly welcome the suggestions and advices from JAAI members for our operations. We humbly hope that JAAI would engage in the task of experience sharing and friendship building to strengthen the ties between our two countries.

Finally, I wish good health and prosperity to all members of JAAI.

松本勝男
(Katsuo Matsumoto)

Chief Representative
JICA India Office

Message from President JAAI



Dear Readers,

Greetings from the JAAI Executive Committee.

I am delighted to present to you, the 21st edition of JICA Alumni Association's annual magazine "Sahyog". It carries glimpses of all our initiatives and activities. "Sahyog" continues to act as a medium of interaction and communication among the alumni wherein they share their articles, experiences and interesting anecdotes. We also showcase our activities and events of past one year through this magazine.

As you are aware, the motto of JICA Alumni Association of India is to maintain foster and develop friendship and better understanding among its members. All the activities of this association are geared towards better understanding of Japan in general and JICA in particular. We strive to promote Indo-Japanese technical and cultural co-operation at all levels. As an important academic initiative, we organize a technical seminar every year on any current issue of common interest. This year we chose a very pertinent topic of "Rain Water Harvesting and Water Conservation" for our international technical seminar and eminent speakers from India and Japan addressed the issue from various perspectives. The presentations followed with a very lively interaction between the speakers and participants. In the cultural exchange segment, this year has been unique as one Indian group presented the techniques of Judo whereas one Japanese dancer presented a 'Kathak' performance.

It has been our long cherished dream to establish regional chapters of the association. In the Golden Jubilee year of establishment of the JAAI (2017), we launched our first Regional Chapter in the western region at Ahmadabad. Next year (2018), another Regional Chapter was added in the southern region at Chennai. This year (2019), continuing the tradition, we covered the eastern region by establishing a Regional Chapter at Kolkata.

We are grateful to H.E. Mr. Satoshi Suzuki for taking keen interest in the activities of JAAI and encouraging us right from the beginning of his tenure. It was his friendly gesture, that this year we had another opportunity to hold our annual convention at the Ambassador's residence. It's a matter of privilege for all the members to participate in a reception organized with such perfection. Our heartfelt thanks are also due to the Chief Representative of JICA Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto and his entire team for supporting and encouraging JAAI activities all along.

I implore you to provide strength to JAAI by your active participation in all spheres of activities and strengthen India-Japan friendship and collaboration. I would like to thank all the members of JICA Alumni Association of India for their continued support to the association and request you to continue the same spirit in future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. O. P. Dewal', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. O. P. Dewal
President JICA Alumni Association of India

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT :

Annual Convention 2019

Annual Convention 2019 of JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) was held on 4th March, 2019 at Hotel Metropolitan, New Delhi. HE Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India was the Chief Guest and Mr. Rajendra Ratnool, IAS Joint Secretary (Ministry of Commerce and Industry). Guest of Honour. Dr. O.P. Dewal, JAAI President in his Welcome Address, enumerated all activities organized by JAAI in coordination with JICA India office. He thanked all JAAI members and their family members for heartily appreciating and actively participating in all JAAI activities.



His Excellency, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India, gone through the pics of JAAI activities displayed in the Hall 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. He said that Cultural and technical cooperation is visible in JAAI activities. Guest of Honour Mr. Rajendra Ratnool, IAS Joint Secretary (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) in his address focused upon Indo Japan relationships and coordination between Japan and India for Industrial growth in India.



JAAI's annual magazine "Sahyog" 20th issue was released by Ambassador of Japan in India, His Excellency, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu along with other dignitaries present on the dais.



Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto Chief Representative, JICA India Office, proposed a 'Toast' a call to gathering of people to raise their glasses and drink together in honour of friendly relationship of Japan and India and success of infrastructural sector projects by Japan in India.

Annual Convention 2019 was followed by dinner and informal interactions between JAAI Members and Japanese Friends.



International Technical Seminar at Delhi

International Technical Seminar was organised at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi on 18th Jan., 2020 on

the theme "Rain Water Harvesting and Water Conservation".

The eminent speakers of the seminar were Mr. Kotaro Hirayama, President in charge of Business Development of Toshiba Water Solutions; Dr. S. Rajesh(IFS), Director, Governing Council Secretariat, National Institution for Transforming India(NITI Aayog), New Delhi; and Mr. Kengo Akamine, Senior Representative, JICA





Release of annual magazine "Sahyog"-2019

India Office. All the speakers delivered very useful and informative presentations. During the Q&A session, queries of audience were answered by speakers.

International Technical Seminar and Elections of JICA Alumni Associations Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC)

International Technical Seminar and Annual General Body meeting of JAAFSC was held at Kathmandu during 6-8th Dec. 2019. Dr. O.P. Dewal, JAAI President and Mr. Pradeep Gupta, General Secretary represented JAAI at Kathmandu. In the AGM, Election of new executive committee took place for further two years. Dr. O.P. Dewal has been elected as Vice President of the forum and Mr. Pradeep Gupta and Mr. M.A. Khan were

nominated as member of the Executive Committee of the forum. JAAFSC also organised a seminar on "Natural Disaster in South Asia". A special issue of "Milan" annual magazine of JICA Alumni Association of Nepal was also released on this occasion. Mr. O.P. Singh, member of JAAI sent his article on Natural Disaster which has been published in the magazine.



Launch of third Regional Chapter of JAAI

After the successful opening of first JAAI Regional Chapter (Western region) at Ahmadabad in 2017, second JAAI Regional Chapter (Southern Region) at Chennai in 2018, third Regional Chapter (Eastern Region) has been declared open at Kolkata. It will cater to all the JAAI members residing in the Eastern part of India i.e. West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand and all North Eastern States. Dr. P. Dutta has been nominated Chairperson of the Chapter to manage the activities of this Regional Chapter.



Indo-Japan Cultural Exchange program

To promote the Indo Japan Cultural relationship, every year JAAI organises Indo Japan Cultural Exchange program. This year as a first activity of JAAI, on 2nd Nov., 2019 at Japan Foundation, Judo techniques i.e. Japanese art of self defence were demonstrated by the students of Netaji Subhash Modern Sports Club, New Delhi. Whereas Kathak a traditional Indian classical dance form of Northern India was Performed by Ms Masako Sato, who is an artist from Japan. The program was attended by members of JAAI with their family and enjoyed a lot. . Event was successfully anchored by Mr. Pradeep Gupta.



JAAI Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) 2019-20

JAAI's Annual General Body Meeting for the year 2019-20 was held at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, 18th Feb., 2020 and was attended by JAAI members. Dr. O.P. Dewal, President, JAAI, welcomed all members and thanked JICA India Office for their continued support. Mr. Pradeep Gupta, General Secretary, JAAI, shared details of events held during the year in General Secretary's Report. Mr. M.A. Khan, Treasurer presented the current status JAAI account which was accepted by all present JAAI members.

New JAAI Executive Body elected for the next two years, 2020-21 and 2021-22 is as under: President - Dr. O.P. Dewal; Vice President - Mr. T.P.S. Oberoi; General Secretary - Mr. Pradeep Gupta; Joint secretary - Dr. S.K. Bhandoria; Treasurer - Mr. Kuldeep Kumar; Members - Mr. K. Sitaraman, Mr. M.A. Khan, Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Dr. H.S. Mandal, Ms. Shikha, Ms Anjali Pancholy

Exploring Ourselves



There is always hidden explorer in us, some want to go the greatest heights, some want to explore the deepest secrets hidden inside the ocean. But if you ask yourself before exploring all the majestic beauty nature has given to us, have we taken the little time to explore ourselves?

Deep down inside of us, we all are aware of our light & its hidden glory. But its gleam is so bright that we are terrified to embrace it. Instead, we prefer to stand in the distance contemplating, procrastinating, making up excuses and taking solace in the fact that our holy grail is inside of us, within reach, yet unreachable.

Every human contains a will to find meaning and purpose in their life. And those who are aware of this 'why' can endure almost any life stressors. The purpose of the existence of human life is not only different for each being, so is the way you stumble upon it. That being said, the sole way to find your motive in life is to explore your true self.

To truly know yourself is the most important skill you can ever possess. When you know who you are, it allows you to bypass tons of frustration caused by putting time into the wrong things. Yes, life is supposed to be full of trial and error, but this lets you find the best areas for you to experiment with in the first place. Once you know yourself, you will become more confident, you will understand your purpose, and you will begin making a bigger impact on the world.

How to achieve this:

- You cannot and will not be able to know yourself until you take the time to be still. Many people don't know themselves because any sort of silence scares them; it's too uncomfortable to be alone with every flaw staring back at them. But it isn't until you get alone, evaluate yourself and are completely truthful with yourself that you will actually be able to see every facet of your life—the good and the bad. *Be quiet and discover your true self.* Start your day with some deep breaths, sit quietly by yourself, contemplate about life and ask the bigger questions. Take the weekend off from the technology and spend time with friends, family and yourself. Engage in solitary hobbies like reading books, hiking or playing a musical instrument.

- Find what you're good at and don't give up before you've had more than enough attempts as *knowing when to quit* is a gift that everyone needs to learn. Quit when you've put in ample time and your efforts aren't giving back in return. When your actions do nothing but drain you—rather than produce more passion and increase your drive to do more—that's a good sign it is time to focus elsewhere. Your strengths will show you who you are.

- A large aspect of knowing yourself can be found in your relationships. When you realize you'll never truly know anyone else until you discover yourself, the importance of knowing yourself becomes even more apparent. But this rule also applies to any relationship in your life. Almost as much as you need to know yourself, other people also need to know who you are. People need you—the real you. *Use your reflections to fight your biggest fears*, because when you understand who you are meant to be, your purpose will finally become bigger than your fears. When you realize who you are, you will spend less time spinning your wheels. When you know yourself, you will find more peace, and you will find success quicker than ever before.

Often when an opportunity scares you, it is a sign that something inside you is opposing that change. Either you are scared to fail or just overwhelmed by the sheer anticipated profit of the event; nonetheless, such intra psychic conflicts are an indication of a hidden opportunity to explore your true self.

"Being able to transform oneself is the key to success; Now go take action and find your true self, starting today".

Dr. Renuka Taneja
CMO(NFSG) I/C
CGHS, Govt. of India

Japan Dairy

I shall start my article by quoting that "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water." — by W. H. Auden. There's something about water that draws and fascinates all of us. Since childhood I had been fascinated towards Ocean, all thanks to my father occupation as he being a Government Officer and because of it, I got immense opportunity to travel all over India. It was from there that I got see the oceans and seas, rivers and ponds, swimming pools and hot springs from very near, all of these seemed little bit poetry to me, as I used to spend lot of time near by sea in my childhood. Now when I myself started my Job in Ministry of Fisheries, the fascination still continues and luckily I got opportunity to travel abroad, one place among my bucket list was Japan and in the year 2017 I got visit Japan for a training programme.

I visited Japan during the month of February and March which is the cherry blossoms time, whole of Japan was drenched with pink Cherry Blossom Flowers. During my training period I visited lot of places, saw east china sea, sea of Japan, my debut trip made me realise how much I have to learn about this incredible country. My dream came true of seeing the sea of Japan.

Japan is not only a technological hot-spot, it also offers travelers beautiful culture to experience and natural wonders to explore. The country has maintained a mysteriously unique culture - a mix of traditional heritage and customs with an emerging pop scene. It can be expected to see the unexpected on our trip to Japan as it is immensely magnificent country.

Japanese Cuisines offers an abundance of gastronomical delights with a boundless variety of regional and seasonal dishes. I had and opportunity to visit few restaurants in Japan during the training period the food which we experienced still bring water in my mouth.

As far as culture goes there I found similarities in culture of India and Japan. The Japanese have a well-developed system of hierarchy and use of honorifics, such as '-san', '-sama' for a noble person, 'sensei' for teacher, etc.. India too has a system of using honorifics. However, the main difference between the two cultures in this regard is that unlike the Japanese who have an established, common system throughout the country, the use of honorifics vary across the length and breadth of India i.e like Shri, Ji, Pandit and Sadguru. This is mainly due to the existence of numerous vernacular languages.

The people I met in Japan were super friendly and it was so easy to get around whether locally or across the country via the Shinkansen's and not to forget in the end that the food was fantastic, The JR pass is fantastic on traveling a lot within Japan, its definitely worth it and it could be used on local trains in the cities as well. Its great to mix modern and traditional Japan on your trip if planning to explore Japan. While most people visit Tokyo and other major cities, its great to visit other smaller towns that are more traditional Japan as well. Kyoto falls under that category, though its obviously a major city and always filled with tourists. Not to forget Japan is a cash economy.

In the end would like to say that Japan was amazing and if I get a chance I would definitely like to visit again.

Ms. Poonam Rani
Senior Technical Assistant (Fisheries)

Education System in Japan

I am grateful to Worthy Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for giving me an opportunity to attend training program at Kobe, Japan during 2nd June, 2018 to 14th July, 2018 wherein this training course has brought to Japan educational leaders, policy makers from 8 different countries to upgrade their knowledge and skills that would promote highest quality of basic education after enriching from in depth understanding of education, administration and finance mechanism at their respective workplace!

This program has been useful for me as a participant from India in several ways and most of the useful ideas, lesson learned, discussed and observed that are applicable to our basic education, to overcome from the obstacles of low enrollments and quality of education in SDMC schools.

The Japanese people are punctual, hardworking, polite, disciplined and tidy for rules & regulations, safety and cleanliness which I had observed throughout the training period, places that



we visited and people that we associated with during the training. I observed that these qualities were inherited by the Japanese through their education system and these features has to be inculcated to our society through our education.

I would like to put forward my personal experience during the visit of various Schools/Institutes/Boards in Japan highlighting the key features of their education system:-

Places Visited: Field visits to Schools, Universities, Kobe City Board of Education, Asago City Board of Education Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education and Kinkakuji Temple have allowed us to meet and exchange with the different factors of education, and thus, to better understand the organization and functioning of different education structures in Japan.

1. OSAKA MUNICIPAL SEKIME ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS: I could understand how Technology plays a significant role in improving access to education and role of strong relationships of school management, parent teacher association (PTA), and community for improving of quality of education.

2. IKUNA ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS: The school is transforming the present traditional modes of teaching into modern methods of innovative teaching using proactive approach and latest technology by way of active participation of Parents, NGOs and community. For example all schools is having after school activities class for students upto 4.30 pm to upgrade the micro subjects knowledge such as life skills, art, sports, music handicraft and dance besides their main subjects in Japan.

3.KOBE UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS: The school is assigned as UNESCO Super Global School and provides an integrated six-year education. Our fundamental principle is to enhance students' intelligence and creativity, and sharp minds as well as warm hearts in an educational environment that emphasizes international awareness.

4.KYOTO MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF SCHOOL HISTORY: The museum, which opened in 1998, is located in a former **Meiji Period** primary school buildings which was unused due to low enrolment of students. The govt. converted the school into museum to preserve education heritage and save approx. 11,500 historical records such as textbooks and educational materials left to the city schools, as well as approx. 500 fine arts and crafts donated by graduates of those schools.

5. SADO KINZAN GOLD MINE: This mine was in operation for almost 400 years and is considered to have contributed to Japan's status as an economic superpower and finally closed the mine in 1989, the mine produced approximately 78,000 kg of gold.

6. SYMPOSIUM: To have a better knowledge and interpretation of some important education system indicators ; to discover tools of analysis relating to the financing of education ; to discuss important issues of education linked to quality and internal efficiency



THE EXPERIENCE LEARNED FROM THIS PROGRAM -

o Education system in Japan is the result of many reforms. It is Decentralized , efficient and inclusive : several bodies controlling education with respect to their specific duties and powers,

(MEXT , the prefectural boards, municipal boards and municipal schools)

- o All people have “the right to receive education” as one of the basic human rights
- o Education is free and compulsory
- o Efficient teachers training and management system through School Management Committee(SMC), Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- o The same standards of schools everywhere, (rural and urban areas)
- o Japanese people respect the role, time and good relationship

It is urgent that we face our realities squarely to fulfill children's hopes for the coming school year and enable India to reach its national goals for growth and equity. Henceforth, time has arrived to recognize that this is a gateway to meet the international challenges by way of thinking with a different mind set and prepare our students to compete at par with international standards with innovative ideas to ensure that all Indian citizens will receive education in spite of financial constrains or unavailability of schools.

Dr. Surender Kr. Bhandoria

Deputy Director of Education,
South Delhi Municipal Corporation

JAAI Regional Chapter (West) Report



During a programme on 30th & 31st Aug 2019 at Ahmedabad, JAAI (Western Region) Chapter Chairperson Mr. Sanjeev Mehta met JICA India office Chief Representative Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto in esteemed presence of Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat hon'ble Shri Nitinbhai Patel. Mr. Sanjeev Mehta congratulated him for appointing as JICA-INDIA head. He had presented a hindu culture memento to Mr. Katsuo Matsunoto, Chief

Representative of JICA India Office.

Mr. Sanjeev Mehta also met Mr. Ashok Chavla (Advisor Japan) and the Indian head of Japan Tourism.

Mr. Sanjeev Mehta had given information about JAAI activities and also discussed future programmes.

Konichiwa –Japan : Wow Moments



It was my rare privilege and good luck that I visited the most beautiful and advanced country on earth i.e. Japan for 45 days. This golden opportunity was through JICA Training Program on "Construction Technology introduced or applied to Developing Countries" from 13th May 2012 -30th June 2012 in Yokohama. It was 2nd largest city of Japan situated south of Tokyo and part of Kanagawa (Prefecture) . This is one of first Japanese port opened for foreign trade.

As a part of my daily life routine in morning walk along and near the sea shore also very near from YIC (Yokohama International Centre) .I saw one of the person from Thailand offering some pieces of Biscuits to pigeons . Thought on this scene took me back to my childhood days, where my grand father and father had a regular habit or I can say an in -built character from ancestors to take some sort of food (especially Maize) approximately savaser (1.250kg) on their way to early morning routine activities in their Dhoti (Traditional Lower Cloth- 5 meters) for pigeons at specific location of my native village Dindoli (Chittorgarh District of Rajasthan) . This nature of love towards birds was also transmitted to me and maintained by me where I reside .

In order to maintain my habit and availability of location made me **feel wow** and I also purchased 30 packets of Biscuits cost 105 yen each packet. Every morning during walk I used to carry one packet of biscuit in my pocket and at sea shore used to feed the pigeons making pieces on my palm . On very first day I became familiar and friend to pigeons coming there and started sitting on my shoulder and palm for taking pieces of biscuits . It became very interesting for me and part of my daily activity during my training period at Yokohoma in Japan . My fellow participants usually asking me- have you fed the pigeons?



Shrine Procession

Enjoying genuine tea ceremony on 19.05.2012 in lobby of Sankei memorial while sitting on chairs at Table for gossip though it was not sweet in taste .

Participating in religious festival Ushioda Shrine on 3rd June 2012 to carry shrine on shoulders with special sound in the procession like our "Ram Revari procession on Jaljulni Ekadashi" in Charbhuj Gadhbhor (Rajsamand,Rajasthan) .

Wearing Kimono dresses to feel important and Royal on 6th June 2012 like Fancy dress program of our school days.

Scene of moving unmanned and automatically controlled loaded Trucks on a specified track for testing of pavement in Public works research Institute was a surprising moment for all the participants of the Training .

Traveling in shinkansen (High speed Bullet Train) from Tokyo to Hiroshima on June 11,2012 was a thrilling and sweetest memory of life beyond imagination . Hopefully this dream of travelling in India will be fulfilled in coming years.

Understanding of the functioning / working of Panama Canal through sailing in a boat in canal across Arakawa river on 12.06.2012.

At last , but it is not complete if forget to mention the closing ceremony with Luncheon given to all the participants on 29.06.2012 in these wow moments .

When I returned after completion of my Training to India , shown the photographs and narrated the experience of Japan to my family members also putting hand on mouth shouting **wow, kya bat hai** and expressed keen interest in visiting the Japan . Probably in 2020 , plan to visit the Japan again and refresh the old wow moments with family also.

Ganbatte Kudasai !

P. R. Chandak

Retd. Executive Engineer
PWD, Udaipur (Rajasthan)

शुभकामनाएं.....



नई दिल्ली में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में हिन्दी राजभाषा के क्षेत्र में किए गये विशिष्ट कार्यों के लिए डॉ. प्रदीप गुप्ता को सम्मानित किया गया

CHENNAI REGIONAL CHAPTER

A program on Awareness on Rain Water Harvesting and Evasion on Plastic usage was organised by JAAI Regional Chapter (South) on 11th Jan., 2020 at Panchayat Union Middle School, Uthiramerur, Kanchipuram. Program was attended by Ms. Shiho Bamba, Consul, The Consulate General of Japan, Mr. Toru Umaechi, Senior Representative, JICA India Office, Mrs. Pooja Kulkarni, IAS, Chairperson, JAAI (Southern Chapter), Mr. T.P.S Oberoi, Vice President, JAAI and Mr. K. Sitaraman, Member, JAAI with other local JAAI members.

A cultural program (classical dance) was performed by the students of Panchayat Union Middle School, Uthiramerur.

Smt Pooja Kulkarni, Chairperson, JAAI Regional Chapter (Southern) delivered the Inaugural address where she also mentioned that she felt really glad to be back in the school where she had served before. Ms. Shiho Bamba, Consul, The Consulate General of Japan addressed the school students and Mr. Toru Uemachi, Senior Representative, JICA India Office discussed about the projects and activities carried out by JICA.

Dr. N. Madhavan, Head Master, PUMS, Pathiri, Author & Editorial board member, Thulir Science Magazine handled a 45 minutes session on 'Plastics & the Environment' (*Mannukku thevaiya polythene thoppi*) The session was very interactive and informative.

Sh. N. Anbazhagan (Ex JICA participant, 2013) PUMS 1-3 Ward, Uthiramerur shared his experiences of attending the training program in Japan for the year 2013 through simple presentation.



Followed by Smt. Kalavalli Arul, Head mistress, Govt. School, Tirukalomedu handled a session on 'Water Management' (*Unavenbadhu Nilathodu Neere*). She made a very interactive presentation for the school students using graphics and animations in her presentation.

School students interacted with the dignitaries and shared their feedback with them. The entire program was compered by Smt Chitra, Teacher, Govt High School, Hasthinapuram.

Finally vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. M. Divyasri, Secretary, JAAI, Southern Chapter.

Reported by Ms. M. Divyasri, Secretary, JAAI, Southern Chapter.

Small is Big- Japan shows the way!



It is said that the little things in life are important, and matter the most in the larger scheme of things. If you take care of the details and small stuff, the bigger things will fall in place or be easier to achieve. Life's comforts are often felt in the small details of every day living. Let's face it, who cares whether we touched Mars or not, but everybody appreciates the small comforts that make everyday living easy. Who better to illustrate this truth than the Japanese! They have shown us, in innumerable ways, how to make the common man's life fret-free. I will run you through some of these unique inventions by Japanese, just to impress this truth upon you.

- Did you know that many of the ATM kiosks in Japan have cane holders to park the walking sticks

of senior citizens? This small gesture has touched the lives of a large number of senior citizens in the country, in a positive way.

- When we buy chewing gum in Japan, a small surprise awaits us. There is a small bit of square folded paper that comes with the chewing gum. It has been thoughtfully included to help us pack the chewed gum and roll it in before disposing off. That way it is ensured that the gum does not get stuck just anywhere and cause problems.

- The entrances to several market places and malls in Japan have umbrella lockers. People getting in with their umbrellas can lock and store them here before going in to the super market/mall. They can thus spare themselves the hassle of carrying in the umbrella and inconveniencing themselves and others.

- The manhole covers in several parts of Japan are made colourful and with beautiful designs, which are not only soothing to the eye, but also useful in locating them easily.

- Many public toilets in Japan have baby seats fixed to the walls in Ladies toilets. It is very convenient for ladies to perch their babies in these handy wall seats before they do their business. This way, the baby is in the vicinity of its mother, and not wailing away in the arms of a stranger outside the toilet, who has been requested by the mother to hold her baby!

- Talking of toilets, there are other comforts that have been intelligently included by the Japanese, to make the toilet experience less embarrassing in public places. For example, a board at the entrance of the toilets that displays the vacancy status of public toilets, and the inclusion of music in the toilet to snuff out other objectionable sounds. And to save water, the hand wash is placed on the cistern of the WC, so that the soapy waste water after you have washed your hands, will fill the cistern for the next flush! Now, who would have

thought of this ingenious way to save water! The Japanese, of course!

- At some Japanese airports, the ground staff sorts out luggages by their colour, making them easily recognizable by their owners, when they arrive on the conveyor belts. Also, in Japanese airports, the ground crew waves to the departing aircraft in a gesture of bonhomie. Maybe nobody would wave back, yet, the feel-good activity in itself is enough to bring a smile, even if only fleetingly.

- Some trains in Japan have fun corners for children to play video games and rock in chairs. They also have footbaths for adults to dip their aching feet and enjoy the experience of both train travel and the foot care.

- Most Japanese restaurants display their food at the entrance in glass chambers. These food items are not real, but fake food just so the customers know what they are getting inside the restaurant. But, these fake food items are made to appear so real that one cannot tell the difference!

- Did you know that the seat placed in the corner of an elevator in some Japanese cities, doubles up as an emergency toilet? Also there is an umbrella sign in the elevators that lights up if it is raining outside! The Japanese never cease to surprise us, do they!

- At traffic light areas in some Japanese cities, there are scramble intersections, where you can cross the road diagonally, instead of just straight-line crossing. And at some tourist spots there are ready-made stands at strategic points with holders for mobiles, so that tourists can take proper selfies. And then there are dispensers to provide wipers for your smart phones !

Here are some more unique Japanese inventions-

- There are coke and other drink cans with letters in braille on their tops for easy recognition by the visually impaired.

- Some hospitals provide reading glasses with different powers at their counters, to help senior citizens fill up the forms easily.

- There are also bedside lamps in hotel rooms and elsewhere, which can be half lit, only on your side, when you want to read. This not only does not disturb the other person in the room, but is a means of saving electricity too.

- The trial rooms /fitting rooms in the ladies section of several Japanese malls have transparent face covers, which the ladies have to don before trying on a new outfit. This is to prevent their make up and lipstick from rubbing off on to the new clothes when they pull these over their heads to try them on.

Now tell me, who can beat the Japanese in the art of making life big and comfortable in small and thoughtful ways? I can hear your answers loud and clear!

Dr. Sumathi Muralidhar
Professor & Consultant
Microbiologist
VMC & Safdarjung Hospital
New Delhi

Konnichiwa



It was February 20th 2015, we took off from Indira Gandhi International Air Port to Narita, Japan . We were welcomed by JICA representative at Narita Airport, after that they brought us to Tsukuba, a city located in Ibaraki Prefecture.

Our training started at NMIJ (National Metrological Institute of Japan) which is situated at JAIST (Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology) we got about one week training in Tsukuba, in which we visited various advanced industries and Institutions of Tsukuba, Tsukuba is intellectual city of Japan, almost all national level research institutions are situated there including JAXA (Japan Space exploration agency) we also visited JAXA with due permission of authorities. After that we went to Tokyo and stayed at TIC, we studied at various institutions like Metter Toledo, JQA, JQC Legal Metrology Officer office at Tokyo, Tatsuno at Yokohama etc.

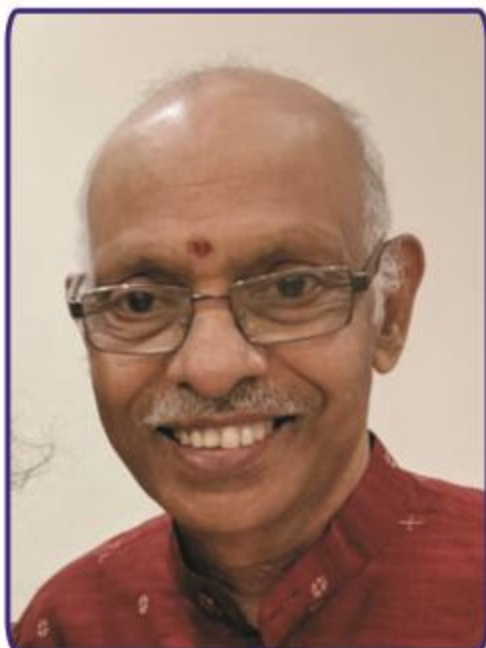
Being Saturday and Sunday remain holidays so we wandered in every nook and corner of Tokyo. We visited Shinjuku, Akhiabara, Asakusa, Tokyo Sky Tree and Semuda River cruise, we pray for welfare of People of India And Japan at Asakusa Temple, which Also known as *Sanja-sama (Shrine of the Three gods)*, it is one of the most famous Shinto shrines in the city. We visited the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building, also referred to as Tochō for short, houses the headquarters of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which governs the special wards, cities, towns and villages that constitutes the whole Tokyo Metropolis. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building is situated in Shinjuku is often visited by tourists for its observation decks which provide good panoramic views of Tokyo and beyond. The 243 meter tall building has two towers, and each houses an observatory at a height of 202 meters. It had been the tallest building in Tokyo until it was overtaken by the Midtown Tower in 2007. We also climbed Mt Fuji, during Mt Fuji climbing temperature remained in Minus after lake Kawaguchi. Mt. Fuji is an active volcano about 100 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, near the Pacific Ocean Coast in Yamanashi and Shizuoka *ken* prefectures of central Honshu, its Commonly called "Fuji-san," it's the country's tallest peak, at 3,776 meters. A pilgrimage site for centuries, it's considered one of Japan's 3 sacred mountains, and summit hikes remain a popular activity.

During our study we also visited Hill City Chichibu, Saitama, and Yokohama, and Holy City Kamakura. Kamakura is a coastal town in Kanagawa Prefecture, less than an hour south of Tokyo its a seaside Japanese city, its remained political center of medieval Japan, modern-day Kamakura is a prominent resort town with dozens of Buddhist Zen temples and Shinto shrines. Its most recognizable landmark is the Kotoku-in Temple's Great Buddha, a roughly 13m-high bronze statue still standing after a 15th-century tsunami. Yuigahama Beach on Sagami Bay is a popular surfing spot. Residents of Kamakura receive the tourist at Kamakura Railway station and help them to visit holy City. we also enjoyed the ride of Shenkenshen N 700 Series (Bullet Train) our entire training remained remarkable and wonderful.

"Arigatou Gozaimasu"

Manoj Kumar
Legal Metrology officer
Govt of U.P

Down the Memory Lane



That was one day in November 1985, more than three decades ago. News came that I was selected as a JICA Scholar under the Colombo Plan to receive training in Advanced Colour TV Engineering. I was thrilled and felt it was a double blessing: It was my first ever trip abroad, and getting trained in Japan - the most advanced country and a technological super power- was indeed a matter of pride and privilege.

But there were all kinds of cautions and warnings from some well-meaning friends: Firstly, it is a country where English is hardly spoken, let alone it being used as a medium of teaching and training. Non-Japanese knowing people like you are bound to get lost. Secondly, your training period coincides with peak winter season and it will be freezing. Never go out alone; even in company don't venture outdoors after sundown – it may be a security risk... so on and so forth. So, with some trepidation, and after borrowing an overcoat from a friend, I set off on my maiden *tour de force* of Japan. What followed was

indeed a voyage of discovery and indelible experiences. The initial misgivings proved unfounded and gave way to lasting friendship.

Any first-time visitor to Japan will be wonder-struck by two things: the absolute cleanliness of the place and the unfailing courtesy of the people – not only among themselves but equally towards foreigners. Needless to mention that on both these counts we in India have much to gain by emulating the Japanese example. As the saying goes, 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness', but in Japan it is the reverse: Cleanliness comes first! One finds that even their roads and railway platforms are maintained cleaner than our five-star hotels. As for their courtesy levels, they are simply legendary and unequalled in any other part of the world. In many other aspects too the Japanese example is noteworthy. Their work ethic, national pride, corporate allegiance, individual discipline, professional excellence, traditional values, time sense... the list goes on.

Fortunately for me, my Japanese encounter did not end with my training there. In my later career at the Indira Gandhi National Open University, JICA happened to join hands with the University in two major projects aided by the government of Japan. I was closely associated with both the projects in my professional capacity. In the first project, we set up a 'Post Production Centre' with state-of-the-art Audio/Video educational programme generation facilities. The success of this project led to the second and more ambitious venture: the establishment of the 'Electronic Media Production Centre' at IGNOU, the like of which was hitherto non-existent in the educational media world. The opportunity that these two projects afforded me – negotiating the project details with JICA teams, micro planning, observance of bilateral procedures and protocols, working hand in hand with Japanese engineers, adhering to deadlines, quality assurance measures and sustaining the project activities in later years – is something I would cherish for ever.

Life has taken me to many other countries across the globe during my long career in different institutions but, like the first kiss, my first sojourn to Japan remained the sweetest and the most memorable.

On the conclusion of our training period and during the certificate presentation ceremony at the NHK Communications Training Institute, Tokyo, the speech given by one JICA official rings a bell in my heart even to this day. "Ladies and Gentlemen," he said, addressing the multinational gathering of newly trained scholars: "The last few weeks have given you a first-hand exposure of the Japanese scene –its people, places and ways of life. When you go back to your home countries, please tell your families and friends that Japan is not all Sony and Toyota, not a place of robots churning out industrial goods, nor is it a breeding ground of cutting-edge technology." And, with swelling emotion overpowering him, he added: "Japan is a country of people – ordinary people – who can feel, love, get hungry, make mistakes, learn, enjoy, dreamand weep! Yes, weep!"

The words rolled out spontaneously, but their message transcends space and time.
Sayonara!

Dr. V. Rama Rao

CELEBRATION WITH CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Days of Joy, Weeks of Laughter, Month of Good Luck and the year of Prosperity, is not just for the Rich to celebrate but also the less fortunate ones. After the identification of the people dwelling in slum areas, the construction workers and the people sleeping on the footpaths, sweets were distributed. It was observed that piling of logs and lightening the bonfire was a routine task for them to protect themselves from the biting cold weather. The only difference we decided to make was the food retreat which brought a broad smile on their faces when the packet of goodness was handed over to them. It included packets of peanuts, rewari, popcorns and chocolates. Few of them were also



provided with old used clothes, which the people had discarded and blankets also.

The aim was just to bridge the gap between the haves and the have not's so that all the individuals can celebrate the tremendous joy of feasts and food on the occasion of Lohri with the same cheer like the rest.

Gaurav Gaur

Assistant Professor

Centre for Social Work, Panjab University
Chandigarh

Green House Gasses Emission/ Effect of Energy Sector



Climate change is one the most global environmental, social, and economic challenges of century that the entire world is facing. Since GHG emission has risen steadily.

The main Green House Gas is Carbon-Di-Oxide emitted when fossil fuels are burned. It is directly proportional to energy consumption and economic development. There are six main GHG which are cause of Climate change.

• Carbon-dioxide	CO ₂	76%
• Methane	CH ₄	13%
• Nitrous oxide	N ₂ O	6%
• Hydrofluorocarbon	HFCs	5%
• Perfluorocarbons and	PFCs	
• Sulphur hexafluoride.	SF ₆	

India is at 3rd position as CO₂ emitter. Five most GHG emitter countries are

China	1	9839 MT
U.S.A.	2	5270 MT
India	3	2467 MT
Russia	4	1693 MT
Japan	5	1205 MT

CO₂ emission from various sectors of the economy -

NO.	Sector	2020
1	Industrial	3.5 - 6.2 Gt C
2	Transport	1.4 - 2.7 Gt C
3	Infrastructure	3.3 Gt C/ yr

Effect of Energy Sector in GHG

Energy sector is the main contributor of GHG emission, which account for 90% of the total CO₂ emission and the power plants without heat-recovery account for over 70% of GHG emission universally. It is assumed that CO₂ emission will be 42.9 billion in coming years, where surface temperature of earth is likely to increase from 1.8 °C to 4 °C.

It is beyond doubt that energy is the prime source of GHG emission. Hence energy sector is most important among all sectors.

After taking some important measures 35% of GHG emission can be reduced with emerging technology as below:

- A. Energy Efficiency
- B. Controlling CO₂
- C. Utilization of waste
- D. New Transport fuel
- E. Renewable Energy
- F. Nuclear power
- G. Fuel Substitution
- H. Afforestation

Though many countries have made efforts to improve energy efficiency of their system but it is still half-hearted.

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Mob.: 9811402040

CONGRATULATIONS !!



In recognition of Outstanding performance in Entrepreneurship in Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Governor of Haryana confer **State Award and Merit Certificate** to Dr. Prem Prakash Mittal, Life member of JAAI

EDITORIAL

The importance of water in human life cannot be over emphasised. In fact, water is an essential component of all life forms on earth. All Civilizations began and flourished near water bodies. Mankind has worshipped rivers and seas by personifying them as Gods and goddesses, our own Ganga Ma, is a good example. We are all living comfortably in the thought that we will have enough and more water for all time to come. But, alas! This may not be so! Global warming, climate change, water pollution and ground water depletion are all affecting man's life, and living, adversely. If we do not make efforts to save and use water judiciously, our future generations will have to pay a heavy price. So, we have to take giant steps towards conserving water by any and all means. Rain water harvesting is one such activity that can be adopted by individuals, commercial firms and housing societies to conserve and store water for future use. The Prime Minister of India has committed to the cause of water conservation and addressing water pollution, with the launch of his pet project-the Namami Gange program. Apart from this, water conservation at an individual level, if practiced by people of all ages, races and social standing, will go a long way in ensuring the continuing presence and availability of this nectar of life!

So then, friends, let us all pledge today, that we will do our bit to conserve and save water, and not waste it.

**“NO WATER NO LIFE.
NO BLUE - NO GREEN”.**
– Sylvia Earle

PROFORMA FOR EX-JICA PARTICIPANTS TO BECOME JAAI MEMBER :

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

13. Date:

14. Signature

Note:

Membership Fees :

- (a) Registration fee is Rs. 500/- (to be paid by New Members); **plus**
- (b) Life Membership fee is Rs. 2,000/- (i.e. a total of Rs 2500/- 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 cheques will not be accepted).
- (d) Please indicate your name and ID no. (Applicable to old members) at the back of DD/Cheque.
- (e) Please attach 02 passport size colored photos
- (e) Please inform change in address and e-mail (if any)

Membership Campaign
JAAI requests all ex-JICA training participants who have not yet joined JAAI, to enrol for membership.