



सहयोग

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SAHYOG

JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

24th ANNUAL ISSUE

2023



**Growth in Key Development Sectors -
Health, Education, Environment and Energy: Perspectives from South Asia**

EDITORIAL BOARD



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सहयोग 2023

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New Delhi- 1100 01 INDIA
Website : www.jaai.co.in
e-mail : jicaaluminiindia@gmail.com

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Message from Ambassador of Japan

It is my pleasure to extend my message of felicitation to all the dear readers of "Sahyog" magazine, published by the JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI). JAAI has nurtured India-Japan relations for over half a century by connecting the alumni of JICA training programs since 1968, rendering its valuable service even during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am highly appreciative of all the diligent and enthusiastic talents from India, from the government as well as the private sector, for completing their respective programs in Japan and imparting the useful lessons they learned during their stay.



India emerged stronger than ever, from the challenges posed by Covid-19, to be one of the world's fastest growing economy in 2022. In parallel, JAAI has diversified its activities by holding both virtual and in-person seminars on pertinent agendas, such as the Health Awareness Program. Furthermore, JAAI organized a seminar in cooperation with the JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC) on the crosscutting issue of "Growth in Key Development Sectors - Health, Education, Environment and Energy: Perspectives from South Asia and the Role of JICA." I think these meaningful efforts contribute to deepening the bonds amongst JAAI members as well as the participating countries of South Asia. Through such endeavors, JAAI has continued to be a positive catalyst for India-Japan relations.

Japan has a long history of cooperation with India, especially through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) schemes. With the second largest population in the world, growing economic strength and steadfast stature in the international community, not least our longstanding diplomatic relationship that dates back more than 70 years, working with India hand in hand including through ODA cooperation is a truly meaningful, fulfilling experience for my country.

Last year, three bilateral summit meetings were realized in Japan between H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and H.E. Mr. Fumio KISHIDA, Prime Minister of Japan, along with the 2 + 2 Ministerial meeting and other important bilateral meetings. This year marks the auspicious coincidence of India assuming the G20 presidency and Japan assuming the G7 presidency simultaneously. I strongly believe that this year brings ever more closer ties between India and Japan, as we deepen our cooperation to ensure both the countries become boosters for global development. The numerous Ministerial and related meetings of G20 and G7, culminated in the summit meetings, present an opportunity for us to address the challenges the world is facing currently. I hope JAAI will continue its remarkable work in this special year to help facilitate people-to-people exchanges and add more value to our relationship. I hope that the members of JAAI will continue to build on the ties established through their participation in JICA's training programs and will continue to zealously strengthen the economic, cultural, and people-to-people bonds between our two countries.

In closing, allow me to wish all the members of JAAI a great success in their future endeavors.

SUZUKI Hiroshi
Ambassador of Japan to India

Message from Chief Representative, JICA India Office

Dear Readers,



It has been almost one and a half years since I assumed as Chief Representative of JICA India Office in August 2021. I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion that the events, including the annual convention meeting of JAAI, could be finally held physically this year, for the first time after we saw the Covid-19 pandemic.

JICA has dispatched nearly 8,500 Indian colleagues to Japan through various training programs till now. Over the last 55 years of its existence, since 1968, JAAI has been acting as a bridge for ex-participants to keep a close relationship with Japan and India to deepen understanding of both countries through providing a platform for interactions by organizing insightful activities such as seminars and cultural events, even during the difficult situation of the pandemic.

As for this year, JAAI organized "Health Awareness Program" and "Indo-Japan Cultural Program," and finally, we could welcome our dearest friends from the neighboring countries, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan

from JICA Alumni Association Federation of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC). I am indeed delighted and honored to be able to join this occasion together.

Further, the year 2022 was the commemorative year for us, which was the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-India diplomatic ties. At the high-level relationship, we have witnessed several bilateral summit meetings between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. India has continued to be JICA's largest partner for years, and I firmly believe that JICA has been able to contribute to the development of this country by implementing ODA loan projects in various fields. Not only the infrastructure but we have also promoted the "Achhi Aadat (Good Habit)" Campaign, which was started in January 2021 to raise awareness of the importance of hygiene practices by promoting hand washing and nail cleaning to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases, of which we are aiming to deliver this concept towards ten crores of people in India. I am grateful that we could conduct such activities at the ground level in partnership with partner companies, government agencies, NGOs, and local entities in 23 states and union territories.

The year 2023 marks the 71st year of diplomatic relations between Japan and India, and both of our countries will play leading roles in shaping the future peace and prosperity of the world with stability and sustainability, as India through the G20 presidency and Japan through the G7 presidency. I strongly believe that India will become the next leader of the world for the future generation, and JAAI will also have a vital role in strengthening the people-to-people ties between the two countries 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saito Mitsunori'.

SAITO Mitsunori
Chief Representative
JICA India Office

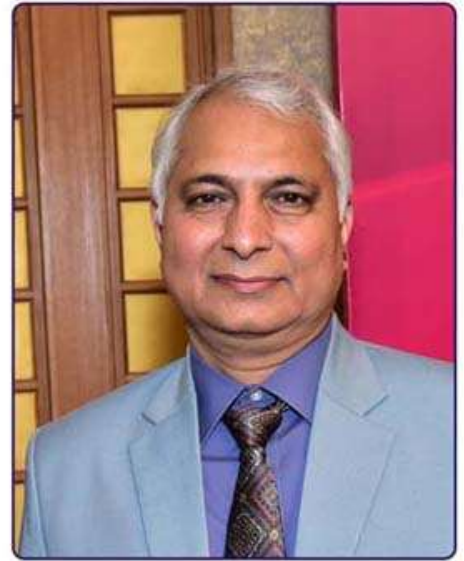
Message from President, JAAI

Dear Alumni,

Greetings from the Executive Committee !!

I am delighted to present to you, the 23rd edition of JICA Alumni Association's annual magazine "Sahyog". It carries glimpses of all our initiatives and activities. It 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 that the main objective of the 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 always strive to promote Indo-Japanese technical and cultural co-operation at all levels. The year 2022 was the commemorative year for us, which was the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Japan-India diplomatic ties.



Last year things started to stabilize after a gap of more than two years of fear, uncertainty and anxiety. We also resumed our physical activities in a phased manner. With great pride and honor, this year, we are hosting an international conference in collaboration with the **JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC)**. The theme of the conference is **"Growth in Key Development Sectors - Health, Education, Environment and Energy: Perspectives from South Asia and the Role of JICA"**

We are grateful to **H.E. Mr. Hiroshi SUZUKI** for taking keen interest in the activities of JAAI and encouraging us right from the beginning of his tenure. Our heartfelt thanks are also due to the Chief Representative of JICA India Office Mr. **SAITO Mitsunori** and his entire team for supporting and encouraging JAAI activities all along.

I wish and hope that the coming year will bring hope and normalcy in our life and we would be able to carry out our activities as usual with all fanfare and gusto.

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 left.

Dr. O. P. Dewal
President,

JICA Alumni Association of India

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT :



Due to COVID-19 pandemic, no physical events could take place. Meetings of JAAI executive body and other events during the fiscal year 2020-21 & 2021-22 held virtually online on ZOOM platform. Even JICA India office was also not in favour of conducting any event face to face. During the current fiscal year 2022-23, all felt some relief from COVID-19 and planned for physical events. However, in such a challenging situation, JAAI planned and organized virtual and physical events successfully during the current fiscal year.

Awareness Lecture on Arthritis - Cause, Concern and Caution :

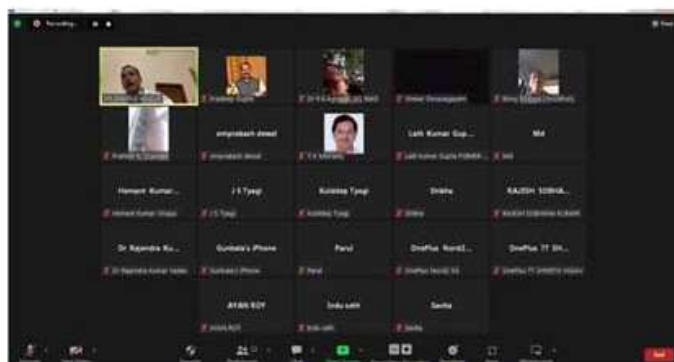
On 3rd Dec., 2022 a lecture on "**Arthritis - Cause, Concern and Caution**" was organized virtually online on ZOOM platform. **Dr. Israrul Haque**, Sr. Doctor from AIIMS Delhi delivered the lecture which was appreciated a lot by the participants. Mr. Pradeep Gupta, General Secretary JAAI introduced the speaker. Dr. O.P. Dewal, President JAAI welcomed the speaker and all the participants. Dr. Israrul Haque delivered very useful and informative presentation. During the Q&A session, queries of participants were answered excellently by the speaker. Sh. TPS Oberoi, Vice President, JAAI expressed vote of thanks and gratitude to JAAI President, speaker, Officials from JICA India Office and all the participants.



Dr. O.P. Dewal, President, JAAI



Dr. Israrul Haque, Sr. Doctor from AIIMS Delhi



Participants gallery who are listening the lecture with great attention

8th Annual Meeting of the JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC):

The 8th Annual Meeting of the JICA Alumni Associations' Forum of SAARC Countries (JAAFSC) was held on 16th Nov. 2022. The meeting was conducted through virtual means. The meeting was chaired by Dr. O.P. Dewal, Chairperson of JAAFSC and the President of the JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI). The meeting was attended by the Senior Vice-president, Vice-presidents and Executive Committee Members of JAAFSC representing respective member JICA Alumni Associations.

Secretary General Dr. Ram Chandra Bhusal briefed the meeting about the present situation of the funding from JICA for JAAFSC activities. Dr. O. P. Dewal, President of JAAFSC and JAAI proposed the meeting date for International Seminar on **"Growth in Key Development Sectors - Health, Education, Environment and Energy: Perspectives from South Asia and the Role of JICA"** and 9th Annual Meeting from February 24 to 26, 2023 and the meeting has decided to conduct the seminar and meeting from February 24 to 26, 2023 in New Delhi.

Indo Japan Cultural Exchange Program:

On 05th Feb., 2023 an Indo Japan Cultural Program was organized at Garden Restaurant, Buddha Jayanti Park, New Delhi. Dr Pradeep Gupta, General Secretary JAAI told about the program. Mr. TPS Oberoi, Vice President JAAI Welcomed all the participants, families of JAAI members, Officials from JICA India Office. Mr. Kondo Sei addressed the audience and appreciated the efforts of JAAI in the field of Indo Japan Cultural Exchange Program. Dr. S. K. Bhandoria, Joint Secretary JAAI introduced the Koshiki Martial Art which was performed by a group of boys and girls from All India Koshiki Federation, New Delhi. Koshiki a Japanese Martial Art is hard contact fighting system with super safe equipments. It is very famous and popular around world namely "Koshiki Karate".

After the hair raising performance of Koshiki Martial Art which was applauded by all the participants, there were 'Garhwali' music and dance performances by school girls. All the girls performed well and forced audience to move their legs with the music.

There were few interesting games played for children, ladies and couples. All enjoyed the games a lot. Token prizes were given to the winners.

The program was attended by the JAAI members along with their spouse and kids. Day started with mouth watering Hot Pakoras in Breakfast with Tea and Coffee. In the noon All the family members enjoyed the sumptuous Lunch. Hot tea with cookies was served in the after noon which was the ultimate relish under the green umbrella. Buddha Jayanti Park was at its full bloom in the season of Basant.

Technical Seminar by JAAI Eastern Region Chapter :

JAAI Eastern Region (Kolkata) Chapter Chairman Dr. Binoy Krishna Choudhury informed that a Technical Seminar has been scheduled on 3rd March, 2023 at Kolkata.

Activities by JAAI Western Region Chapter :

JAAI Western Region (Ahmedabad) Chapter Chairman Mr. Sanjeev Mehta informed that various activities took place in Ahmedabad. Detailed report is given on page-23 of this magazin.



Mr. Kondo Sei, JICA India



Dr. S.K. Bhandoria, JAAI



Garhwali Dance



Koshiki Martial Art performed by group of All India Kohsiki Federation



JAAI members with their families enjoying the program

Japan Training - Golden Memories



I always kept myself aware of unique opportunities in performing excellence in my job and assigned works. As Assistant Engineer myself in charge of Sevashram Railway over bridge Package of ADB funded project in Udaipur city (City of Lakes). Successful completion with several problems leading to enhancement of my capacity in department. One fine morning while visiting website of home ministry Government of India myself came to know that there was a training programme on "Construction Technology introduced or applied to developing countries" through JICA in (Yokohoma) Japan which was fully sponsored. Much aspired to apply & my application reached JICA India office after passing through long channel of Government well in time.

Although I am not sure to be selected but eager to know about result. While going through inbox of e-mail & find my name among participant & such news for me is beyond expectation & its glory cannot be expressed in words for selection of such ambitious Training.

In real sense all expenses borne by JICA, myself stand relieved to participate in training on Government duty. All family members were curious about my travelling to Japan with a stay period of 45 days i.e. 14th May 2012 to 30th June 2012 at Yokohoma Japan.

Landing at Narita Airport in Japan through Japan Air Line (JAL) on 13.05.2012 amplified my happiness exponentially. During my travel from Narita airport to Yokohoma international Centre (YIC). Myself was mesmerism with best infrastructure & highest level of development YIC hostel is state of art delighted with existing facility without further scope of improvement at least for me.

Myself slept early because of tiredness & with excitement due to my eagerness & aspiration to reach early in morning as per message provided by front-desk at YIC. Surprise for see the bright sunlight on my face which awakened me & shocked that myself was very late what will be my impression on fellow participant & official on very first day. Because I had been told that people are very punctual & reached the destination at well before time. But soon my eyes go to watch which show & 7:30 & relaxed. Thank God reached in time at orientation room " ICHO and Yamayuri" for briefing.

During briefing I can to know in total 13 participants from 9 countries. The briefing session was completed with the help of Kuroda Kengo Training coordinator. The programme was well tailored with lectures discussion, observation & practices with some meeting with week end day off. I also had opportunity to learn Japanese Language through a class room teaching after regular schedule in evening which was very helpful during my stay in Japan at every step & moment. Technical Visits to various sites with observation are land mark of learning.

Technical Learning

Construction of sky tree completed on 22 may 2012 & visit to it provides feeling of continuous hard working dedication and land mark event of Technological Advancement.

Visit to Public Works Research Institute (PWRI) in Tasukuba that a loaded truck moving without driver for testing material used in pavement construction prior to use in actual road construction to perform number of repetition on 31st May, 2012. This event was for utmost surprise for me.

Canal gate Across Arakawa river constructed to save Tokoyo from Flood & Sailing through it was like experiencing & understanding of Panama Canal System on June 11, 2012. It is to important to mention to about the dedication of engineer akira ayoma in construction of gate.

It is my utter surprised to observe clean water of simanto river on june 15, 2012 during visit to various bridges across the river & smart city Simanto.

Rehabilitation and development of Hirosima after bombardment on 8th Aug 1945 at 8:15 AM opened the eyes of visitors toward team work of people living in Japan.

It would not be just if I could not mention here about infrastructure development in form of Seto-Ohashi bridge (Seto-Chuo express way), Tokyo Wan Aqua-Line & Yokohama Landmark Tower. With historic harbour & civil engineering structure. Observation & discussion at different construction sites are very useful in future work life.

Culture Learning

In the morning prior to breakfast, I looked at the notice board for the Yoke Desk program & found that participation is based on lottery. Myself thought for applying in the programs in which I can participate on the days where our course provides staying at Yokohama. Participation in the Yoke Desk program was optional.

We were informed about the Yoke Desk program of Sankei Garden, land facing Tokyo Bay. On 19.05.2012 was off day. We enjoyed nature's beauty & historical architectural properties (temples & buildings associated with historical figures) gathered from areas such as Kyoto & Kamakura. Now a day's garden serves as a place for visitors to develop modern Japanese culture including art literature. Bototei, a room located at the lobby of Sankei Memorial where myself enjoyed genuine tea ceremony while sitting on chairs at a table although it was not sweet.



Technical Group Discussion and Fut-Sal Playing

Another activity of Yoke Desk was playing Badminton on 23.05.2012 at JICA Yokohama Gym at 18.00 hours. In that program I was able to meet people of different countries. In addition to playing activity also contributed to my hobby of coins and currency collection through exchange.

In the series of activity on 25.05.2012 was to learn Japanese Drum playing that created enthusiasm of different nature.

In sequence of Yoke Desk Activity of June 2012, on 1st June 2012, 1st activity by lottery for me to play Table Tennis in which I again recalled my student life of Engineering College at Malaviya Regional Engineering College, Jaipur which was now renamed as MNIT, Jaipur.

Saturday 2nd June, 2012 was day off and Yoke Desk organized Fut-Sal at ground in Yokohama on a ground at 15 minutes walk from YIC. Smaller than football ground but well maintained with green grass & more than one team can play at a time. Teams were announced by lottery based on number of participants irrespective of countries and gender. I was allotted player no. 8 where I still remember the interaction with participants.

Important religious festival Ushioda Shrine on 3rd June, 2012 was to carry shrine shoulders with special sound in the procession. In the procession one could also enjoy different type of foods/drinks of local area during break/exchange of people. It also added to know-how of people's living and keeping the locality clean.

Not to forget mentioning here about wearing Kimono dress to feel important and royal on 6th June 2012 at Yokohama.

During training myself came across different characteristics of Japanese people and noticed society as calm, orderly, hard working, punctual, clean, polite, convenient, safe & workaholic. Their bowing is an act of non-verbal communication in a no-touch society.

With the hope to visit again Japan to look for more advancement in Technology, Heritage & Culture.....

P. R. Chandak
M: 9414736526

The Country that Bowled Me Over

Of all the countries (including the Middle East, Europe, US and the UK), that I happened to visit during my entire career, spanning more than forty years, I found Japan the most progressive, visionary, compatible, and citizen friendly. Despite all the political turmoil, tribulations and the holocaust it has gone through, its 'never say die' attitude, has provided impetus to the country to rebuild itself in a manner that is an example for many countries facing the onslaught of violence and destruction.

I watched 'the land of the rising sun' from the window of my hotel room in Okayama at five in the cold December morning. The temperature on the neon light showed minus five degrees centigrade but the sun was unbearably scorching, as I once tried out. Despite the extremely hostile weather conditions, landslides and earthquakes, disaster preparedness and management in this country is one of the best in the world.



The group of 13 participants with the Coordinator (seated in front in white coat)

The bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, is estimated to have taken the lives of (and maimed) nearly 1,29,000 civilians in Hiroshima and another 2,26,000 in Nagasaki, as reported in the Wikipedia. The effects of the bombings are being felt even today.

One of the itinerary in our training programme was a visit to Hiroshima, the city that has rebuilt itself in a short span of a few years, making the city a symbol of peace for the country. This is a message Japan wanted to give to the world and this is what makes it one of the most peaceful nations in the world today. Although radioactive elements are still present not only in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but in several other cities in the neighborhood, people have learnt to live in the city, with a sense of pride, a positive attitude towards life and a motivation to move forward, leaving their past behind. Few survivors of the atomic bombing in the city had come to address us (the trainees) to narrate their harrowing tales of trauma and to guide us to be positive whatever situation confronts us.

The five-day home visit, an interesting programme of our 35-day training schedule, has reinforced my conviction of the hospitality extended by Japanese citizens to guests from different parts of the world. The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA), the Organisation which had collaborated with JICA to provide training to us, had given the choice to the village Head of Households to select the JICA trainees of their choice. The Head of the Household of the village, which I visited, was a carpenter by profession and had made the entire wooden house himself with the help of his old mother, wife, his sister and his school going son. The house never looked like a typical carpenter's

house, like the ones we have in our part of the world. It had all the latest gadgets used for cooking, baking, house cleaning, vehicle cleaning, garden gadgets and gadgets used for entertainment including the VCRs, the handycams, etc., all of them in excellent condition.

Although I was not familiar with Japanese language, nor was my host and his family members familiar with English language, we interacted with each other the whole day with a smile, intermittent roars of laughter and participated in activities like ikebana (art of arranging flowers) and origami (paper art), which each female member of the family tried teaching us with acute keenness.

I, for one, joined the lady of the house and her sister in law in the kitchen to watch the ladies cook prawns and lobsters. The moment I entered the kitchen I got a rousing reception and an apron to wear so that I could join them fry prawns and lobsters in gram flour.

This initiative of mine was so much appreciated by them that it became a news, a detailed mention of which was made by the village Mayor in the Council meeting the following day. The Mayor, who happened to be the brother-in-law of the Head of the house, managed to interact with me in broken English. He not only admired me for making them feel as if I was a part of the family, but also requested me to address the village folks the following day. It was indeed a life time experience for me and a great learning as to how bonds within families are made to develop and nurture.

I was taken around the village to get a feel of what a typical Japanese village looked like. By no stretch of imagination it looked like a village. It had houses which reflected architectural craftsmanship, broad concrete streets, beautiful lamp posts, beds of flowers and plants on either side of the streets and numerous trees of mikan (most popular type of Japanese oranges) at every nook and corner of the village. The overall ambience of the village was simply scintillating.



Dr. Nadeem Mohsin addressing the participants in the Council Hall

I was also taken to a museum which housed the first 'Singer' sewing machine, which my mother used 65 years ago and which is still in use by my wife. This machine cannot be replaced by the new sewing machines which have come up with many advanced features, but are not as smooth and flawless as the Singer machine.

Another surprise for me in the museum was the original Suzuki van which is named Maruti Suzuki van in India, after Maruti India collaborated with Suzuki Japan. The various types of four-wheelers produced in India, after collaboration with Suzuki automobile company, makes it the most rider friendly and minimal maintenance vehicle in India.

Maruti Suzuki vehicles, coming in various segments is the most popular vehicle not only in India but around a major part of the world. The vehicle comes in various segments, with new variants being introduced in India every year. The quality control guaranteed by Maruti Suzuki is unparalleled and forms the key to the success of the vehicle.

The five day home visit programme ended with a lot of exchange of gifts and souvenirs. I had been briefed by the previous batch of trainees that Japanese love receiving gifts as much as they love giving gifts. They are not concerned about the material value of the gift but the emotions attached with it and the bond that would be created between them and their guests. I had carried with me a whole bundle of small gifts and souvenirs purchased from NGOs, handicraft shops, and Dilli Haat stalls. I got from my hosts several gifts including five photo albums with all the pictures they had taken while showing places of interest and historical importance to us, the most remarkable being the stone made windmill which was amazingly rotating with the flow of the wind.

I also got a photo frame with my name written in Japanese, which, to this day (23 years) makes me encounter a mixed feeling of bliss and nostalgia. Very often I view the wonderful pictures I got as gifts, taking me down memory lane and making me recollect the lovely moments spent together with each member of the family. I can never forget the grand old lady of the house, who became my 'best buddy' in the short span of five days. She was an epitome of courage and conviction, sincerity and dedication and was the one from whom I learnt that "age was just a number". At eighty five, she was as agile and active as her daughter, son and grandson. I wish I could meet her, but I believe it's too long a period for her to be still alive.

All of us cried like kids while I took leave of the family members. This bond appeared to be a long lasting bond which existed for years between us. I wish I could get another chance to visit this beautiful country.

ITOSHI TERU NIHON - I love you Japan
SAYONARA - Good Bye

Dr. Nadeem Mohsin
Freelance Development Sector Consultant
& Former Visiting Professor
Mobile: 9810438357
Email ID: nadeemdel@gmail.com

Active Travel Management : Japan Experience

An "Active Travel Management" adopts various measures for daily travel options as per demand and supply along with operation of transport services and optimal usages of existing infrastructure. The measures include two important components: (i) Physical and digital infrastructure for maintaining smooth and efficient mobility and (ii) Integrated policy formulation with other sectors and effective implementation for sustainable travel options. According to the Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Japan, active travel management is a communication-oriented transport policy to create a favorable transport environment for both society and individuals by promoting voluntary shift in mobility (attitude and behavior) such as facilitating the proper use of public transport and bicycles in order to avoid excessive use of vehicles. Some of the active travel management measures are discussed below:

i. **Eco-commuting:** An Eco-commuting is an integral part of active travel management and an effort to promote shift in the means of transportation from private vehicles to public transport and bicycles. It is imperative by appointing a person in each company to be in-charge of considering the ideal means of transportation to commute, providing timetables and route maps for busses and trains, and reviewing commuting allowances, etc. According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Govt. of Japan, 840 corporations nationwide implemented Eco-Commuting projects which contribute significantly in reduction of carbon dioxide and green gases emissions.

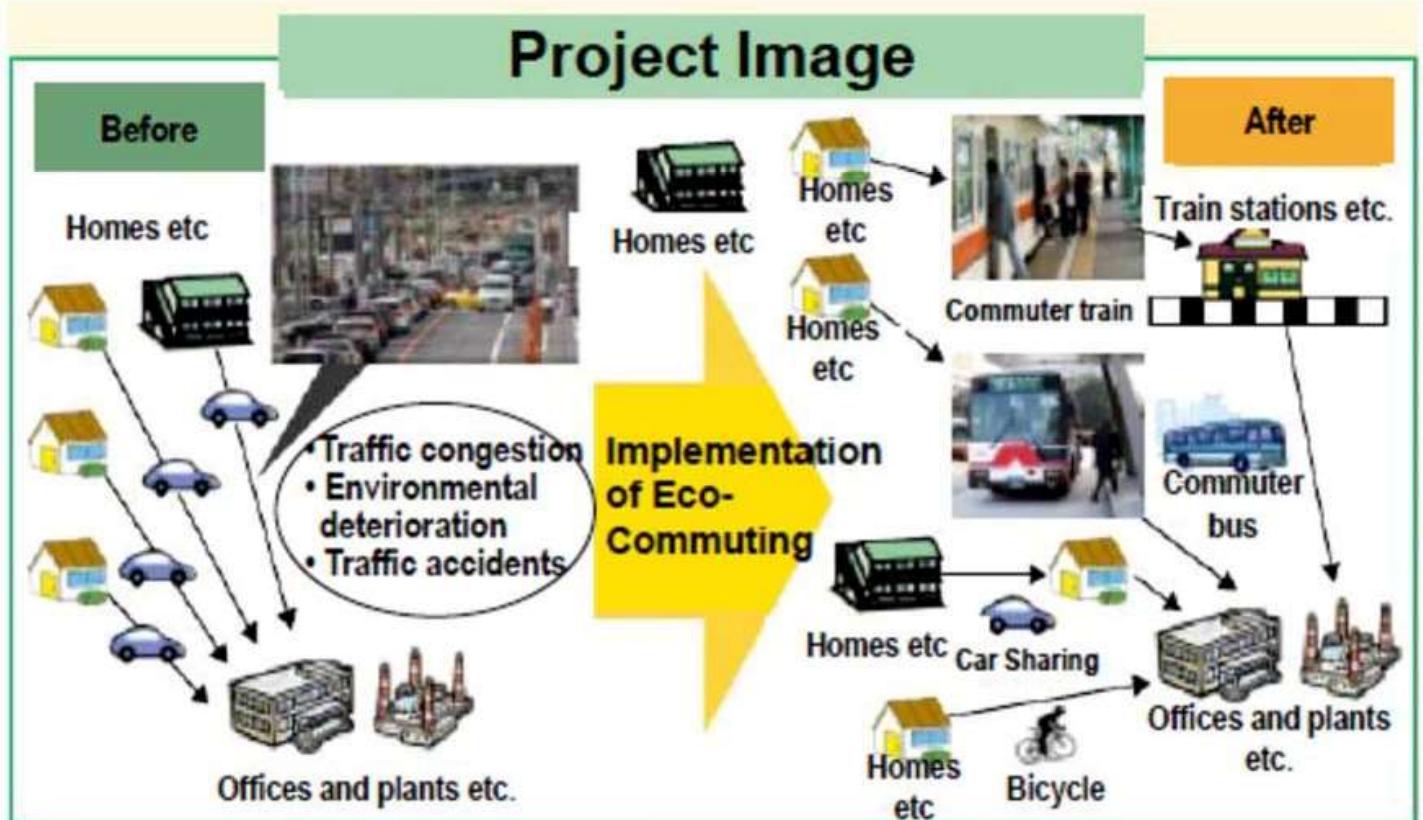


Figure 1: Eco-Commuting: Active Travel Management (Source: System Project, Environmental Policy Division, Toyama City, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Govt. of Japan).

ii. **K. Park (Kanazawa City) as Park and Ride :** The Park and Ride facility is one of the measures to reduce personalized vehicles to move on the road. In Kanazawa city, a Park & Ride system known as "K.Park" has been implemented in which commuters drop off from private cars in

parking lot of sub-urban commercial facilities etc. and switch over to buses to commute city centre. During holidays, temporary parking lots are provided near interchanges of highways and shuttle buses are provided in order to alleviate traffic jams. Figure 2 illustrates various steps involved in K. Park system and emphasizes monetary advantages in terms of saving plus gift coupon for commuting by K. Park with compare to private car.

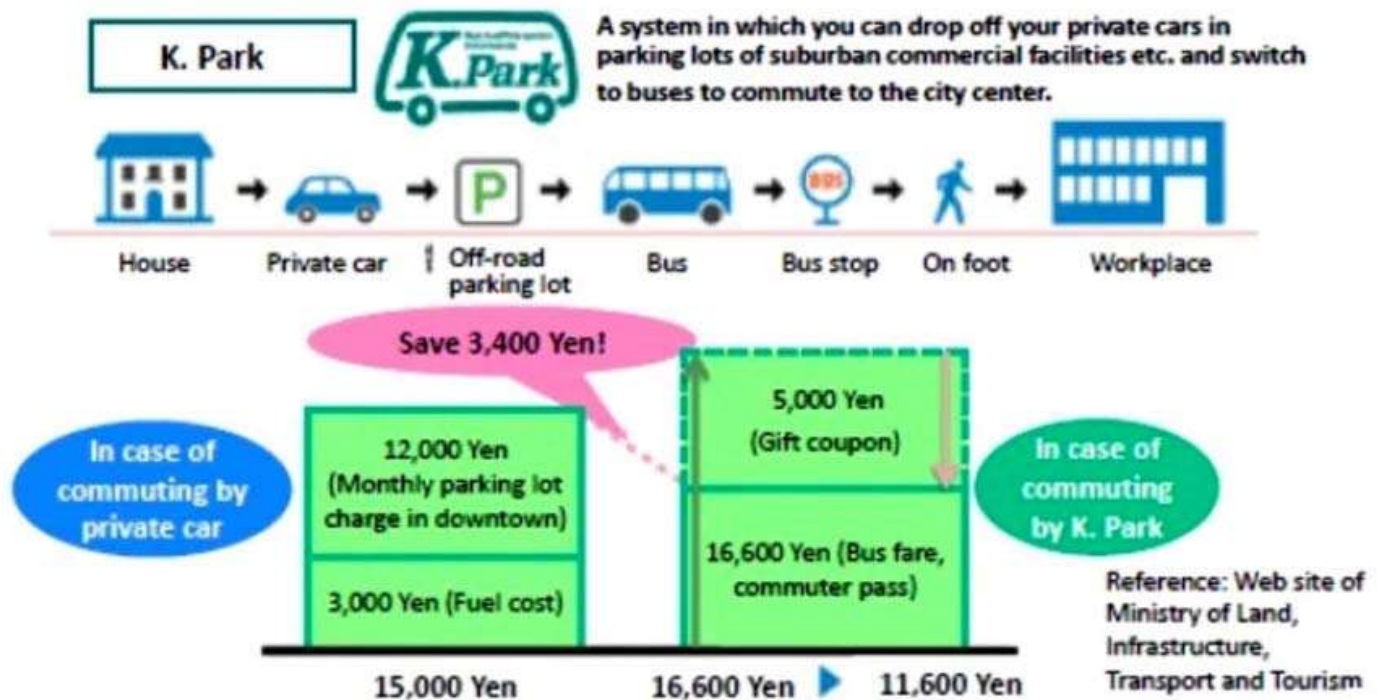


Figure 2: Movement Steps and Economical Advantages of K.Park System, Kanazawa, Japan

iii. Ecological Uses of Vehicles: The car sharing is a cheaper alternative to owning a car in Japan due to multiple taxes and cost of renting parking space. The car sharing is growing in busy and densely populated cities that have convenient public transport system. It is estimated that each household drove average 4,048km annually but only 2,563 km after turning to car sharing (Source: The Japan Times). According to Foundation for Promoting Personal Mobility and Ecological Transportation (popularly known as Eco-Mo Foundation, Tokyo), 40.6% households own at least one car but the ratio fell after they started using car sharing. As a result, average carbon dioxide emissions per household also decreased. Thus, car sharing is an environmentally feasible measure.

iv. Economical Use of Vehicles: The Eco-friendly driving (Eco-Drive) is promoted with the collaboration of various ministries. They have formulated "Ten Eco-Driving Tips". The month of November is designated as "Eco-Drive Promotion Month". Figure 3 illustrates 10 tips, reduction in accidents and saving of fuel due to eco-driving.

v. Corridor Space Management : The corridor management is an integral part of mobility management which advocates allocating space for both motorized and non-motorized transport (NMT). In Japan, space for NMT particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists is respected and provided in all areas. This civic sense makes road space more vital and humane. The bike sharing and its locations on main road encourage young people to use the same for short trips.

1. Press accelerator softly for "e-Start"
2. Drive w/ moderate acceleration/deceleration
3. Release accelerator early
4. Use air conditioner moderately
5. Stop idling
6. Use Traffic Information to Avoid Congestion
7. Check Air Pressure Frequently
8. Avoid unnecessary loading
9. Beware of parking space
10. Consider Fuel Efficiency

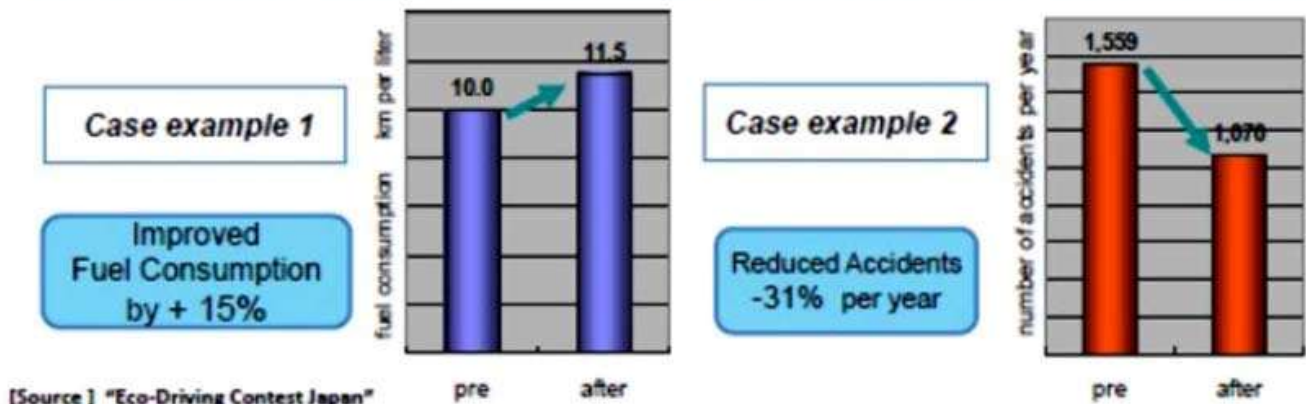


Figure 3: Tips and Advantages of Eco-Drive in Japan.

Concluding Remarks

The "K. Park System" in Kanazawa city is an interesting idea to encourage people to shift from private car to bus through rewarding, saving and gift. Such initiative holds good to create awareness and modal shift to public transport. The reduction of personalized vehicles on roads always improves the efficacy of public transport system for safe and secure mobility. The promotional of car sharing as economic and ecological use of vehicles, is also one of the strategies of mobility management. Further, it is an integral component of environmental sustainable transport. Therefore, same may be promoted at city level. The space allocation for NMT shows high civic sense of the society. The use of environmental pricing such as green tax, environmental tax, congestion tax, etc. holds double benefits: firstly, understand importance of environment & pay for the same if damage; secondly, individual concern & contribution in environment protection. Such initiative makes city more green, healthy and livable.

Acknowledgment

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Dr. Pawan Kumar

Town and Country Planning Organization,
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Email: pawan612@gmail.com

Mobile: 8383964637

Takayama Inari-Jinja: The Red Torii Gates Tunnel in Aomori



The country Japan is considered as one of most beautiful picturesque country with its most beautiful and soft behaved having warm hospitality people in the world, a destination attracting a growing number of foreign travelers, from all around the world. People all over the world for some years past are making it in their Tour Destination Itinerary to discover its territories. The figures keep increasing (Almost 30 million in 2017), and the figures keep increasing. Initially, Asian people (Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese...) were the first tourists on the archipelago in numbers, Westerners are not that far away, Indians are also finding it much for some years past.

In many of my article (published in Sahyog), I have mentioned my liking for Japan (since childhood) and real story behind it, in which Aomori is one of the most fascinating one, because it is the place (Prefecture / State) where my Japanese Pen Friend (Hiromi Yoneya, my University life friend, 1974-1982) used to stay and I got an opportunity to visit Aomori City as a part of our Training Programme, when (12th Feb, 2003). I visited her house, met her mother (Hiromi by that time shifted to Singapore).

Aomori is like our Kashmir (northern part of Japan), here I like to share you one most important Temple (Shinto Shrine **Kami deity**) in Japan, the very ritual (spiritual aspect) has got immense similarity of our Pous Parbon (West Bengal), Pongal (South India), Bihu (Assam) and so on, with the objective that the reader may please find interest in visiting Aomori, one of the most beautiful Prefecture in Japan, having lot of natural beauties, in which the Kami deity is a special mention and also enjoy Cherry Blossom festival & Maglev Bullet Train riding experience (from Yokohama, where we stayed).

This very deity (**Takayama Inari shrine**) has been founded in 1701 and is dedicated to **Uka-no-mitama**, the **Kami deity of agriculture (like our Paddy Harvest)**. As per Japanese mythology and mentioned in the famous founding narrative of the **Kojiki** ("Records of Ancient Matters"), **Uka-no-mitama** is the former name of **Kami Inari**. The myths surrounding this deity are nonetheless intricate....alike our deity (Goddess Laksmi).



Takayama Inari Jinja with vermilion lanterns

Takayama Inari-jinja (Shinto shrine) is situated in the Tsugaru Peninsula in Aomori Prefecture, locally renowned for its beautiful RED TORII GATES TUNNEL, in summer, its attractiveness is enhanced by the flowering and the vegetation growing in its natural setting. Far away in the north of Japan, it is mainly reachable by car.

Takayama Inari-jinja, despite its location away from the city, in the heart of Aomori Prefecture, is one of the most important spiritual sites in the north of Japan. Alongside with the popular [Fushimi Inari Taisha in Kyoto](#) and [Motonosumi Inari in Yamaguchi](#), it belongs to the [Inari shrines](#) and displays on its grounds a remarkable RED TORII GATES TUNNEL, called **Senbon-Torii** in Japanese.

From the culture of an **Agri Harvest God**, Inari is also called / considered nowadays as the **kami** of

successful business and wealth. The dedicated Shinto shrines are easily recognizable by the **many fox statues** displayed in the grounds, this animal (fox) being considered the deity's official messenger (like bahn in Indian Mythology, as Owl for the Goddess Lakshmi).

The visit of **Takayama** ends in a long row of fox statues, all wearing a bib. Each of the stone figures has been originated from other Inari shrines throughout the archipelago. After their time as messengers and protectors, these weathered statues are sent here as the place for their eternal rest.

Walking under a thousand of torii gates

The highlight of **Takayama Inari-jinja** comes after the visit of the main hall and the adjacent worship pavilion Haiden, and several stairways.

Located on the side of a woody hill, the **shrine's Japanese garden** encompasses a pond from which a stream has been formed (run), and alongside which the famous **Senbon-Torii tunnel** is winding. Like a red dragon, it is elegantly passing through vegetation and water. It is as beautiful from one of the several viewpoints afar as inside when walking under the nearly 1,000 traditional Shinto gates.

In this regard it may please be remembered that weather and seasons are two important factors to decide when visiting the said shrine, so as to make sure having the best view on the **torii gates tunnel**. As a matter of fact, I highly recommend going on a **beautiful day in spring or summer (Mar to May)**, to admire the red gates surrounded by the green trees and seasonal blooming such as the hydrangeas (shrub of climbing plant with rounded or flattened heads of small florets). In **winter**, especially if there is no snow, the beauty of the site is belittled (ignored) by the dormant vegetation.



Senbon Torii Tunnel and Statue of Messenger Foxes

Remote location on the seaside

Sitting at the northern end of Western Honshu, on the Tsugaru peninsula, Takayama Inari-jinja is on the **coastline of the Sea of Japan**. Its wooden constructions are therefore weathered by the climate and the ocean and deteriorate more quickly. Colors on the lanterns have faded and some are heavily eroded.

The shrine requires a lot of **expensive maintenance** and the head priest therefore resorted to fundraising to restore and **keep the brightness** of the site's vermilion monuments. Of late, a renovation project regarding the **torii** tunnel has been started.

I recommend driving to the shrine, as it is far from the city and consequently little frequented, but it is a nice discovery during an autonomous travel in Aomori's region.

Traveling to Japan is not as difficult as it is presumed, but it is still important to gather as much information as possible to make the most of your trip in the archipelago. Bearing that in mind, I shall suggest reading / following / consulting **Kanpai Japan** magazine.

So, **prepare your stay in Japan** with serenity, travel without spending more than needed. You can find all **guides / information / help** in **Kanpai Japan** (e-mail: contact@kanpai-japan.com) from **sightseeing in Japan** to accommodation, **transportation**, phone and internet, **Japanese food**, calendar per seasons and much more.



Worshipping Hall-Haiden and Cherry Blossom Festival

The way our country is developing, India very shortly will become one of the most developed countries with the friendly help from Japan. And towards this more and more exchange of people between these two countries in the form of visit etc shall result a havoc, in which JICA Trainees / JAAI members may play a pivotal role. Govt may also think on this direction, and utilising this resources, **my commitment will always be there for Kolkata and Eastern India** in any form, to start with extending all help to the Japanese people for their visit.

My All Best Wishes and Warmth of Autumn (BASANTA in West Bengal) to the people of Japan and my JAAI friends. With this, I cordially invite them to visit Bengal on the Basanta Utsav Day (07.03.2023), when they can visit the great place of Rabindra Nath Tagore, the Santiniketan, when I can play the role of Local Guide all through with pleasure.

For this they (People of Japan) are free to contact me (e-mail: sailenmako@gmail.com), Phone: Cell- 0-91-9432138481; Home address: 04, Rasomay Biswas Road First Lane, P.O. Talpukur (Barrackpore), Kolkata-700 123. India.

Acknowledgement: Some information and photographs for the above article have been collected / taken from Kanpai Japan Feb, 2023 issue.

Dr. Sailendra Nath Biswas
Retired Joint Director of Fisheries
Govt of West Bengal
e-mail: sailenmako@gmail.com
Phone: Cell- 0-91-9432138481

INDO-JAPANESE TIES- TWO INDIVIDUALS “SHO” THE WAY!



Friendship is an all-pervading term! It can occur between and among all living forms, and at all levels. It is visible in the animal kingdom, among birds, animals and humans. And in the world of humans, it can be seen among children, adults, colleagues, neighbours, and even between countries. I describe here a unique and lasting friendship I share with a Japanese national. I say 'unique', because we have managed to remain friends, despite the differences that set us apart. Firstly, we belong to different countries. Secondly, our professions are different. Thirdly, our languages are different. I could go on and on, enumerating all the things that are different between us; from clothing, to food habits, to work and interests. Getting back to the uniqueness in our relationship- in spite of all the differences, we have managed to strike a chord and forge a friendship, that has withstood the test of time.

I first met Ms. Ayako Kurosawa way back in 2002. I was one of the ten participants from India, Nepal and Bangladesh, (all doctors), in the JICA sponsored course on 'Diagnosis of HIV/AIDS', while she was the coordinator/ translator of our group. She spent the entire two months course period with our group, translating all the lectures and practical sessions, that were in Japanese, into English. Such was her expertise and preparedness, that, in spite of not being a doctor, she was able to use very appropriate medical terms in her translation.

During the tea and lunch breaks, Ms. Ayako interacted informally with all of us. But, I seemed to spend more time with her, due to my interest and inquisitiveness in everything about Japan and the Japanese. Right in the early days of our interaction, Ms. Ayako requested all of us to address her as 'Sho'. I later found that the word 'Sho' meant a General or Commander. That she was! She steered us through the course, and enlightened us with her apt translations and inputs.

By the end of the course, Sho liked us enough to invite us to her home for dinner. She took special care to dish out a vegetarian meal for me, knowing my eating habits. I got the opportunity to know, and play with her little girl and infant son. Soon I departed to my home country, India. We had all exchanged e mail IDs and promises of keeping in touch.

I kept my word and wrote a couple of e mails each year, to wish Sho on New Year's day, or express my concern over her safety, after an earthquake in Japan, or to enquire after her children and their academic pursuits. Sho, on her part, would wish me for Diwali and reciprocate her concerns during natural calamities or tense periods in India. The years rolled on, and the communication between Sho and me continued to flourish.

In 2004, I travelled to Paris and Vienna, with a Schengen visa, and visited Innsbruck for a day. While in Innsbruck, I learnt that Sho was in Europe too, living in Zurich for a year with her husband, who was pursuing a course there. We were just one hour away from each other, and tried our best to meet up. But I could not cross over to Zurich because my visa did not permit it. We still managed to catch up through a phone call that day!

In 2013, Sho announced that she planned her visit to India around the time of Holi festival. She arrived alone, and I received her with open arms. Together, we both toured Delhi, Agra and Jaipur- staying, eating and shopping together. She visited my home and family too during this visit.

In April 2018, Sho and I got connected on WhatsApp, which improved our communication and interaction further. The same month she visited India with her daughter, who was all grown up since I last saw her. I took a day off work, and showed them around in Delhi. The photographs of our poses at Qutab minar, Ugrasen ki Baoli and Dilli haat, bear testimony to the warm ties and bond we share!

The same year, I planned a visit to Japan with my husband for tourism. When I informed Sho about it, she made me promise that we would set aside one day of our trip to spend with her. And true enough, she met us outside our hotel, on the appointed day, and took us to several temples, a museum and university in Kyoto. Her thoroughness and thoughtfulness is evident, in the fact that she booked our return from Kyoto to Tokyo on the Shinkansen, so that we get to experience this wonder vehicle firsthand!

And so it goes on,It is now exactly twenty years since I first met Sho! We continue to apprise each other of the events in our lives....our plans, our children's academic achievements, their marriages etc. While our two countries pledge bilateral ties and cooperation, we continue to nurture a friendship that is built on mutual love and respect. Jai ho Indo-Japanese ties!

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

CONGRATULATIONS !!!



Shri Sanjeev Mehta, Chairman JAAI-WR is leading a NGO "YUVA DISHA KENDRA", an organisation working consistently for National Development and Social Welfare, has been felicitated with the BEST NGO Award at National level by Hon'ble Mr Anurag Thakur, Youth Minister Government of India

Disaster Preparedness Lessons from Japan



Kobe city is a beautiful port city in Japan, with a very modern view. It's beautiful not just because of the planned streets and astonishing high rises but also as it is a rebuilt city.

It was built back after it was ravaged by the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake (GHA EQ) of January 1995. It is now a UNESCO city of design, with all its important buildings having a base isolation system - which makes the buildings dance during earthquake but not fall.

In 2019, I was a participant at the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) course held at Kobe. There I learnt how preparedness was applied to disasters, and how people in Kobe city learnt from the GHA EQ.

Japan has always been known for its spirit of coming back, and coming back stronger each time. Being home to all types of disasters Japan has developed a culture of disaster preparedness - with more emphasis on risk management rather than crisis management.

By taking effective countermeasures - both hardware (civil engineering) and software (capacity building) - it has remarkably improved its ranking to 28th in the World Risk Index, 2022.

The unique thing about Japan is that it has not only used advanced technology, but also incorporated indigenous ways to counter disasters - the Shinbashira structure being improved on the core pillar stability of Pagoda engineering is one such marvelous example.

As opposed to the usual urban indifference, I was impressed by the way everyone in Japanese society holds a feeling of ownership towards the community.

The communities hold regular social get-togethers to strengthen interpersonal bonds, and this social capital developed during peace time spills over during the disasters. These meetings also help identify the vulnerable sections of society – elderly, pregnant, people with special needs etc.

Another innovation of the Japanese people is the disaster story telling via regular community interaction, where experiences are passed on to the next generations.

Keeping in mind the beautiful city of Kobe, and inspired by the resilience of its people, I learnt that nothing can dampen the human spirit, if the whole community comes together as one - in the Kobe spirit!

Thank you Kobe!

Dr. Avneet Randhawa
MD

JAAI – WR CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

JAAI – WR has relentlessly worked throughout the year to ameliorate Indo- Japanese Cultural relationship, bond and tie of mutual understanding of the great two nations of Asia through various noteworthy joint actions having humongous societal impact and a humble beginning towards greener earth. We highlight below a few major activities:

Kansaikako Company Limited based at Osaka Japan and working with the support from JICA-India had organised a presentation on recycling waste toilet water, home wash/ waste water, for agricultural purpose and also industry related work at WASMO (Water and Sanitation Management Organization). Untiring efforts of our highly dynamic Chairman Shri Sanjeev Mehta with towering leadership quality and effective organising competence and aptitude made it happen with complete success with all stakeholder's participation.

MD (WASMO) Shri Trivedi, Mr Sayaka Masubara Shun, Mr Shingeyok Hamai Shun from Japan, water activist Mrs Bhawna and Mr Anil Vyas and entire technical staffs of WASMO were present in the seminar.

JAAI-WR mostly supports and gets associated with most of the programs organised at Japanese Research Centre and Action Centre at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA).



Due to the incessant pursuance by our Chairman JAAI-WR, Shri Sanjeev Mehta, who is also incumbent with the External Affairs of BJP in Gujarat State, Japanese Language learning courses approval is obtained from Government of Gujarat within a short time. Mr Mukund Patel CEO Japanese Research Centre also actively worked for this. Now youth of Gujarat and nearby state can learn Japanese language in Ahmedabad.

Shri Sanjeev Mehta, Chairman JAAI-WR and Shri Paritosh Kumar Sarkar, Secretary JAAI-WR visited Japanese Garden (ZEN) inside AMA (Ahmedabad Management Association). This garden is a symbol of spontaneity and modernity of relations between Japan and India. This garden should be visited by every Japan lover where fusion chabataro, Koin, -B-ri, Hyogo-Dai—Bust, Red Bridge, Guzez, Shonji Interior, Tskubal basin, Japanese monuments and so on are major attractions.



Sh. Sanjeev Mehta
Chairman, JAAI - WR

Recently, Japanese Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki Inaugurated Japanese festival NIHON MATSURI. JAAI-WR Chairman Shri Sanjeev Mehta, Consulate General Mr. Yasukata Fukahori and Mr. Mukesh Patel attended its closing ceremony on 31 January 2023. Discussions were held with Consulate General regarding the activities of JAAI. Special memento – RATIO (Spinning Wheel) was presented in association with AZADI KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV in memory of Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhi.



Sh. Paritosh Kumar Sarkar
Secretary, JAAI - WR

JICA Cooperation for the Development of Road Transport and Introduction of Tunneling Technology to Nepal

JICA Cooperation for Road Development in Nepal

Nepal is a beautiful mountainous, landlocked country where most travel is done by road. Roads also serve as the main means of trade flow, vitalizing the Nepalese economy. Despite being a small country, Nepal has one of the most diverse geography with altitudes ranging from 59 meters in the eastern Terai to the world's highest peak, Mount Everest (Sagarmatha), which stands at 8,849 meters. The transport sector has played an important role in the social and economic development of the country. Nepal's transport infrastructure, mainly consisting of roads and civil aviation, is dominated by the road sub sector. Hence, road transport remains the most predominant form of transport infrastructure in Nepal as air service is limited and expensive for most people and rail transport has not been developed except for the operation of the first train from Jayanagar to Janakpur in 1937.

JICA has been assisting the transport sector in Nepal through Technical Cooperation, Grant Aid and Loans. As part of the technical cooperation, JICA has supported the Government of Nepal conduct master plans, feasibility studies and surveys. The first master plan for road development, "The Study on Kathmandu Valley Urban Road Development," was conducted in 1993. JICA supported several projects recommended by the study; some of which were implemented by the Government of Nepal.

However, the study needed an update. Thus, in 2017 the "Master Plan Study and Data Collection Survey for Urban Transport Improvement in Kathmandu Valley" was conducted. Another update of this study was done in 2019. The study recommended urban transport management for Kathmandu Valley in the short term, improvement of intersections and road corridors within the valley in the medium term, and the introduction of mass transport systems in Kathmandu valley in the long term. JICA has also been involved in capacity building of the Department of Roads by dispatching experts in the field of road planning, designing, construction and maintenance. Recently, JICA has dispatched the urban transport policy advisor to the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport. Many trainees were also dispatched to Japan and third countries in various fields like road administration, project management, road maintenance, road asset management and construction technology of mountainous roads, etc. Urban transport management in Kathmandu valley as recommended by the 2019 Study mentioned earlier is being supported by JICA technical cooperation project since 2022.

JICA, on behalf of the Government of Japan has also undertaken Grant Aid projects for the development of road and land transportation sectors in the past. Some notable co operations are, the construction of the 160 kilometer Sindhuli Road from Bardibas to Dhulikhel completed in 2015; improvement of Kathmandu Bhaktapur Road from Tinkune in Kathmandu to Suryabinayak in Bhaktapur; construction of bridges inside Kathmandu valley which include the Bagmati bridge in Thapathali; construction of bridges on rural roads in Sindhuli Kavrepalanchow, Ramechhap, Mahottari and Sindhupalchowk; constructed the bus terminal in Gongabu; constructed signalized intersections in 10 locations inside Kathmandu and lastly provided buses and held modern workshops for the operation of Sajha Yatayat.

Building of social and economic Infrastructures, which leads to economic growth and the improvement of national livelihoods has been one of the priority areas of cooperation for JICA in Nepal. Thus, the "Transport Infrastructure and Connectivity Program" is of high priority to JICA. Similarly, the Government of Nepal's effort in the promotion of infrastructure development aligns with JICA's priorities.

Kathmandu: Vital Center for Development and Economic Growth

Kathmandu: Vital Center for Development and Economic Growth

Kathmandu Valley constitutes the most important political, economic, and social center of Nepal. The population of Kathmandu Valley in 2021 was approximately 3 million, accounting for more than 10% of the entire Nepal's population. The access to India from the western side of Kathmandu valley via the Tribhuvan highway and Prithvi highway is the most reliable corridor for foreign trade in Nepal. The connectivity to the rural area of Nepal, as well as the traffic congestion in urban areas can be seen as a significant challenge. Therefore, to ensure a smooth flow of people and goods, it is necessary to develop and improve transport infrastructure with increased traffic flow and travel efficiency in mind. The Government of Nepal is making efforts to relieve traffic congestion in the valley by improving the road network, including widening of the Ring Road and other major roads. However, the traffic infrastructure remains insufficient to cope with the ever-increasing traffic volume. Thus, there is a need to improve intercity and trade route transport infrastructure, as well as the traffic situation within the valley.



Sindhuli Road under Japan's Grant Aid to Nepal

Introduction of Road Tunnel Construction Technology by ODA Loan

As per the request from the Government of Nepal for the construction of Nagdhunga Tunnel Construction Project under Japanese ODA Loan, JICA conducted a preparatory survey in 2015. After the result of the Survey, and the successful negotiation between JICA and the Government of Nepal, a loan agreement amounting JPY 16,636 million was signed on December 22, 2016, which was the first loan project in the transport sector. The loan has a concessional interest rate of 0.10% with a repayment period of 40 years, and a 10 year grace period. The project aims to improve the road condition around Nagdhunga pass by constructing a tunnel underneath it, which will contribute to a smooth transportation network between Kathmandu and other principal cities and area in Nepal. The tunnel is expected to improve the vertical alignment of the existing road, reduce travel time, improve traffic safety and contribute to the economic development of the country. This project is a first of its kind, which transfers tunneling technology to Nepal. It will construct approximately 2.68 kilometers



Concept of Nagdhunga Tunnel at the Western Portal

long tunnel under the Nagdhunga Pass located in the Kathmandu-Naubise section of the Tribhuvan Highway - the main trade corridor in Nepal. This will enhance trade between Nepal and India, which will contribute to the economic growth of Nepal. Additionally, this route connects Pokhara via the Prithvi Highway from Naubise, which is one of the main tourism destinations, signifying the strategic importance of this road.

Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MOPIT) is the executing agency and Department of Roads (DoR) is the implementing agency. DoR is responsible for the procurement, disbursement, project management, monitoring, evaluation of the Nagdhunga Tunnel Construction Project, and will also manage the operation and maintenance of the facilities after construction.

The consultant Nippon Koei JV was mobilized from March 27, 2017. The detail design was completed in March 2018.. An official ceremony was conducted on October 21, 2019, at the eastern portal of the tunnel, located in Chandragiri Municipality. Former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli laid the foundation stone of the project. During the ceremony, the Prime Minister expressed special appreciation towards Government of Japan and JICA for its support in constructing this landmark project and stated his belief that this breakthrough project will immensely help in improving the trading of goods through smooth vehicular movement for commercial activities and bring prosperity in the economic condition of the country.

The construction work for the project began with the mobilization of the contractor Hazama Ando Corporation in November 2019. The construction duration of the project was estimated to be 42 months. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project progress has suffered immensely. To continue with the project activities and to complete the project on time, measures against the spread of COVID-19 have become a priority. The Government hence introduced the health and safety guidelines for the commencement of the works at all sites. Considering the possible risks of COVID-19 infection and transmission, the project has been taking precautionary measures based on the public health protocols of the Government of Nepal, JICA policy and procedures, and recent policy decision of the International Donor Partners' Group (IDGP).

Therefore, new strategy was applied by the Department of Roads as well as the consultant and contractor to contain the spread of COVID-19. Various precautionary measures are undertaken at the

project sites to prevent the spread of the infection. Safety measures are applied at DOR project offices, contractor's camps, consultant's camps, construction sites, hygiene/sanitary sites, kitchen/canteen, etcetera.

Amidst the pandemic and several other hurdles like land acquisition, landslides near the construction sites, the project activities are still going on.

Importance of Road Tunnel in Nepal

The rugged and mountainous geography of Nepal presents a high potential for road tunnels. Road tunnel can reduce the current travel distance drastically and make vehicular movement efficient. It will not only save the travel time, but also reduce travel cost, increase road safety and reduce carbon emission. However, Nepal needs to acquire the tunneling technology and know-how to fully realize the benefits of this potential. The Nagdhunga Tunnel Construction Project represents a significant step in technology transfer, equipping engineers and contractors with the skills and knowledge needed to design and construct modern road tunnels. The benefit has also been reached engineering students at Universities of Nepal. Therefore, this project can be taken as the first stepping-stone for acquiring first-hand modern road tunnel construction technology so that the floodgates of road tunnel will be opened, and new tunnel roads will be constructed in Nepal.



Sourab Bickram Rana,
Senior Program Manager, JICA Nepal Office

CONGRATULATIONS !!!



Dr. P. P. Mittal, JAAI Life member receiving the outstanding Entrepreneur Award from Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi on 30/06/2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Other dignitaries on stage Sh. Narayan Rane, MSME Minister, Sh. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Minister of State MSME

EDITORIAL

The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, had declared over a thousand years ago, that ***Man is a social animal***. Yes, Man truly cannot live in isolation. He needs other living beings-men, animals, plants and so on- for his survival. Have we not studied about symbiotic relationships in our biology lessons, wherein two creatures are interdependent for their existence? That is the essence of cooperation among living beings. And so it is, even today! The inter dependence can be at different levels- individual, family, society or national levels.

One of the best examples of this cooperation and mutually beneficial relationship in today's world, can be seen in the Indo-Japanese cooperation through JICA. There is exchange of every kind happening in various fields- be it in Health, Education, Environment or Energy. The exchange in these fields may be in the form of transfer of knowledge, technical know-how, provision of materials, man power, loans etc.

In India, JICA has facilitated development across several sectors, including transport, water and sanitation, power, forestry, agriculture, health and education, among others. The idea is to assist the country up to a stage, when it can become self-sufficient and reach a level of sustainable development. This clearly reflects on the goodwill of the donor country.

This type of cooperation between nations, has long term benefits. When a country develops its infrastructure and grows to its optimal potential- it provides a means of livelihood for its citizens, helps them improve their standards of living, helps utilise its resources to the fullest, such as renewable energy, and above all, elevates the country to a state of global participant in contributing to the cause of global welfare.

The benevolent goal of establishing peaceful coexistence of humanity in the world, should spur every country to rise above the petty politics and vested interests. Only then can we realize the dream of our ancestors, who etched the golden slogan in our rich Hindu texts- "***Vasudhaiva kutumbakam***"! ("***The world is one family***")

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.