

60TH ANNIV. OF INDIA-JAPAN DIPLOMATIC TIES

India-Japan relationship robust, resourceful

By Alok Prasad
Ambassador of India

I am glad to learn that The Daily Yomiuri in collaboration with the Embassy of India in Tokyo is bringing out a special supplement to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of India-Japan diplomatic relations. This is a commendable initiative, which I am sure will contribute to promoting Japan-India relations.



Alok Prasad

India and Japan share civilizational ties and common values. Our relationship is based on a shared cultural heritage, commitment to democratic ideals,

economic complementarities and strategic convergences.

The establishment of the strategic and global partnership between India and Japan in December 2006 elevated relations to a new level. The partnership, launched by both countries, helped us to move forward in the right direction to mitigate humanitarian problems and ameliorate poverty.

We are currently engaged in efforts to promote bilateral trade that would contribute significantly to the progress and prosperity of our two countries. The flagship projects of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor are making good progress, and have the potential to transform the logistical infrastructure in India. Japan continues to be a generous partner in development cooperation, has assisted with the Delhi metro and Bangalore metro projects. It is my firm belief that this robust and resourceful relationship will bring peace, stability and prosperity to Asia and the rest of

the world.

In recent years these relations have reached historically high levels with the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in February this year. I am confident this agreement will open many more avenues for fruitful exchanges between companies in Japan and India.

India and Japan share an excellent bond of friendship and amity. Both countries are committed to the rule of law, promotion of human rights and economic development. Since 1952, Japan and India have maintained diplomatic relations and enjoyed cordial relations based on trade, economic and technical cooperation. I am confident that the year-long celebrations to celebrate the 60 years of India-Japan diplomatic relations will further strengthen bilateral relations and deepen understanding between the two countries.

I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the readers of The Daily Yomiuri.

Leaders envision enhanced strategic partnership

Japan and India, celebrating 60 years of bilateral diplomatic relations, recently pledged to strengthen their cooperation. The pledge was incorporated in a joint statement issued by Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during the Japanese leader's visit to New Delhi late last year. The following is taken from the Dec. 28 statement titled "Vision for the Enhancement of Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership upon entering the year of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations."

[The two leaders] reaffirmed that Japan and India enjoy deep mutual understanding and vibrant people-to-people contact as the relationship is based on universal values such as democracy, human rights and rule of law, as well as wide-ranging strategic and economic interests. They stressed the need to enhance the Strategic and Global Partnership for peace and prosperity.

[They] reaffirmed the significance of annual summits between them. They expressed satisfaction at ministerial-level and other policy dialogues such as those between foreign ministers and defense ministers...and welcomed the launch of the Japan-India-U.S. trilateral dialogue, which would deepen strategic and global partnership amongst the three countries.

The two prime ministers welcomed the entry into force of Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on Aug. 1, 2011. Asserting that CEPA is an important milestone in the trade and economic relations between the two countries, they expressed hope that CEPA will further deepen their economic engagement in terms of trade in goods, services, investment and contribute immensely to mutual prosperity.

Prime Minister Noda reaffirmed that the government of Japan would continue to provide its official development assistance at a substantial level to encourage India's efforts towards social and economic development including in the area of infrastructure development. In this context, [Japan] would extend loans totaling ¥134.28 billion to two new projects, namely, "Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project Phase III" and "West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project"... The two prime ministers emphasized the importance of an early realization of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) which runs through the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) with Japan's support. In this context, both sides will expedite work on Phase II of the DFC with a view to starting implementation of the project as early as possible.

The two prime ministers shared the vision for the development of the DMIC that the governments and private sectors of the two countries cooperate in a mutually complementary manner to develop an environmentally sustainable, long-lasting and technologically advanced infrastructure in the region of DMIC...[and] welcomed the launch of a \$9 billion Japan-India DMIC facility.

Prime Minister Noda expressed his desire that Japan's technologies and expertise be utilized in the development of India's high-speed rail-



Courtesy of Indian Embassy

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, left, and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on Dec. 28.

way system. Prime Minister Singh welcomed Japan's interest in promoting the development of high-speed railway system in India.

[To ensure the stability of the financial markets, the two leaders] decided to enhance the earlier bilateral currency swap arrangement from \$3 [billion] to \$15 billion.

The two prime ministers reaffirmed the importance of civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Noda stated that Japan would provide information with transparency regarding the status of the ongoing investigation on the causes of the nuclear accident at TEPCO's Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, as well as its efforts to enhance nuclear safety.

Recognizing the importance of rare earths and rare metals in industries of both countries, the two prime ministers decided to enhance bilateral cooperation in this area by enterprises of their countries.

The two prime ministers welcomed progress on bilateral engagements in Science and Technology...including the Japan-India Cooperative Science Program...[and] the developments under "Committee on Japan-India ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Strategy for Economic Growth."

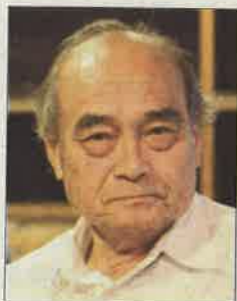
The two prime ministers expressed their expectation that the strengthening of cooperation in creative industries, which range from design, apparel, fashion, food, household goods, music, movies, animation and manga and traditional craft, would further promote and deepen mutual understanding of the two countries.

Kyoto Gion float shines with Indian legacy

By Kojiro Yoshida

The Kyoto Gion Matsuri, one of Japan's three most famous festivals, dates back to the Heian period (794-1192). It will start its month-long program on July 1. On July 17, the annual festival of Yasaka Shrine will feature the traditional grand procession of Yamahoko floats.

The Special Exhibition of Indian Printed Fabrics is also in Kyoto from July 1 to 17. It commemorates the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India and



Kojiro Yoshida

Yoshida is the chair of the Organizing Committee for the Special Exhibition of Indian Printed Fabric in Kyoto.

showcases the centuries-old relationship between the Gion festival and India.

Huge Yamahoko floats, which have been preserved by self-governing maintenance and upkeep societies, are covered with various decorations, including tapestries. Many of the hanging fabrics are said to have been imported from Europe and Asia in the 16th to 18th centuries. Therefore, the floats are called "moving museums" of dyeing and weaving techniques from around the world, including Japan.

The special exhibition features hanging printed fabrics that decorate the Minami Kannon Yama float, the 32nd and final float to proceed in the Gion festival. The Indian fabrics are said to have been donated to the float in the 18th century.

It has become known that the TAPI Collection in Surat, a commercial city in the northwestern Indian state of Gujarat, includes a tapestry of Indian printed fabric, which has patterns that look as if they were reproduced based on those preserved by the Kyoto float society.

The TAPI Collection is said to consist of

textile products commissioned by Dutch merchants on the Coromandel Coast, southeastern India, in the 17th and 18th centuries, which were exported to Japan and Europe.

Thanks to efforts by the Indian Embassy in Tokyo, the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi and other organizations, the Minami Kannon Yama tapestry and the one from the TAPI collection will be exhibited through the courtesy of the float society and the Indian collection.

The exhibition at Kyoto Seikatsu Kogei-kan Mumeisha (living industrial art house) in Shinmachi-dori, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto, will also showcase an Indian 18th-century carpet preserved by Kita Kannon Yama, another float society.

As organizers of the special exhibition, we would like readers of The Daily Yomiuri and visitors to Kyoto to think about the Edo period exchanges between Japan and India and Japan's trade with the Netherlands on the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations. We hope the special textile exhibition will help further promote cultural exchanges between Japan and India, which will lead to the strengthening of friendship between both countries.