

Holi greetings

By **Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa**
Ambassador of India

I am glad to learn that the festival of Holi is being celebrated in Yokohama on April 12-14, 2013. I wish to convey my warmest greetings to all members of the Indian community on this occasion.

Holi, the festival of colors, is among India's most important festivals and is widely celebrated by the Indian community all over the world. It is a wonderful feeling to see members of the Indian community so well integrated into the mainstream and, while contributing to the progress and development of their adopted land, still maintaining their distinct cultural identity and retaining links with the rich heritage of their motherland.

I congratulate the Organizing Committee of the inaugural Yokohama festival for their efforts and wish all participants a very happy and enjoyable Holi.

By **Hiroshi Hirabayashi**
Representative Director and President
of the Japan-India Association

On the occasion of the Holi Festival of Rainbow in Yokohama, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Organizing Committee of the festival for taking the initiative to inaugurate a Holi festival in the city of Yokohama. This event will surely promote the image of a rising India and enlarge and deepen the friendship between Japan and India.

Together with our 110 corporate members and more than 400 individual members of the Japan-India Association, I share the joy of many Indians and their Japanese friends to celebrate one of the most important and colorful Indian annual events, which welcomes spring and brings it to the people.

I am firmly convinced that this Holi Festival will bring another joyous and colorful



Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa

By **Fumiko Hayashi**
Mayor of Yokohama

I would like to congratulate all of you as you celebrate the inaugural Holi Festival of Rainbow in Japan in Akarenga, Naka Ward, Yokohama on April 12, 13 and 14.

I also wish to thank Mr. Barua Sunny Tapan, the chairman of the festival's Executive Committee, and its members for generously organizing the Holi Festival in Yokohama.

I am very pleased that the festivities to celebrate spring in India will take place in Yokohama.

During the three-day Holi Festival of Rainbow 2013, everyone from children to adults will be able to enjoy Indian culture to their heart's content through delicious food, music and dance.

The Holi Festival will be spectacularly blessed by the sparklingly bright-green colors of spring. I welcome all visitors to enjoy spring with colors in Yokohama.



Fumiko Hayashi



Japan's first Holi Festival of Rainbow will be held at Yokohama Akarenga Park in Naka Ward, Yokohama.

Courtesy of Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse

event to Yokohama, to which an impressive Indian community has made such great contributions for more than 100 years now.

May the festival be crowned with great success!

By **Ryuko Hira**
President of IMAY/ICCJ

The Holi Festival of Rainbow 2013 will take place at Akarenga, Yokohama, for the first time in Japan. This is a colorful festival you should not miss.

The Holi Festival has traditionally been celebrated in India and elsewhere in the world to give thanks for good harvests and to enjoy playing with colored powder, Indian music, films, the Holi dance, Indian wine, beer, food, conversation, a kids' corner and much more.

As the president of the Indian Merchants

Association-Yokohama (IMAY) and of the Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Japan-Tokyo (ICCJ), I invite all of you to come and enjoy the festival of colors at Yokohama's Red Brick Warehouse with your family and friends in the spring.



Ryuko Hira

By **Vashdev Rupani**
Hon. Chairman of JIP-Yokohama-2013 and
Hon. Secretary of IMAY/ICCJ

It gives me great pleasure that the Holi Festival of Rainbow will be celebrated in Japan for the first time. The festival at Akarenga, Yokohama, can be regarded as a

celebration of the Colors of Unity and Brotherhood—an opportunity to forget our differences and indulge in unadulterated fun. It has traditionally been celebrated in high spirits regardless of cast, creed, color, race, status or sex. It is an occasion when the act of sprinkling colored powder (gulal) or colored water on each other breaks all barriers of discrimination, so that everyone looks the same and universal brotherhood is reaffirmed. This is but one simple reason to participate in this colorful festival.

I wish to personally thank all members of the Japan-India Project (JIP) Yokohama 2013



Vashdev Rupani

who have dedicated their efforts to the launch of the Holi Festival in Yokohama. We sincerely hope all friends of India will join us and enjoy a Yokohama edition of this "Global New Earth Festival."

By **Barua Tapan (Sunny)**
Chairman of JIP-Yokohama-2013

India has many festivals. Last year we celebrated the 10th Year of Diwali in Yokohama-2012, and now we are celebrating the Global New Earth Festival in Yokohama—the inaugural Holi Festival of Rainbow of India—at Akarenga, Yokohama. This festival is organized by members of the Japan-India Project in Yokohama 2013.

Indian festivals are inextricably intertwined with spirituality. Festivals mark the time and seasons of our own spiritual progress. The Holi Festival is an event

featuring universal greetings to celebrate the festival of colors. Holi comes from the word hola meaning to offer oblation or prayer to the Almighty in thanksgiving for a good harvest. Holi is celebrated every year when seeds sprout, flowers bloom and the country rises from winter's slumber.

I am happy to inform you, on behalf of the JIP committee's members, that we are looking forward to increasing cultural, social and economic exchanges between Japan and India.

Different people and different colors in one celebration. Happy colorful Holi!



Barua Tapan (Sunny)