



Gateway

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May - June 2022

President's Message



Dear Friends,

The world at large continues to be in the grip of some challenging and uncertain times with the war in the Ukraine well into the fourth month showing little to no signs of a respite in spite of stepped up diplomatic

activity by some leaders in Europe. As a critical region for trade, commerce and security, the Indo Pacific cannot be insulated from global developments; and naturally it places additional burden on countries like India and Japan to step up to the plate and contribute meaningfully in meeting international obligations. In the last four months there has been hectic diplomatic activity between India and Japan and the visits of our two Prime Ministers.

Both India and Japan have not skipped a beat in meeting the varied challenges of the Indo Pacific especially in ensuring that a rules based international order is something that all nations in the region subscribe to in letter and spirit. In fact this was one of the main themes at the Quad summit that saw the participation of the leaders of India, Japan, the United States and Australia. And at the Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry the high point in May was a two day Symposium on India, Japan and the Challenges of the Indo Pacific with the strong support from the Consulate General of Japan in Chennai that saw the participation of prominent specialists from the two countries in an event that saw a large participation of students and academics from institutions in Tamil Nadu and beyond, in person and through the virtual mode.

At the IJCCI we will continue to cater to the businesses of the two countries; and to the student community we are ready to assist in their skills training in the Japanese language and culture learning exercises. In fact the IJCCI is also reaching out to the academic community by offering a limited number of short term internships around the year to students and Research scholars who may be interested in furthering their knowledge of the contours of India-Japan relationship. I have no doubt that our well wishers will be with us in every one of our endeavours.

Regards,
T.P. Imbichammad

H.E. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan & H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India met on May 24, 2022 and had a India-Japan Summit Meeting during the visit of Mr. Modi to Japan to participate in the QUAD Meeting



- Based on the outcome of the QUAD Leaders' Meeting, the two leaders concurred to steadily promote practical cooperation in various fields to deliver concrete benefits to countries in the region. In light of this, they welcomed the signing of the \$100 million loan facility between Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the Export-Import Bank of India as an outcome of the Quad Vaccine Partnership.
- The two leaders shared the view to work together to develop Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) into an inclusive framework that will bring substantive benefits to the region

(courtesy MOFA, Japan)



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA-JAPAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



Seminar on Importance of learning Japanese Language by Ms. Suguna Ramamoorthy, Secretary General, IJCCI & Implementation of Japanese Management Techniques for Self Development by Mr. Rajesh Raghavan, President, Rane Holdings Ltd. Dr. N. Anbuhezian, Principal RMK Eng. and Mr. P. Sreejith, Member of IJCCI Governing Board, on 19th April 2022 at RMK Engineering College.

Commemoration of Japan-India 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations: WORLD KOBUDO DAY



'100 TIMES NUNCHAKU KATA CHALLENGE 2022' a non-stop performance from 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon on 12th June 2022 in Chennai by Dr.Kobudo A.S. Krishnamurthy, Ryu Kyu Kobudo Shimbukan, Okinawa and his students. Mr. TAGA Masayuki, Consul-General of Japan, Chennai was the Chief Guest & Mr. T.P. Imbichammad, President IJCCI & Chairman Avalon Group was the Guest of Honour.

On May 23, Mr. KAWAZU Kunihiro, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Japan to India, and Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, exchanged notes in New Delhi, concerning the provision of yen loan for the construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (III) (loan provision of up to 100.000 billion yen) for the construction of a high speed rail with the introduction of Japan's Shinkansen system between Mumbai in the state of Maharashtra and Ahmedabad in the state of Gujarat. It is expected that the new high speed train will cover a distance of approximately 500 kilometers between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in two hours, as compared to seven hours required by the current express train service.



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IJCCI with the support of the Consulate-General of Japan in Chennai organised a two-day Symposium on “India and Japan in Free and Open Indo Pacific” on May 7 and 8 2022



**Cross section of the audience
7th May 2022**



Speakers and Students - 7th May 2022



**Cross section of the audience
7th May 2022**



**Cross section of the audience
8th May 2022**



Speakers and Students - 8th May 2022



**Cross section of the audience
8th May 2022**



Speakers and a few IJCCI members at the Inaugural Session - 7th May 2022



Speakers at the Plenary Sessions - 8th May 2022



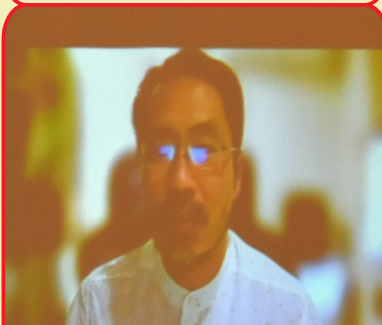
Q & A Session - 8th May 2022



Q & A Session - 8th May 2022



Q & A Session - 8th May 2022



Dr. ITO Toru from Japan making an online presentation



**Interaction with Speakers
8th May 2022**



**A cross section of the audience
8th May 2022**

A glimpse of India trade update

India achieved an all-time high annual merchandise exports of USD 417.8 billion in 2021-22, an increase of 43.2 per cent over 2020-21 in-part benefitting from a rebound in the world economy and resurgence of industrial demand in advanced economies. For the first time, India's monthly merchandise exports exceeded USD 40 billion, reaching USD 40.4 billion in March 2022, registering an YoY increase of 14.5 per cent. Merchandise import in 2021-22 also rose steeply to USD 610.22 billion, an increase of 54.7 per cent over 2020-21 and 28.6 per cent over 2019-20, in-part stimulated by India's quick economic recovery and rebound in global economy that caused the energy prices to escalate and persistently so as production cuts of crude were also affected by OPEC around the middle of the year followed by Russian-Ukraine conflict towards the year end. Not surprisingly, merchandise imports stood at USD 59.1 billion in March constituting 10 per cent of the annual import bill. India's annual merchandise trade has breached the crucial USD 1 trillion mark for the first time in 2021-22, as both exports and imports have scaled fresh peaks. It has surpassed the earlier record of USD 844 billion, achieved in FY 2018-19, by a wide margin. However, quicker growth in imports than exports has considerably widened the deficit on the trade account. The total merchandise trade deficit stood at USD 192.4 billion in 2021-22. Despite the uncertain outlook in 2022 arising from geopolitical factors, disruptions in logistic networks, rising shipping costs, and greater regionalization of trade flows among others, exports still managed to cross the USD 400 billion milestone assisted by responsive government policies. *(courtesy Indian Embassy, Tokyo)*

India-Japan Sustainable Development Initiative for the North Eastern Region of India

India and Japan established the Act East Forum (AEF) in 2017 for (i) the development of the North Eastern region of India (NER) and (ii) to promote connectivity within this region and between this region and Southeast Asia. AEF reflects the synergy between India's Act East Policy and Japan's vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific. Six meetings of the Act East Forum have taken place so far, while the coordination team meets more frequently for necessary ground work. In accordance with this vision, India and Japan have decided to launch a comprehensive initiative for sustainable development of NER. This will complement existing developmental initiatives of the State Governments of NER and the Government of India. The scope of activities under the Initiative will be covered under the umbrella of AEF and will build on the inherent strengths of NER.

This document will be updated periodically by including or modifying the projects through mutual consultation and consent. The ongoing projects and potential future cooperation to be explored are:

* Agriculture : Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development in Mizoram
* Development of Agro-industries, especially through SMEs : Initiative for Strengthening Bamboo Value Chain in the North East; Food processing including tea industries, Organic Farming and Horticulture, including a project to support women's empowerment. The initiative will look at encouraging B2B collaboration between India and Japan for achieving the aforementioned objectives.
* Promotion of Tourism and Cultural Exchanges : Art and Cultural Exchanges between NER and Japan, including Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival in Meghalaya.
* Promoting Skill India : Collaborating through skill centres, such as the Japanese Endowed Course (JEC) at IIT Guwahati, Assam; Promoting Japanese language education, including through JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) teachers and Japan Foundation (JF) schemes; and Deploying trainees/workers to Japan under the Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) / Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) system.
* Cooperation in Development of Urban Areas : Pursuing Water Supply and Sewerage projects in Guwahati, Assam; Exploring cooperation in the Kohima Smart City Mission for sustainable urban development etc.
* Providing Healthcare Strengthening the healthcare system and quality of medical education in Assam; and Advancing consultations on cooperation for establishing a tertiary Super-Speciality Cancer and Research Centre in Aizawl, Mizoram and exploring the potential of cooperation for strengthening the functions of the medical college hospital in Kohima, Nagaland.
* Promoting Sustainable Use of Forest Resources - * Development of New and Renewable Energy - * Disaster Resilience - * Connectivity : Ongoing North-East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Projects: Phases 1-5 (National Highways [NH] 40 & 51 in Meghalaya and NH 54 in Mizoram, NH-208 in Tripura, NH-127B (Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge access road) in Assam, as well as the 20 km long Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge over the Brahmaputra River); Phase 6 (Khowai-Sabroom stretch on NH-208 in Tripura) and Pursuing the potential of Phase 7 (NH-127B (Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge access road) in Meghalaya); and Exploring the potential of upgradation of State Highways, Major District Roads, Other District Roads and Replacement of steel bridges in Sikkim. *(courtesy MEA, Govt. of India)*

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