

Remarks by Ambassador H.E. Mr Sibi George
at a Seminar on “India-Japan Healthcare Partnership”
at Embassy of India, Tokyo, 24 January 2024

H.E. Mr. Nozomi Tomita, Senior Assistant Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare, Government of Japan

H.E. Mr. Arunish Chawla, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India

Mr. Mitsuho Miyahara, Counsellor, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan

Dr. Krishna Ella, Executive Chairman, Bharat Biotech International Ltd.

Mr. Ravi Udaya Bhaskar, Director General, Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council

Mr. Dai Kawada, Group Manager, Medreich Operation Department, Meiji Seika Pharma

Distinguished participants,

A very Good evening to you all !!

I am delighted to be part of this Seminar on “India-Japan Healthcare Partnership” being organized today at the Embassy focusing on fostering cooperation in the healthcare sector between India and Japan.

Healthcare is a fundamental aspect of human development, and both India and Japan share a commitment to ensuring the well-being of their citizens. The intersection of our two nations in the field of

healthcare represents a tremendous opportunity for collaboration, innovation, and the betterment of lives.

Friends,

India believes in value based health care and is continuously striving to provide high quality and cost-effective healthcare to everyone. India has been making significant strides in healthcare infrastructure, research, and accessibility. The country has witnessed transformative changes in recent years, with the introduction of initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, aimed at providing comprehensive healthcare coverage and improving health outcomes for millions.

With the vision of One Earth-One Health and to serve the global community, Government of India last year introduced initiatives such as
Heal in India & Heal by India.

Friends,

India is recognized as the Pharmacy of the World. Currently valued at \$50 billion, India's pharmaceutical sector is currently the third largest in the world in terms of volume, being exported to more than 200 countries, and the industry can potentially grow to \$120-130 billion over the next 10 years.

India is one of the top producers in generic medicines, 9 out of 25 global generic companies are from India, and provides generic medicines to more than 200 countries India provides generic. This is an important area where India and Japan can collaborate.

During Covid pandemic, India became home to the largest and fastest Covid-19 vaccination drive in the world, and also shipped millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to over 100 countries, which shows India's capability and commitment. We have been joined

virtually by Executive Chairman, Bharat Biotech International Ltd. who will also be sharing his experience about India's strengths in vaccination and its successful COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

Friends,

Japan has a healthcare system that is globally recognized for its efficiency and effectiveness. The Japanese model places a strong emphasis on preventive healthcare, advanced medical research, and the integration of technology to enhance patient care. The exchange of knowledge and best practices is crucial. India can benefit from Japan's experience in preventive healthcare and advanced medical technologies.

Telemedicine and digital health are areas where both countries can make significant strides. The integration of technology in healthcare delivery can enhance accessibility, especially in remote areas, and improve the efficiency of healthcare services.

India and Japan have already been cooperating in the field of healthcare and wellness under a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the two countries in 2018 focusing on Human Resource Development, Universal Health Coverage, Healthcare System Governance and Management, Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices, Health research, Disease Surveillance, Traditional Medicines etc.

There are many healthcare systems across the world which benefit from the talent of Indian professionals. India has the potential to supply healthcare professionals to Japan and the two countries can work on addressing the issue of shortage of healthcare workers in Japan.

Japanese pharmaceutical companies can look at the manufacturing opportunities in India and exporting back to Japan and other countries. Meiji Pharma, whose representative is here for

presentation today, acquired Medreich pharma in 2015, is one of the many success stories.

Friends,

I would conclude by quoting what His Excellency Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India had said in his keynote address at One Earth One Health Advantage Healthcare India event last year : "We strive to build a more inclusive and equitable world where healthcare knows no boundaries and where skilled healthcare professionals can make a difference wherever they are. Our collective efforts will be towards creating a healthcare ecosystem that embraces the voice of every nation, every citizen and every being."

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all the participants for joining us today, am looking forward to witnessing the fruitful discussions and partnerships that will emerge from this seminar.

Thank you.
