

Embassy of India

Tokyo

India-Japan Skill Connect – Opportunities in Technical Services

1400-1600 hours VCC Auditorium

(February 14, 2024)

Inaugural Remarks of Ambassador H.E. Shri Sibi George

- Hon'ble Mr. Fumiaki Kobayashi, House of Representatives Member and Director-General, Promotion of Human Resource Development in Foreign Countries
- Amb Mr. Shigeo Matsutomi, Senior Vice President, Japan International Trainee & Skilled Worker Cooperation Organization (JITCO)
- Mr Jagmohan Chandrani, President, ICIJ
- Eminent Panelists from Japanese Supervising and Indian Sending organization, Distinguished Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

Namaskar and a warm welcome to the Embassy of India!

I am happy to see a good response to this important Seminar wherein we would deliberate upon the opportunities in Technical Services with a particular focus on the Railway sector in Japan under the Technical Intern Trainee Program (TITP), an established pathway for mobility of global workforce to Japan. I understand that the sector presents huge requirements for workforce and India is ready to provide solutions with its talented and skilled manpower.

2. And when I say this, I say with some facts and figures. India is the fifth largest economy, soon to be the third largest economy with a massive demographic dividend. Hon'ble Finance Minister of India Smt Nirmala Sitharaman in her recent budget speech on February 1 outlined that as many as 1.4 crore youth were trained and up-skilled under the Skill India Mission. The Skill India Mission focuses on skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling through short-term and long-term training programmes. Under the mission, the government, through more than 20 central ministries/departments, is implementing various skill development schemes across the country - an indicator of a massive whole-of-government approach. Wide-ranging skill gap analysis, enabled by technological interface is providing the necessary heft to the area of Skill Development.

3. With Japan, we have important mechanisms for the sending and receiving of Indian skilled workers both under the TITP and SSW. We have also concluded next-gen partnerships in mobility and migration with several countries, with focus on cooperation on skills and under-explored avenues for mobility, especially of professionals and students. As such, India is harnessing the power of its demographic dividend through government and private sector interventions to becoming a global supplier of skilled workforce.

4. Friends, in my various visits to Prefectures, more than 40 of which I have already visited, there is an unequivocal desire and emphasis for getting Indian skilled workforce. We, at Embassy of India, are holding regular seminars, events and programs to dovetail Indian supply solutions with Japanese demands for the mutual benefit of the two societies.

5. I am delighted by the participation of Hon'ble Member of Diet, Mr Kobayashi, who is committed to the promotion of Human resources development in foreign countries. I would like to invite him to take a delegation of his committee members to India for deliberations with Indian institutions to witness the transformation happening on the ground. I also thank JITCO for their unstinting support and understand that a delegation of JITCO is already in India to have meetings. My compliments to SEEF and ICIJ in bringing together important stakeholders and wish today's event all the very best.

6. Thank you and a Good Evening!

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