

**Embassy of India  
Tokyo  
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**Ambassador Sibi George's Congratulatory Message for  
5th Symposium of Japan-India Exchange Platform  
Programme (JIEPP) (Jan 31, 2023)**

**Prof Hayashi Kaori, Executive Vice President, University of Tokyo**

**Prof. Satoshi Watanabe, Special Advisor to the President, University of Tokyo**

**Ms Yoshioka Michi, Higher Education Bureau, Min of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Tech (MEXT),**

**Keynote Speaker Prof. Gautam Biswas, IIT, Kanpur,**

**Distinguished Speakers from Niigata, Yokohama National, Gifu and Kansai Universities,**

**Dear Participating Students,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am happy to speak at the 5th symposium of Japan-India Exchange Platform Program (JIEPP). This year's theme, "The Plans and Prospects about Exchanges Between Japan and India by the FY2022 Universities" is of great importance to both India and Japan. Co-operation in Education is a core component of India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

2. I am told that this is the final symposium of the 5-year cycle of Inter-University Exchange Project Platform Building Program with India. I am confident that the program would have achieved its goals to the maximum and the new cycle with new participating universities would start soon.

3. I am happy that India and Japan friendship has a long history, rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties. Today, our relationship is based on the strong foundation of shared values such as democracy, freedom, and respect for rule of law.

4. In recent years, India – Japan relationship has transformed into Special Strategic and Global Partnership. During PM Kishida's visit to India in March 2022, both India and Japan reaffirmed our Special Strategic and Global Partnership between Japan and India and set a forward looking roadmap for us to realize the full potential in our bilateral relationship.

5. India envisions a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific, based on the principle of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). As members of QUAD, India and Japan are committed to working towards the peace, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his visit to Tokyo to attend the QUAD Leader's summit in Tokyo in May 2022, participated in the launch of several pioneering initiatives to foster continuous collaboration in the maritime domain, trade, space, climate change, health, and cyber security.

6. This year India is holding the Presidency of G-20. India through its presidency seeks to embody the spirit of universal brotherhood through the mantra of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', reflected in the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future". India seeks to strive for just and equitable growth for all in the world by sharing its strengths and experiences to address global challenges. We have planned over two hundred meetings spread over fifty cities of India. India's G20 presidency also coincides with Japan's leadership of G7, presenting a tremendous opportunity for utilizing convergences in our agendas and working on common priorities to achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes.

7. Japan is among our most trusted partners, in India's journey towards Amrit Kaal, a 25-year period journey to India at 100 in 2047. Our relationship with Japan is a partnership not only between governments and officials, it is a partnership involving several stakeholders; business establishments, industry and commercial chambers, industry groups, science and technology establishments, universities, think tanks, academicians, scholars, media houses, artists, students, innovation and research organizations, museums, libraries, practitioners of Yoga and Ayurveda and above all, our vibrant people to people contacts.

8. In this context, our exchanges between universities and institutions constitute an important element of our strategic partnership.

9. India and Japan have a robust system of co-operation among Universities. Currently, there are over 600 academic and

research partnerships (including student exchanges) between more than 100 universities/institutes of Japan and more than 150 universities/institutes of India.

10. Inter University Exchange Project is an important example of the successful co-operation between the academic institutions in India and Japan.

11. India's greatest strength for the next few decades is its 650 million skilled young demographic dividend. The human resource potential of India, especially skilled workforce in ICT is today recognized as one of the best in the world. Japan. There is great potential a much greater potential due to the synergies that exist between India and Japan.

12. India and Japan are aware of the importance of cooperation in education in enabling transformation into knowledge-based societies, as Digital India and Japan's Society 5.0. Both countries are already exploring opportunities to further deepen the bilateral cooperation in areas such as biotechnology and health care, agriculture, skill development, digital partnership, industrial training, hydrocarbon fuels, nano-science and technology, environment, information and communication technology, robotics, alternative sources of energy, semi-conductors etc. In India, there is also a rapid development in frontier technologies of 5G, Big data analytics, Quantum computing, Block-chain and Internet of things (IOT) and our Startup ecosystem has emerged as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world in a short time. It is encouraging that these areas are led by highly skilled young entrepreneurs.

13. We are working together in areas of our respective strength to utilise the enormous potential for cooperation in

several education fields, including in cutting-edge technologies. Partnerships between Universities of India and Japan is critical to realize the immense potential of our two nations. There is a need to deepen academic co-operation through recognition of common interest areas and pursuing mechanisms such as interest clubs, exchange programmes and India-Japan laboratories cooperation, webinars, etc.

14. As we celebrate this year the 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, I commend the efforts made by JIEPP to bridge the institutions of both the countries. I congratulate the organizers for organising the symposium and taking India-Japan partnership forward.

Thank you.

Arigatou gozaimasu.

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