

Embassy of India
Tokyo

Inaugural Remarks of Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Shri Sibi George
at Indian Human Resources Seminar
1600-1705 hours at VCC Auditorium
on July 21, 2023

Mr Toshiyuki Kukuchi, Technical Advisor, Learnet Skills Ltd
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Distinguished friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

Namaskar, Good Evening!

It gives me great pleasure to share my thoughts today on "Indian Human Resources Seminar". This seminar is taking place at an opportune moment and I wish to compliment the stakeholders for taking the lead in this initiative.

2. Human resources backed by a skilled workforce is crucial for any dynamic economy. India is surging towards a 5 trillion dollar economy with thrust on knowledge and innovation, as digitalisation and the fourth industrial revolution have transformed the global landscape and the future of work. India, with a median age of 29 is advantageously poised a demographic dividend while most countries are facing an aging population and a shrinking workforce. We have concluded next-gen partnerships in mobility and migration with Germany, Japan and UK, which focus on cooperation on skills and under-explored avenues for mobility, especially of professionals and students. With Japan, we have a mechanism for the

sending and receiving of Indian skilled workers to Japan in 12 specified sectors.

3. Friends, India and Japan share a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership". Skill development and human resources has been an important aspect of this partnership. In this regard, we have already taken several steps in the last few years under the guidance of our leadership. In 2016, we signed the "Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme" agreement for training 30,000 persons over 10 years with Japanese style manufacturing skills and practices. Subsequently, Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIM) and Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC) in colleges across India have been established. In 2017, we also signed the "Technical Intern Training Programme" agreement. This agreement has enabled Indian youth to access internships in Japan in diverse industry sectors. I am informed that around 876 interns have been placed in Japan so far. Another important milestone in our partnership was on 18 January 2021, when an MoC was signed on "Specified Skilled Worker (SSW)" to promote the movement of skilled workers from India to Japan. The MoC covers 12 categories of specified skills under which skilled workers from India who meet the skills requirement and Japanese language tests would be eligible for employment in Japan on a contractual basis. As of date, more than 50 people are working as SSW workers in Japan. I am sure that these agreements have also enabled greater interaction between our peoples and strengthen our people-to-people ties.

4. Ladies and Gentlemen, let me add here that a dedicated focus is needed in Japan for building awareness to hire Indian workforce. Periodic business matchmaking seminars in different prefectures should be conducted for Sending Organizations to attend and have direct interactions with Japanese receiving companies. In the recent few months, the Mission has made extensive outreach to NSDC and relevant Japanese Agencies – Japan International Training Organisation (JITCO), Organisation for

Technical Intern Training (OTIT), Immigration Services Agency (ISA) develop a robust program of periodic advocacy and outreach activities. The Mission has been organising multiple such outreach events. A mega "India-Japan Skill Connect Conference" with participation of a delegation of CII and important dignitaries is being planned for August 4, 2023. Participation of ministerial level from the two sides has also been requested.

5. I would like to mention here that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has placed high priority on quickly augmenting the human resources from India to Japan.

6. It is my hope that this seminar and our outreach efforts will help connect the wealth of talent and expertise that India has to offer to the demand in Japan. I would also like to get feedback and ideas from our participants on ways and means to deepen our human resources engagement.

Thank you! Arigato Gozaimasu!!
