

**Remarks by Ambassador of India to Japan H.E. Shri Sibi George for the Skill  
Development event on September 25, 2023 on  
'Mobility Pathways to Japan: A Dialogue'**

Ms. Nobuko Fukuhara, Director-General, Residency Management and Support Department, Immigration Service Agency of Japan

Mr. Karma Bonpo, Secretary, Commerce and Industry, Government of Sikkim,

Representatives of Indian and Japanese organizations in the field of Skill Development,  
Distinguished Guests,

Dear Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to acknowledge the presence of Ms. Nobuko Fukuhara, Director General of the Residency Management and Support Department of the Immigration Service, and Co-Chair of India-Japan Joint Working Group on Skill Development, who has found time from her busy schedule to be present amongst us. It is also my pleasure to be amongst you for today's event which shall hopefully entail meaningful discussions and recommendations on how to enhance mobility of skilled and semi-skilled workers including students and professionals from India to Japan.

2. Friends, we believe that people-to-people connectivity is a source of mutual trust between our two countries. India has recently chaired the G-20 summit meeting and undertaking worldwide skill gap analysis is one of the recommendations enshrined in Paragraph 20 of the consensus document on 'Future of Work'. We are of the firm view that the talent and skills are not regional or boundary specific, but have the potential to induce mobility for global good and therefore the time is now ripe that we should move towards a global skills mapping.

3. Skill development is key to India-Japan industrial competitiveness. Memorandums of cooperation have been signed for both TITP and SSW pathways. Currently, 35 Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing and 11 Japanese Endowed Courses Schemes are part of joint-government initiatives for skilling the manufacture-related human resources in India. Japanese manufacturing practices such as 5S, Kaizen etc are upgrading soft-skills like discipline and work-culture of Indian human resources in the manufacturing sector in India. There are currently more than 300 Japanese language institutes in India and around 60 engineering colleges that offer Japanese as a foreign language. Sending of more Japanese teachers to India, opening up new categories under SSW and additional test centers in India, sharing trade test syllabus/curriculum, along with holding SSW related tests online, are some of the bouquet of suggestions that would go a long way in scaling up these initiatives. Visa harmonization and signing of a Migration and Mobility Agreement, that India has signed with several countries, are the natural progression of

cooperation and would testify on how closely and strategically we are working towards a closely –knit cooperation in the area of Skill development.

4. Let me also elucidate here briefly on some other initiatives underway in India. Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, recently launched on September 17 ‘Skills on Wheels’ initiative with NSDC and IndusInd Bank, where 60,000 youths will be empowered over a period of 5 years. The underlying objective is to empower rural households by providing relevant skills and training to the youth. A customized bus retrofitted with state of the art tools and technology, will promote the Skill India Mission initiative with Skills on Wheels and will travel across the length and breadth of aspirational backward districts

5. Dear Friends, Indian students, especially the women, are making giant strides and approx 45% of STEM graduates in India are women. Indian women are lead contributors to critical missions like India’s Space Program, Chandrayaan-3 and women-led development is a significant driver of change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

6. In my nine months of tenure in Japan and 32 Prefectural visits, I have witnessed a deep desire of Japanese businesses and industries to hire world class skilled manpower from India. We shall very soon see the holding of the next round of Joint Working Group between India and Japan, which shall further reinvigorate our partnership in this domain.

7. The Embassy of India remains steadfastly committed to the cause of #IndiaJapanSkillConnect and hand-hold the requirements of Japanese businesses and companies who would like to hire India’s talented and skilled workforce, which shall open new vistas for our social, educational and cultural connect with Japan.

I wish you all the best for successful deliberations today!

Thank you! Arigato Goziamasu!!

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