

India-Japan Skill Connect – Opportunities in Hospitality and Transportation Services

1400-1500 hours VCC Auditorium

April 19, 2024

Draft Inaugural Remarks of Ambassador H.E. Shri Sibi George

- Ms. Akina Shimizu, MLIT Representative on Hospitality sector
- Mr Susumu Shiono, MLIT Representative on Transportation Section
- Mr Toshiyuki Kikuchi, Representative of Learnet Skills
- Mr. Kazuhiko Oshika (Japan Association), Mr Sugawara (All Japan Hotel Association) and Mr Shigekazu Sakai (Saihan Toyama, a Supervising Organisation)

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am delighted to see a good response to the event today which would discuss opportunities on the two sectors of Hospitality and Transport. With our continuous engagement with Japan in the field of Skill development, I am happy to state that a new test for Hospitality (Accommodation) was recently conducted in India in February 2024. I also understand that the Transportation sector is one of the new sectors introduced by Government of Japan as part of its expansion from 12 sectors to 16 under the SSW domain, and India has been touted as an important source country due to the similarity of the driving systems.

2. Friends, the Government of India is fast-tracking the entire Skill development ecosystem in India. It has announced setting up 30 Skill India International Centers (SIICs) in different states of India, which will be used for conducting various International level skilling initiatives for both domain and languages for Indian candidates. Presently 2 SIICs are already functions in Varanasi and Bhubaneswar. As many as 1.4 crore youth have been trained and up-skilled under the Skill India Mission. Wide-ranging skill gap analysis, enabled by technological interface is providing the necessary heft to the area of Skill Development.

3. I have travelled to 43 prefectures and met the Governors/Speakers and other authorities. There is an immense desire to recruit talented and Skilled workforce from India. 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. I would like to thank MLIT and Learnet Skill and other partner organisations for their support today. I hope that the presentations today will showcase the opportunities for Japanese businesses and corporations to look towards India as the next destination of securing their workforce requirements.

5. Thank you and a Good Evening!
