

**Remarks by H.E Ambassador Mr . Sibi George at the Japan-India  
Institute for Manufacturing Certification Ceremony,8<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
to be held in METI**

**Mr Arai Masayoshi, DG Trade Policy Bureau METI**

**Shimokawa Tetsuya, Director, Office of Technical Cooperation &  
Technical partnership ,METI**

**Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

- I am happy to be here at the Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing Certification Ceremony today, where we celebrate the latest achievement of our cooperation in human resources and skill development.
- This area forms a major pillar of India-Japan Special and Strategic Global Partnership, and it is one of the most promising areas where complementarities between our two economies can be taken advantage of.
- One crucial aspect of our skill development cooperation is the exchange of skilled workers between our two countries. Japan's aging population has created a need for foreign skilled workers, while 60 % of India's young and growing population with average

mean age of 29 , provides a large pool of skilled human resources. Through initiatives like India's "Skill India" program, we are enlarging this pool and making it available to meet the requirements of Japanese industry.

- Indian skilled workers have already been participating in the Technical Intern Training Programme, and we have also established a MoU on "Specified Skilled Worker (SSW)" to facilitate the movement of workers from India to Japan in 14 categories of specified skills.
- In 2016, we signed the “Manufacturing Skill Transfer Promotion Programme Agreement, in pursuant to establishing “India-Japan Skill Development Council” for training 30,000 persons over 10 years with Japanese style manufacturing skills and practices. Subsequently, Japan-India Institutes for Manufacturing (JIM) – to train future shop floor leaders in Japanese style manufacturing processes and key working methods such as (Kaizen and 5S) and Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC)-to provide skilling and educative training programs to future middle management level engineering candidates who aim to join the manufacturing sector in colleges across India has been established. As of date, 35 JIMs and 11 JECs are already operational and many more are operationalizing soon.
- Despite these measures, the actual number of Indian workforce in Japan continues to be small compared to other countries. There is,

however, an upswing in the movement of high skilled professionals, especially under IT and Fintech domain to Japan, that now forms a quarter of the Indian Diaspora size in Japan.

- In addition to looking at augmenting Japanese requirements under high skilled IT, Financial, management and Engineering domains, India can contribute significantly semi-skilled and technical areas also.
- The Mission has already launched an India-Japan Skill Connect on August 4 2023, wherein Hon'ble MoS(MSDE & CIT) Shri Chandrasekhar delivered a virtual key note address. The event was attended by Japanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary vice Ministers from Ministries of Justice and Health, Labour and Welfare.
- Building on this traction, the Mission will undertake several outreach events-sector-specific and prefecture-specific in the coming days.
- Aggregating the demand and building a critical mass of transfer of Indian skilled and semi-skilled workforce would enhance people-to-people exchanges supplanting the special and strategic strands of our global partnership.
- 4th round of India-Japan JWG on Skill Development was held in Tokyo on October 3 2023.

- Today's ceremony, which grants certification to the next set of JIMs, is a positive step towards strengthening our skill development partnership, and I am confident that the new set of JIMs will further contribute to enhancing the pool of skilled manpower for manufacturing in India.
- A stronger skill development partnership will pave the way for greater mobility and movement of skilled personnel between our two countries. Therefore, I urge u all to work towards enhancing our cooperation in this area and ensure that we continue to grow and prosper together.
- Thank you.

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