

**Ambassadors Draft Speech for Seminar on
India-Japan Science & Technology Partnership
Focus: Robotics & Cobotics**

At Embassy of India Tokyo: July 25, 2024

Dr. Rangan Banerjee, Director IIT Delhi,

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Distinguished Speakers for the Seminar from India including start-ups.

Senior Officials and scientists from JST, Universities, Industry & start-ups,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address this esteemed gathering at our prestigious robotics event today. The remarkable strides in robotics technology are not just transforming industries but are fundamentally changing the way we live, work, and interact with our environment. From healthcare to manufacturing, agriculture to defense, robotics is playing a pivotal role in shaping the future.

India, with its rich history of scientific and technological innovation, is proud to be a key player in this global revolution. Our nation has always placed a high premium on education, research, and development. In recent years, we have seen a significant surge in robotics research and startups, which have been fueled by a conducive ecosystem that includes government support, academic excellence, and private sector investment.

Our government's initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' are not merely slogans but powerful drivers that are propelling the country towards becoming a global hub for innovation and technology. These initiatives are designed to encourage manufacturing and innovation in high-tech sectors, including robotics. The establishment of various Centers of Excellence in Robotics and AI across the country is a testament to our commitment.

India and Japan have a Special Strategic and Global Partnership since 2014. It is rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a common vision for a peaceful and prosperous future. This relationship covers a wide range of areas, trade & investment, industrial development, infrastructure, rail, metros, digital, energy, human resources, critical and emerging technology, climate change, health security, space, defence, and semiconductors.

Both India and Japan share a strong commitment to technological advancement and innovation. Japan's expertise in robotics and automation is world-renowned, and their experience provides invaluable insights and knowledge. Joint ventures, research projects, and exchange programs between Indian and Japanese institutions and companies are paving the way for groundbreaking developments in robotics. These partnerships not only facilitate the exchange of technology and expertise but also foster cultural and intellectual exchanges that enrich both nations.

The Global Robotics Market in 2023 was estimated to about 70 Billion USD which is poised grow three times by the end of this decade and will cross 200 Billion USD even 250 Billion mark.

India is also making great stride in the area of robotics and cobotics owing to its IT strength specifically AI. Under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) of DST; 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) have been established. One of them at IIT Delhi today showcasing their work under this mission. If the interest expressed Mission would be pleased to extend help forging deeper and focussed collaboration on Robotics and Cobotics. I am also happy to note that All India Council for Robotics Association (AICRA) is organizing TechnoXian World Cup 2024. I strongly urge Japanese Robotics enthusiasts to participate in the event and play a significant role in this technology sector collaboration between our two countries.

I believe there is huge potential for multi-fold increase in Indian researchers in Japan to do cutting edge research in the area of robotics, AI and cobotics besides many areas of mutual interest. This is more feasible as capacity in these areas has enhanced to the significant level in India and could complement each other in futuristic technologies.

Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji India's S&T system has undergone transformational changes; most recent such change is establishment of Anusandhan National Research Foundation. Special attention to making it operational with adequate budget provision is the highlight of Union Budget presented day before yesterday (July 23, 2024) in India.

Let us work together to achieve new frontiers of S&T; celebrate together, create and use technologies for sustainable future together.

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