

India-Japan Skill Connect – Mobility Pathways for Engineers

1500-1600 hours VCC Auditorium

May 27, 2024

Inaugural Remarks of Ambassador H.E. Shri Sibi George

- H.E. Mr Kazuhiro Oshima, Vice Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare, Government of Japan
- Mr Kenzou Fujisue, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad
- Mr Sanjai Tiwari, Chairman and Representative Director, Smart Data Inc, Japan
- Mr. Toshiaki Nishikawa, Chairman and President of ASEAN One Co Ltd and Chairman, Council for the Promotion of Employment of Highly Skilled Resources in India

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am delighted to see a good response to today's event. It is also a matter of privilege that H.E. Mr Kazuhiro Oshima, the Vice Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare, Government of Japan has consented for being part of today's proceedings.

2. Friends, India-Japan relationship is now being redefined by growing areas of cooperation and Skill Development and Mobility of Professionals has emerged an important metric of our relationship. India, with its wealth of human resources, has the capacity to be able to meet the needs of both the Indian and Japan economies. We should work together to maximize the economic impact of these workers. India is home to a large pool of students in science and technology courses. In 2021, over 600,000 undergraduates were enrolled in electronics engineering programs nationwide, as per the All India Survey on Higher Education.

3. Friends, India-Japan Digital Partnership" (IJDP) was launched during the visit of the prime minister to Japan in October 2018 to boost cooperation and new initiatives within the scope of cooperation in science and technology and information and communications technologies. Based on the ongoing IJDP and

India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership (IJICP), an MoC on Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership was signed on October 25, 2023. The MoC would strengthen cooperation between India and Japan towards enhancement of semiconductor supply chain, recognising the importance of semiconductor for the advancement of industries and digital technologies. With the emergence of such new initiatives in the field of new and critical technologies, the global competition to secure the necessary skilled talent especially in the areas of semi-conductor and artificial intelligence has intensified. Here, India's combination of low-cost labor and government incentives could make the country attractive for Japanese requirements.

4. The Government of India is also fast-tracking the entire Skill development ecosystem in India and has set up 30 Skill India International Centers (SIICs) in different states of India, a wide-ranging skill gap analysis, enabled by technological interface is need of the contemporary times. Indian engineers and other working professionals in Japan have imbued the mobility dimension with their own unique imprint. They bring with them the skill sets, which are unmatched, globally recognized and updated with the latest technological ammunition. Not surprisingly, Indian engineering prowess is cherished at home and abroad.

5. Friends, India and Japan also enjoy nearly 700 academic exchanges between our universities and educational institutes and a significant part of these tie-ups are with premier Indian institutes like Indian Institute of Technologies and National Institutes of Technologies etc. Indian IT and engineering professionals form nearly one-third of Indian diaspora in Japan, and this number is growing at a healthy rate. In my visits to 45 prefectures and meetings with the Governors/Speakers and other authorities, I find their immense desire to recruit talented and Skilled workforce from India.

6. 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. A Japanese government task force is focusing on, inter alia, on securing highly skilled workers, promoting collaboration with foreign companies, and improving the domestic business and living environment. Going forward there is a need to

build more institution-to-institution connect so that highly skilled professionals and researchers get an exposure to Japan and aspire to work here. This could be done on the lines of IIT, Hyderabad and IIT, Guwahati, who have joint research programs with Japanese institutions. More interaction on an intellectual plane will enable highly skilled Indian Professionals to also aspire for Japan as a destination to work.

7. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Vice Minister and ASEAN One 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 engineering workforce requirements.

8. Thank you and a Good Evening!
