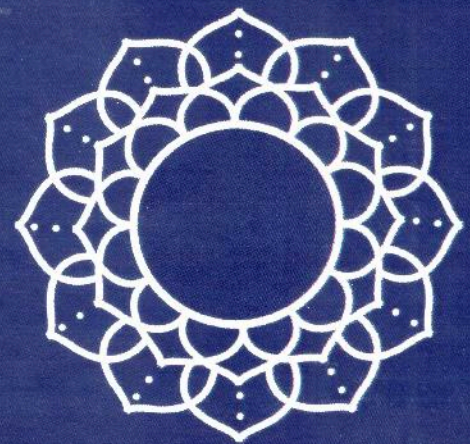
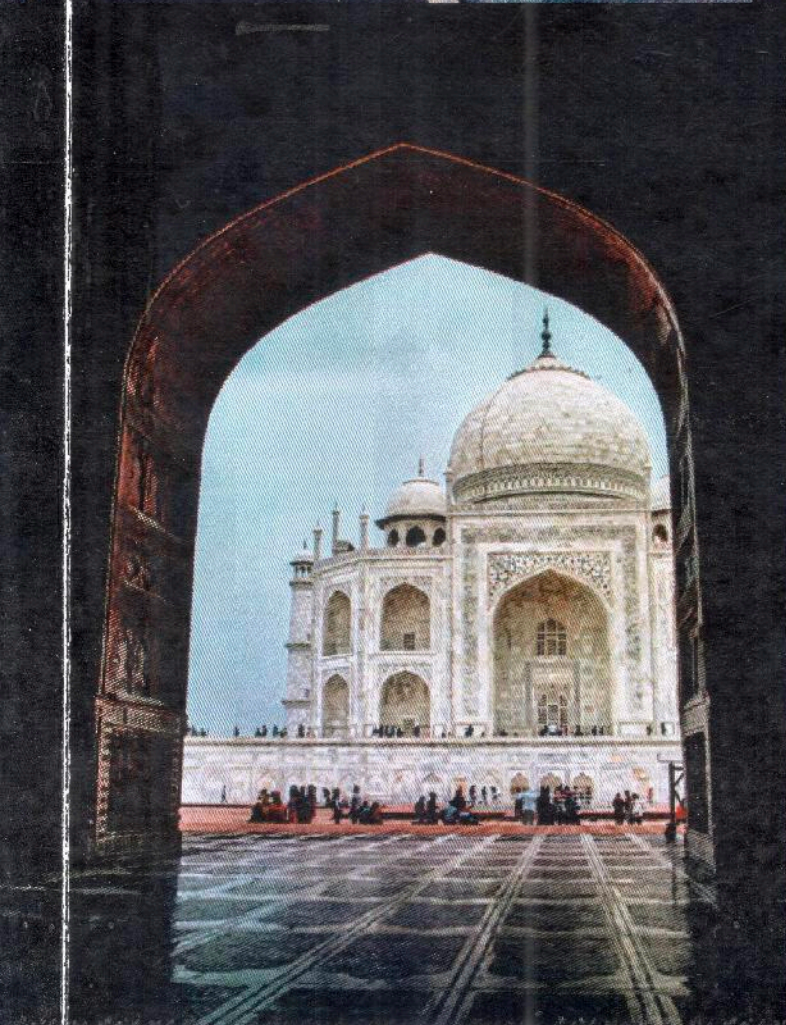




# 24TH INDIA JAPAN STUDENTS' CONFERENCE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

Under guidance of the NKKS



2021

The 24<sup>th</sup> India-Japan  
Students' Conference

Kolkata Report

**Organized by**

Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society

**Supported by**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

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## **Message from the President of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society**

*Poonam Nand Dey*

My heartiest congratulations to the participants of the 24<sup>th</sup> Indo Japan Students' Conference held on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2021.

It was indeed a unique conference, since for the first time in the history of the Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society (NKKS) , it was held online. In the true spirit of mutual cooperation and international understanding, the students from both the sides came together to make this conference truly memorable and a grand success. Despite being held in the virtual mode, the mesmerizing Wadaiko performance by the Japanese children, or the scintillating Tabla performance by the students of Pandit Tanmoy Bose, are some of the cultural events which were amazing. The topics for Table Discussion too, were well chosen and interestingly presented.

I congratulate all of you once again for your hard work and dedication in putting it together and making this conference a truly unique global experience.

Best Wishes,

Poonam Nand Dey

President, NKKS

## **Message from the Chief Patron of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society**

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*Kazuko Nigam*

A big congratulations to all the members of the 24th India Japan Students' Conference, specially to the President Ms.Ratula Datta and the communicator, Mr.Deepto Banerjee. I am sure you all have learnt how to do meticulous planning from Japanese students.

This time it was a unique Conference because it was the first online and also held only for two days. It was an exhilarating experience for all the participants and guests.

We received an encouraging opening message from the Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, Mr.Nakamura Yutaka and a warm appreciative live message at the closing ceremony from the Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Mr. Taga Masayuki.

Mr. Taga emphasized in his speech, the importance of face to face interaction in the Conference. The JICS founder member, Nagahama Hiroko sensei and I also gave a joint message in the closing ceremony, saying the same words.

This IJSC started in the year 1997 in Kolkata, since then every year without any break, Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society has given support to organize this Conference. We have organized this conference 15 times in Kolkata and 8 times in Japan, this year was of course an online one. The next Conference has been planned to be held in Kolkata, if everything goes well and since it will be the 25th Conference, I hope it will be a memorable one. So for that I request all the E.C. members of NKKS and the old participants of IJSC's to come forward to make it a grand success.

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# LUMINARIES OF THE CONFERENCE



Mr. Nakamura  
Yutaka's opening  
speech on Day 1



Dr. Debashree  
Mukherjee's academic  
lecture on Day 1



Mr. Taga Masayuki's  
closing speech on  
Day 2

## **Message from the Coordinator of Indo Japan Students' Conference**

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*Partha S. Mitra*

Thank you for the wonderful and fabulous conference. The conference has been a great success in all possible respects. The conference was very enjoyable and academically very profitable. It was my pleasure to be there and enjoy a well organized conference.

I would like to thank all the participating students who were instrumental in making the conference a grand success.

I was particularly amazed to witness the performance of the 'Tabla' from Indian side and 'Wadaiko' from the Japanese side. It was indeed an outstanding performance.

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## Message from the Founder Member of the Japan India Students' Conference

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*Hiroko Nagahama*

Thank you everyone for participating in the 24th IJSC Online Conference.

Originally a Japanese student was planning to visit India in August 2020, but was prevented because of the prevailing pandemic situation. It was very unfortunate. However due to the united enthusiastic efforts of both the Japan and Indian side students, the conference could be held online, without any hitches. Did you all enjoy this conference?

I was overwhelmed by the praises I heard about the conference after it was over, from people of both our countries. The next, 25th Students' Conference is scheduled to be held in August 2021 in India. Under the present circumstances, however it seems a distant possibility. Let us hope that this conference can be held at least by March 2022.

When the students of Japan and India think about creating a better future for their respective countries, this also has an effect of bringing about a better future of the world too. This kind of international cooperation between countries and people not only helps to nurture but also to hone up their potential. These interactions help in making the right choices, thereby preventing the loss of important values that we have, which in turn are necessary to nurture better citizens of the world.

At the end, I request the continued cooperation of the old members. I extend my thanks to the members of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society, to Nigam sensei, to the office of the Consul General of Japan in Kolkata, the Consul General Hon. Mr. Atsushi Nakamura, for the continued support given to this conference, right from the beginning. We look forward to working with you in future.

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# Message from the Student President of Japan

*Reina Ishida*

Namaste, everyone in Kolkata!

I am Reina Ishida from Dokkyo University, serving as the 24th president of JISC. I would like to appreciate your participation and cooperation in the main conference this year.

In March 2020, we JISC were supposed to visit India for about a few weeks in summer for a face-to-face interaction. However, we could not do that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, considering the risk of students getting infected with the virus. Therefore, we had decided to hold the main conference online, which was the first time since the establishment of this organization, in 1996.

The theme of this year's conference was "Let's discuss the common social issues in India and Japan × SDGs through watching the movies". Through the activities of group work sessions, each team astonishingly proposed the great solutions to the social issues from the perspectives of students at the final presentation.

Despite the interaction online, we have achieved three goals below.

- 1.Learning each other's cultures by watching a movie. Talking about visualized or un-visualized differences and common points in a movie, it enables us to deepen mutual understanding from an objective point of view.
- 2.Analyzing social issues going unnoticed through the students' perspectives with flexible minds and proposing one solution towards alleviating the situation in front of the audience at the final presentation.
- 3.Working in cooperation with each other in doing one project, aiming at establishing a friendship with one another, and overcoming their language and cultural barriers.

In the end, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to join the interaction between India and Japan to everyone, especially Nigam sensei, Nagahama sensei. I am honored to be able to work together and get along with all of you students from India. Let's catch up if things get back to normal!

Big thanks to all! ありがとう！

## **Message from the Student President of India**

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*Ratula Datta*

Greetings to everyone, my name is Ratula Datta and I am currently a final year law student in Amity University, Kolkata. I am extremely grateful for being selected as the President of this conference from the Indian side, and would like to thank the authorities of Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society for giving me the opportunity to serve in this conference as the same.

Having loved Japan since I have been a child, made this experience all the more personal and holistic for me.

The Japan India Student Conference had been made to strengthen the bond between the youth of the two countries, hence making a bridge towards a better relationship between the two countries. Over the years, students from Japan and India have worked relentlessly in order to make each conference a success, and have done their best in order to understand each other's culture.


However, due to the unforeseen danger of coronavirus that hit the world at once, the conference could not be held in person. Thanks to technology, we had the privilege of conducting this conference online and interacting with members from India as well as Japan easily due to the same. We were able to view magnificent performances on the percussion instruments of each of the countries, one being on the tabla and the other being on the taiko drum. Again, all of this was possible because of the relentless efforts of the students and everyone else who worked so hard to make the performances a success.

The goal for this year is to understand the Sustainable Development Goals, laid down by the United Nations through a different mode, where the students found movies in their respective languages and watched the same to discuss the areas of the sustainable development goals it covers. On the 40th anniversary of the India Japan relationship, Japanese director Yugo Sako collaborated with Indian musician Vanraj Bhatia and came up with the movie Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama. The movie became an international blockbuster and received appreciation worldwide due to its depiction of Indian mythology and the Japanese animation style to it. The movie also showed the strength of the diplomatic ties between the two countries, and the celebration through the movie meant a different essence to the upliftment of the relationship the countries shared.

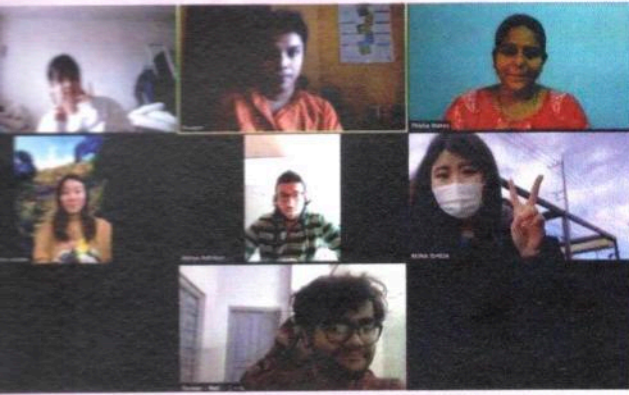

In a similar manner, the students from either side this year decided to strengthen the bonds by discussing movies which they thought were appropriate for the understanding of sustainable development goals.

To conclude, I am extremely grateful that this conference was conducted smoothly and was able to get to a tentative resolution to the existing problems in society. Each member of the conference worked day in and day out to make sure that two days of the conference passed by without any hindrances. I would especially like to thank the members of the Japanese side for being so patient and hard-working throughout the conference. Meeting everyone every week for three months, even if it was merely through video call, is something I will miss tremendously. I sincerely hope that all of us are able to meet in person someday, either in India or in Japan, and then laugh about all the difficulties we overcame together in order to make this conference a success!

# Groups



QUALITY EDUCATION




A grid of nine video thumbnails from a Zoom meeting. The thumbnails show various participants, including a woman in a red shirt, a man in a striped shirt, and a woman wearing a face mask. Some participants are making peace signs.




REDUCED INEQUALITIES




A grid of six video thumbnails from a Zoom meeting. The thumbnails show participants, including a woman with long dark hair, a man with glasses, and a man with a beard. Several participants are making peace signs.


GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 



A grid of five video thumbnails from a Zoom meeting. The thumbnails show participants, including a man in a blue shirt, a woman in a white shirt, a woman in a black jacket, and a man in a blue cap.



CLIMATE ACTION



A grid of six video thumbnails from a Zoom meeting. The thumbnails show participants, including a man in a dark shirt, a woman in a red shirt, and a man in a blue shirt.

## Schedule

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Date	Events
20/02/2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Opening Ceremony</li><li>2. Welcome Party and Cultural Exchange</li><li>3. Guest Lecture : India ( by Dr.Debashree Mukherjee )</li><li>4. Guest Lecture : Japan ( by Mr. Hiromi Hirose )</li><li>5. Table Discussion</li></ol>
21/02/2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cultural Exchange ( Wadaiko and Tabla )</li><li>2. Table Discussion</li><li>3. Final Presentation</li><li>4. Closing Ceremony</li><li>5. Farewell Party</li></ol>

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## List of Members

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### Japan Side

Name	University	Department
Reina Ishida	Dokkyo University	Faculty of Foreign Languages
Richina Shimamura	Dokkyo University	Faculty of Law
Kyoka Ogata	St. Andrew's University	International Studies
Taro Okamura	Ritsumeikan University, Graduate School	Graduate School of Science and Engineering
Rinko Ganeko	Yuan Ze University	English Bachelor of Business Administration
Ryuki Kuramitsu	St. Andrew's University	International Studies and Liberal Arts
Daimu Kokuryo	Kagoshima University	Faculty of Law, Economy and Humanities
Miku Narita	Toyo University	Faculty of Letters
Suzuka Nishiyama	St. Andrew's University	International Studies
Mai Yamanaka	Ritsumeikan University	School of International Relations
Ninad Rajpathak	Tilak Maharashtra University	Japanese Language

### Kolkata Side

Name	University	Department
Deepro Banerjee	Meghnad Saha Institute of Technology (MAKAUT)	Electronics and Communication Engineering
Ratula Datta	Amity University	Law
Anoubhav Bhaduri	St. Xavier's University	Mass Communication
Aditya Adhikari	NSHM Knowledge Campus	Business and Management
Shuvam Dewanjee	Presidency University	Sociology
Drishti Shroff	The Bhawanipore Education Society College	English Honours
Shreyasi Mali	Swami Niswambala Nanda Girls' College	English Literature
Rohan Bhattacharya	Heramba Chandra College	English Honours
Tuneer Chakrabarti	Presidency University	Sociology
Abhrajit Banerjee	Asutosh College	Microbiology

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## Daily Reports

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- Overview of SDGs selected for the Conference
  - Overview of Performances
  - Lecture from India Side Lecturer
  - Lecture from Japan Side Lecturer
  - Interactions between Japanese and Indian Students
  - Group 1: Quality Education
  - Group 2: Reduced Inequalities
  - Group 3: Good Health and Well-Being
  - Group 4: Climate Action
-

# Overview of the SDGs Selected for the Conference

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*Anoubhav Bhaduri*

The main agenda of the 24th IJSC that was held this year on the 20th and 21st of February was to find common Sustainable Development Goals that are relevant in the case of both India and Japan, with the help of movies.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. They are included in a UN Resolution called the 2030 Agenda or what is colloquially known as Agenda 2030.

The participating students discussed and decided to deliberate on the following SDGs as they came to the conclusion that the below mentioned goals are important for the growth and development for both the countries and that is why they need to be given precedence.

## 1. Reduced Inequalities

Sustainable Development Goal 10 (Goal 10) is about reduced inequality. The mission statement is to "Reduce inequality within and among countries"

The first seven targets are "outcome targets": Reduce income inequalities; promote universal social, economic and political inclusion; ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination; adopt fiscal and social policies that promotes equality; improved regulation of global financial markets and institutions; enhanced representation for developing countries in financial institutions; responsible and well-managed migration policies. The other three targets are "means of achievement" targets: Special and differential treatment for developing countries; encourage development assistance and investment in least developed countries; reduce transaction costs for migrant remittances.

## 2. Quality Education

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) is about quality education. The mission statement is to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

SDG 4 has ten targets which are measured by 11 indicators. The seven "outcome-oriented targets" are: free primary and secondary education; equal access to quality pre-primary education; affordable technical, vocational and higher education; increased number of people with relevant skills for financial success; elimination of all discrimination in education; universal literacy and numeracy; and education for sustainable development and global citizenship. The three "means of achieving targets" are: build and upgrade inclusive and safe schools; expand higher education scholarships for developing countries; and increase the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries.

## 3. Good Health and Well-being

Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), is about guaranteeing "Good Health and Well-being". The mission statement is "To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at

# Moments Before and During the Conference



**INFORMAL MEETING**

**WADAIKO PERFORMANCE**



**TABLA RECITAL**



all ages." The targets of SDG 3 cover and focus on various aspects of healthy life and healthy lifestyle.

SDG 3 has 13 targets and 28 indicators to measure progress toward targets. The first nine targets are "outcome targets". Those are: reduction of maternal mortality; ending all preventable deaths under 5 years of age; fight communicable diseases; ensure reduction of mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health; prevent and treat substance abuse; reduce road injuries and deaths; grant universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning and education; achieve universal health coverage; and reduce illnesses and deaths from hazardous chemicals and pollution. The four "means to achieving" SDG 3 targets are: implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; support research, development and universal access to affordable vaccines and medicines; increase health financing and support health workforce in developing countries; and improve early warning systems for global health risks.

#### 4. Climate Action

Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13) is about climate action. The mission statement is to "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts".

The targets cover a wide range of issues surrounding climate action. There are five targets in total. The first three targets are "output targets": Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related disasters; integrate climate change measures into policies and planning; build knowledge and capacity to meet climate change. The remaining two targets are "means of achieving" targets: To implement the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; and to promote mechanisms to raise capacity for planning and management. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

## Overview of the Performances from Indian Side on Day 1 and Day 2

### *Deepro Banerjee*

#### Day 1

After a series of speeches by eminent speakers from the two sides, a cultural performance was held where three members of the Indian side performed three musical performances. Shuvam Dewanjee played the harmonica to the tune of the famous theme music of "Feluda". Abhrajit Banerjee played the violin to the tune of "Jagorone Jaye Bibhabori", a song by Rabindranath Tagore and finally I, Deepro Banerjee sang a song of spring by Tagore called "Phagun Haway Haway".

#### Day 2

The day started with the cultural performance by the Japan side and then the Indian side showcased their culture through a wonderful Tabla performance by students of eminent musician Pandit Tanmoy Bose. Pandit Tanmoy Bose addressed the audience by introducing the performance and the techniques of playing the Tabla which were used in the performance. Five students of Pt. Tanmoy Bose, all dressed in "Punjabi" of vibrant colours performed for ten minutes. The performance ended with a lot of appreciation and cheer from the audience.

## Lecture from Indian Side Lecturer: Dr. Debashree Mukherjee

*Ratula Datta*

On the first day of the conference, we were graced with the presence of Dr. Debashree Mukherjee, who is a professor of law and the Head of the Department of Law at Sister Nivedita University. She discussed the main thrust area of the conference, which was Sustainable Development Goals.

She discussed how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. They are included in a UN Resolution called the 2030 Agenda or what is colloquially known as Agenda 2030.

The 17 SDGs are: (1) No Poverty, (2) Zero Hunger, (3) Good Health and Well-being, (4) Quality Education, (5) Gender Equality, (6) Clean Water and Sanitation, (7) Affordable and Clean Energy, (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, (10) Reducing Inequality, (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities, (12) Responsible Consumption and Production, (13) Climate Action, (14) Life Below Water, (15) Life On Land, (16) Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, (17) Partnerships for the Goals.

She discussed how even though the goals are broad and interdependent, two years later (6 July 2017) the SDGs were made more "actionable" by a UN Resolution adopted by the General Assembly. The resolution identifies specific targets for each goal, along with indicators that are being used to measure progress toward each target. The year by which the target is meant to be achieved is usually between 2020 and 2030. For some of the targets, no end date is given.

She gave the students and participants a great wealth of information to utilise for their final presentations.

## Lecture from Japanese Side Lecturer: Dr. Hiromi Hirose

*Tuneer Chakrabarti*

The Japanese side of the lecture was brilliantly handled by academic intelligentsia, Mr. Hiromi Hirose who brought into account the current state of the Indian political as well as industrial scenario beautifully equivocated from the perspective of an outsider. His lecture was academically taut and streamlined with a focus on economics in the forefront from real world cases and scenarios. While economics would appear to be his field of interest, there was never a dull moment as he answered the questions from his very influential stance of the events that he found important to the demographic of India as well as that of the making of India as a country and influencing its history. Being an employee of the NHK, presumably very up-to-date as well as uncloset and personal with the events that happen in real time he was able to clarify and furthermore explain the cryptic terms such as Modinomics and Abenomics to the best of his ability, where he referenced to his own work and worked tirelessly to bring into light a detached view of the Indian scenario that had been no doubt

been worked upon and influenced by his position in the market of mainstream media where he had considerable grasp over how things worked and how it had cohesively been able to formulate a sort of para-symbiotic bonding between cult of personality figures and how important their stature and been to the present state of their respective countries. It was an amazing lecture, the likes of which are scant even in the reaches of historians and seasoned professors and personally I feel that it left a very lasting impact upon me that would last in a very special sense.

## Interactions between Japanese and Indian Students

*Aditya Adhikari*

The groups were formed on 2nd February 2021 on the LINE app. Introductions were made and dates and timings for group meetings were decided through polls on the same day. Group meetings started from 5th February and initially were held from 9:00AM and then from 10:00AM. On the first day of our meeting we did introductions once again, talked about why we chose the SDG and discussed movies related to our SDG in order to choose a representative film. The Japanese side shared worksheets on the discussions after the meetings. The next meeting was held to further discuss social issues related to the SDG and to discuss relevant movies so as to choose a representative film. Other than the Zoom meetings, most of our communications were held on LINE, starting from sharing links to the movies, articles or related information. We chose a few films from Indian Side and from the Japanese side, but the Japanese films were not available for the Indian side, so we decided on studying articles related to our SDG. After watching the movies and reading the articles we had a few more group meetings finalizing the representative film and for preparing the presentation. Most of the important things for the day of the conference were talked through, we decided on sharing our suggestions to the problems once and for all on the day of our presentation. Even though there were big differences in the nature of the problems between the countries, we found similarities and shared opinions and ideas on how to solve these problems. I learned a lot about teamwork. This was a first time experience for me and I will remember it for a long time to come.

## Group 1: Quality Education

*Shuvam Dewanjee*

The 'Quality Education' SDG Group was designated as Group 1. Throughout the time period leading to the main conference several discussions and interactive meetings were held. Within these meetings held in the virtual medium it was also decided that the LINE group made for Group 1 shall be used to exchange documents and keep members up to speed with any changes, developments, and decisions that may have occurred outside virtual meetings. Many films were suggested in the meetings and similarly only one film was chosen with the objective that it best represented the problem of India and Japan. It must be noted here that a Japanese film was not selected for viewing as the few that were suggested by the Japanese delegation were in fact not watched by most members of the Japanese delegation and were very scarce and hard to find outside Japanese sites without a fee. Therefore, it was decided to

go ahead with studying the problems of Japan through documents, news reports, and studies conducted. Group 1 also kept it in its mind to consider the best way to find common problems and solutions to the problems of education in both the countries. However, it was found soon enough that due to India and Japan being vastly different countries in terms of their societies, economies, and levels of use of technology; there are hardly any common causes for the common problems in both countries. Still, Group 1 managed to locate a large number of focus areas having similar problems in both countries, albeit for different reasons. All meetings and other deliberations of Group 1 went through with no hassles or inconveniences.

## Group 2: Reduced Inequalities

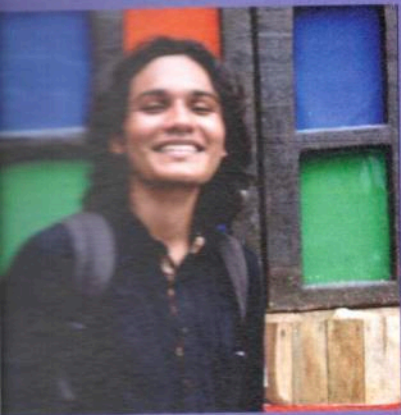
*Abhrajit Banerjee*

24<sup>th</sup> IJSC (India Japan Students conference) held in the month of February, 2021 was a very unique experience for me. The knowledge I gained from this conference was really amazing. Our group's topic was SDG (sustainable development goals) 10: Inequality. I was really lucky to get this group. Everyone in the group got along very well with each other. Each one of us tried their best to take some time out of their busy routines and do as many online meetings as possible. The meetings were always productive. Apart from work based productivity we also had a lot of fun. The meetings, being online we did not expect to know each other that nicely but it turned out to be so good. All of us became very good friends and we all had a nice time talking and getting to know each other properly. Both the sides got to know a lot about each other's countries, be it about society or culture. Members from each side briefed about the inequality issues prevailing in the society of respective countries. We debated a lot on these issues and tried to come up with the best possible solutions applicable for both the countries. The work for the presentation was divided among the members. Each one of the members took responsibility for specific topics and got it done on time. Even if some work was pending everyone together worked hard and made up for it. Each one in the group contributed equally in the project. We had a great understanding among us and specific works were assigned to all group members according to their comfort level. The team spirit of the group was really commendable. The successful final presentation on the second day of IJSC was only possible due to the group's collective effort and patience.

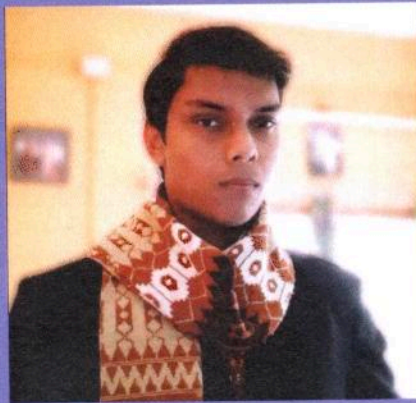
## Group 3: Good Health and Well-Being

*Rohan Bhattacharya*

From the 7th of January till the 19th of February, Group 3 had had numerous meetings where they had discussed their SDG in great length, taking notes and accumulating any relevant information that would help in the composition of an appropriate presentation. The Indian movie 'Virus,' and the Japanese animated film 'A Silent Voice' helped create a background for discussion while also providing the groundwork necessary to interlink Mental and Physical health issues. While discussing Mental Health remained their primary target, the group also aimed to showcase how a virus similar to Covid-19 could cause physical harm and induce anxiety and depression. The Japanese and the Indian members from Kolkata had actively participated in the exchange of relevant news articles and necessary data and



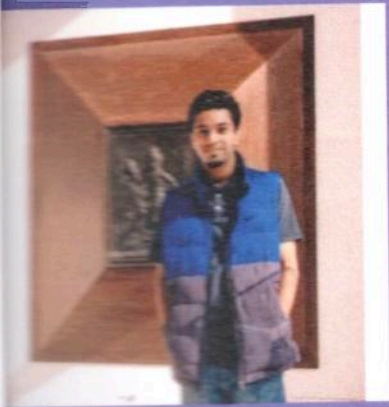
Anubhav Bhaduri



Shuvam Dewanjee



Drishti Shroff



Abhrajit Banerjee



Rohan Bhattacharya



Deepto Banerjee



Tuneer Chakrabarti



Ratula Datta



Aditya Adhikari



Shreyasi Mali

# KOLKATA SIDE MEMBERS

statistical information; unfortunately, Indian members from Chennai could not contribute to our endeavour.

Group 3 aimed to justify their arguments with practical examples and an in-depth analysis of real-life social issues. With the movie 'Virus', the team sought to tackle the problems faced by health workers, a topic that the filmmakers masterfully covered. Group 3 found the circumstances in 'Virus' comparable to the issues faced by covid-19 health workers in both Japan and India. Doctors and nurses get shunned from their own homes; they live with the fear of alienation, bearing the hate of those they rescue. Undoubtedly, they become victims to Mental Health issues. 'A Silent Voice' helped the group understand the problem of bullying faced by Japanese school students. Group 3 made charts that draw a clear comparison of bullying cases in both countries in recent years for their presentation.

Finally, to conclude their presentation, the group decided to draw inspiration from online applications that offer free counselling for those who have Mental Illness.

## Group 4: Climate Action

*Drishti Shroff*

The 24th India-Japan Student Conference took place on 20th and 21st February and before that for several weeks, the group kept continuous meetings to establish the groundwork for their presentation while contributing varied opinions corresponding to climate change, natural disasters, impact of climate change in Japan and India and strategically converging our opinions into solid solutions that can be practiced by anyone.

Climate action group comprised of five members- Taro Okamura, Shreyasi Mali, Drishti Shroff, RyukiKuramitsu and Harish Selvam. Our aim as a team was to give a presentation with a solution-centric approach with in-depth study of what comprised climate change and analyzing the exhaustion of fossil fuels and other resources stimulating a change in climate.

We settled on two movies : A Message from Gaia and Kadvi Hawa that spoke of detrimental effects of climate change that resulted in drastic changes and is a cause of much worry to human existence. Each member contributed to their best and brought another edge to our discussion while keeping the momentum flowing. It was an interactive process to learn something new and together focus on an issue of social concern, a place where we all came together to discuss our SDG, Climate Action.

## Overview of Japanese Cultural Performances

*Shreyasi Mali*

On the first day of the two days India-Japan Students' conference, that is 20th February, the Japan side presented a beautiful and audio visual about how to make Japanese food by using the ingredients that are found in India.

The performance started with the presenter from Group 1, SDGs: Quality Education who showcased the making of Tofu Gyoza. These Vegetable Gyoza are stuffed with a delicious mix of tofu, cabbage, carrots, and shiitake mushrooms. The second was by the presenter of Group 4 SDGs:13, Climate Action, who showed Daigaku Imo. Candied sweet potatoes are a sweet snack made of deep-fried Japanese sweet potatoes that are covered in hard sugar candy coating. The third and last was by the presenter of Group 2 SDGs:10 Inequality, Wagashi. Wagashi are traditional Japanese confections that are often served with green tea, especially the types made of mochi, anko, and fruit. Wagashi are typically made from plant-based ingredients. The presenter not only showed the recipe but also showcased the making of this traditional sweet dish.

The overall showcase was very informative and indeed represents the cultural depth of Japan. The members successfully conveyed the cultural exchange they want to propose through this performance.

## **Vote of Thanks**

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We would also like to especially thank the students of the Japanese side for constantly putting in endless efforts from their end and working alongside the Kolkata side students, while managing the biggest challenge of this conference, the time zone difference.

We would also like to thank Pandit Tanmoy Bose and his students for their wonderful performance, the Wadaiko team from Japan, and Dr. Hiromi Hirose and Dr. Debashree Mukherjee for their academic lectures.

