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# MIESSAGE FROM:

### THE PRESIDENT OF NIHONGO KAIWA KYOOKAI SOCIETY

My heartiest congratulations to the participants of the 25th Indo Japan Students Conference held on the 8th and 9th of January 2022.

This was the second Online Conference, which was organized by the Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society with the support of the students from the Japanese and Indian sides. The two-day conference was indeed a wonderful experience with the students getting together in the true spirit of mutual cooperation and international understanding, to make this conference truly memorable and a grand success.

The topics for the Table discussion were well chosen and gave a good insight into the kind of food crisis India and Japan are facing and how this problem of food crisis can be tackled. I commend the research that these young students did, to delve deep into this topic and present their views.

Despite being held in the virtual model, the mesmerizing and amazing calligraphy performance with music and dance by the young Japanese school students was simply spellbinding. Like last year, this year too, the Indian side showcased two immensely talented Performers, a table player, and a classical Vocalist par excellence.

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

# MIESSAGE FROM:

### CHIEF PATRON OF NKKS

This year was a special year, as we were holding the 25th India Japan Students' Conference while at the same time Japan and India together with the whole world were seriously affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. Despite this chaotic situation, the Conference was successfully held, however keeping in mind the health and safety of the participants it was held online.

The theme of this Conference was "Food" and I also learned many things from these discussions. In Japan, I have seen people waste food on their plates in restaurants, but rarely saw this kind of wastage in India. I was also surprised to learn that a high percentage of food produced in India is spoiled due to poor infrastructure, transportation, and sometimes mismanagement. It was very clear from discussions that the participant had done serious research on the theme of the Conference. Though the Conference was only held for two days, it was very apparent that a lot of hard work had been done for many days before the Conference.

I am also pleased to inform everyone that Mr. Supratik Sil Roy and Mr. Deepro Benerjee took the initiative in these difficult circumstances to form the "Students' Conference Dosokai" to commemorate the 25 years of the India Japan Students' Conference. It was a herculean task to prepare data from 25 years as there was no digital information of participants from earlier Conferences, however gradually a database has been made.

My heartiest congratulations to all Indian and Japanese participants, members of the Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society, and others who worked extremely hard in this difficult situation to make a success of this very important and landmark 25th India Japan Students' Conference.

Now I very keenly look forward to having our next Conference in person.

Kazuko Nigam Chief Patron Nihongo Kaiwa Kyookai Society

# MESSAGE FROM:

### FOUNDER, JAPAN INDIA STUDENT CONFERENCE

Lexpress my thanks to all the participating members of the 25th IJSC. I was happy to know that the OBOG members of Kolkata have proposed the alumni association and have already started the activities with the Japanese side.

I hope that this will help the friendship between them to continue for years to come.

It was a pity that the conference had to be held online because of the spread of the coronavirus infection but this year too it had to be held online again. However, since the alumni association has been established, please visit each other's country, and meet each other, after this corona has ended.

As you all know, JISC/IJSC has been going on for the last quarter century. I think that this is unique for both Japan and India. With all your cooperation I hope that you will be able to continue for another half a century.

Even though this is an era where Fax, telephone, and mail are used as a means of remote communication, it cannot replace the fascination of visiting each other's country and face-to-face interaction.

The fact that we were able to continue with the activities of JISC/IJSC for such a long time is because of Kazuko Nigam Sensei and the members of NKKS. I extend my thanks to all the students who have participated so far. I express my gratitude to all those who have been connected in these activities. I am looking forward to an enriching relationship henceforth.

Hiroko Nagahama, Founder, Japan India Student Conference.

# MESSAGE FROM:

### COORDINATOR OF INDIA JAPAN STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

Congratulations!
Awesome presentation!

It was a splendid conference both in terms of the intellectual quality of the students and outstanding guest performers.

I am impressed with the commitment and efficiency of the students of both countries who were instrumental in presenting excellent sessions.

Thank you all for making the conference so memorable. I am very excited with the creativity and passion shown by the students and it is not a surprise that you have become so successful.

This amazing accomplishment is just one step of your journey. Your collective ability will definitely find some innovative ways to strengthen the cultural relationship between the two countries.

Thank you once again.

Partha S Mitra. Coodinator IJSC, NKKS

# MIESSAGE FROM:

### PRESIDENT OF 25TH JISC

Thank you for your efforts towards the 25th Conference. It's very regrettable that Covid-19 has forced the conference to go online for the second year in a row. I know how valuable and meaningful it is to learn through face-to-face international exchange. However, as the relationship between Japan and India becomes stronger and stronger in terms of economy, diplomacy, the importance of human and cultural exchange at the citizen level is increasing. International exchange is not something that can be accomplished tomorrow; it is something that can be promoted over a long period of time by many people. That is why we have a responsibility not to let the history of international exchange between Japan and India be interrupted. I am proud of our activities, which involve honest discussions between students from Japan and India, even if we cannot meet.

This year, we were discussing social issues related to food with a view to the future in 2030. As the world is about to change drastically due to changes in the world order, we made proposals on the path to 2030, which is set as the target deadline for the SDGs. Don't mean to brag but everyone's proposals were of such excellent quality that it was hard to believe they had been completed in six months. I also appreciated the many questions from the participants after the presentations were over, and I was very happy to see the lively discussions. But I think the frank discussion among students before making a proposal was the most important part. Our discussions, which are responsible for the future of Japan-India relations, will not produce immediate results. However, I hope that they will take shape in several decades.

My deepest thanks to Nagahama sensei, Nigam sensei, Hirose san, and the members of ABK- AOTS Chennai Dosokai. I want to convey my heartfelt thanks for what all of the IJSC students did, especially Rohan san, president of the India side, and Anoubhav san, communicator of IJSC. We will definitely see you when the pandemic is over. I hope that the day when we can hold face-to-face JISC &IJSC will come soon. Thank you.

President of 25th Japan India Student Conference Richina Shimamura

# MIESSAGE FROM:

### PRESIDENT OF 25TH IJSC

The Japan India/ India Japan Students' Conference is, according to me, the bridge that connects our two not so distinct cultures together; it brings in the students who wish to learn more about each other's cultures, and then fastens them with the bond of friendship and togetherness. I had heard stories of the very first conference that had taken place 25 years ago, and got to experience one last year, and become the storyteller myself. Strangely, but not surprisingly, these stories are always adorned with glittering smiles, and happy moments that have always made this educational conference into something much more than that! By the end of it, I am sure that all of us haven't simply learnt about the problems our countries face, and the means to rectify them, but have also learnt what it means to appreciate one another, and learn about the little things that make us Japanese and Indians. The conference was marred by the ominous shadow of Covid19; nevertheless, what we have accomplished today is a result of all of us working together, and not giving up.

President of 25th India Japan Students' Conference Rohan Bhattacharya

# MESSAGE FROM:

### STUDENTS' CONFERENCE DOSOKAI

Students' Conference Dōsōkai, established in 2021 is the formal alumni association of students' conference alumni from the past 24 terms of the conference. Currently, Dōsōkai is being led by a group of 9 alumni members from different terms who are working as the core team. Dosokai was formed with the aim to associate alumni of students' conferences from the past 24 years in an organized manner and help them interconnect. In the year of establishment, Dōsōkai was successful in many feats necessary to establish an association. The core team met once every month, taking out time from their busy schedules to discuss and contribute to the success of the establishment. With constant help and encouragement from Nigam Sensei, Nagahama Sensei, ABK AOTS Dosokai as well as JISC OBOG-Kai, Students' Conference Dosokai was able to reach out to members from different terms and tell them about this new association. This year, Dōsōkaii plans to extend its reach, so that many more alumni members can join and bring on board, many beautiful memories and share them with other members. Since January 2022, Dosokai is publishing a tri-monthly e-magazine where alumni members in different parts of the globe can share ideas among themselves through a medium of their choice. Dōsōkai will strive to create a strong and inseparable bond between India and Japan through networking between alumni and carry forward the spirit of students' conference, even after the students have graduated! Dosokai will try its best to help future terms of the conference in any way possible to make it even better and more meaningful for the participants. If you are someone who had participated in the students' conference or thinking that this might be the last time you participated, join Dosokai and let's relive the amazing memories of the conference! Scan the QR code below to join us, and reach out to us at contact.studentsconference@gmail.com for any queries.

- Dōsōkai Core Team





# LOOKING BACK AT 70 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND IAPAN.

- Meekah Ludba.A

The India-Japan Student Conference is a platform for the young generation of both the countries to come and deepen their bond and understanding of the relation between India and Japan. The year 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between both the countries and the fact that the 25th IJSC is one of the first events that celebrate this important milestone is something special.

The relationship between the two nations grew into a Special Strategic and Global Partnership after years of multi-layered exchanges.

This collaboration is built on a sincere appreciation for each other's contributions to ensuring peace, stability, and development in Asia and beyond. I am proud that we all recognize each other as natural partners to work together for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and other global issues today, under the leadership of both prime ministers. We also have a long tradition of people-to-people exchange that can be traced back to the sixth century.

The long history confirms this point. Our common goal for the future will never be compromised. During the pandemic, we can grow our partnership by using digital technology as a facilitator of new and innovative ways to stay in touch with one another. This student conference is a prime example as this was the second time that it has been held online, showing that no obstacle is impossible to overcome if everyone comes together.

# SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN THE FOOD CULTURE OF JAPAN AND INDIA

- Akshitha Priyadarshni

We had two days of knowledgeable and fun events for both Indian and Japanese members who participated in this IJSC/JISC which was conducted on the 8th and 9th of January at (9:45 IST/13:15 JST) through zoom. And the theme of the conference was "FOOD".

Both Indian and Japanese members presented videos about food according to their respective cultures. From the Japanese side, we learned how they make mochi, and how mochi is done during the new year's celebration as it's their tradition. We also learned about Japan's street food via zoom. And we showed them how homemade food is prepared with home utensils and different varieties of Indian dishes via zoom.

Japan and India have unique cultures about their food process, habits, and their diets. Japan and India do not have many similarities because Japanese people eat their food-based diet rich in fish, seafood, and plant-based foods. Whereas Indian people eat dishes featuring meat or vegetables mixed with sauce and rice.

Japan has adopted curry from India. Around 2,000 restaurants throughout Japan serve only Indian food. So just like how curry is eaten here, Japanese people eat it with rice.

Just like tempura in Japan. Indians eat bhaji aka pakora as an appetiser. Bhaji is vegetables dipped in batter and fried in oil. Pakora and tempura have the same similarity in the process of making it.

Both in Japan and India, people eat rice along with the side dish. In Japan, rice is eaten along with curry or used in raw fish i.e sushi. In India rice is eaten along with curry.



#### INDIAN SIDE GUEST LECTURES

MR. ARDHENDU SEKHAR CHATTERIEE

LECTURE ON "ECO-SUSTAINABILITY"

#### - Namrota Mandal



10th December 2021, 18:00. The students of the 25th JISC had the opportunity to attend a very informative lecture on Food Globalisation and Localisation by the much-revered Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar Chatterjee, senior technical advisor and President of DRCSC (Development Research Communication and Service Centre). Over the years, while collaborating with native Japanese in Japan, he also attempted to enlighten the students about the procedures followed in Japan for more secure farming. Working actively in the fields and as an advisor, he provided a very holistic approach to the different aspects of food globalization concerning food production, storage, distribution, and consumption.

Mr. Ardhendu shared an informative presentation on sustainable agriculture with the students that he explained while giving examples through images. He gave real-time examples from the fields he had previously worked on that had enhanced his insight on the issue. Starting with the varying impacts of liberalization, he mourns the malpractices in activities that lead to the loss of biodiversity, fast-paced soil and water degradation and suggested reforms to bring it under control using traditional as well as modern methods suitable for the land. He also spoke extensively on the advantages of storeyed and mixed farming and encouraged the use of natural and locally found soil conditioners.

DR. LALIMA MUKHERJEE

LECTURE ON "FOOD, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION"

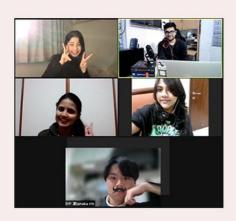
- Aditya Adhikari



Dr. Lalima Mukherjee who is a professor at UEM Kolkata in the department of Business & Management gave us a lecture on the topic of "Food, Health, and Education" on 16th December 2021. The meeting was hosted by me where I welcomed Dr.Lalima Mukherjee on behalf of the students, by introducing her, her work in her field, and also her lecture's topic. Dr. Mukherjee started off by introducing herself and her topic briefly once again and made it known that her goal with the lecture is that she doesn't only want us to listen and learn but to listen and take action. As she proceeded with the presentation we realized that the main focus of the lecture is on "Millets" and why it is a healthier food alternative for people who usually eat rice. She talked about different types of millets and their importance. The lecture went deep and detailed, and as it continued, we were learning things that were new to us and also realizing things we turn a blind eye to. A segment in the lecture talked about the health benefits of millets where a list of types of millets was given with their functions and health benefits. She also talked about the growing problem of consumption of junk food in today's times and the increase in obesity as a result. The lecture lasted about 50 minutes with 10 minutes remaining for the time allocated for questions from students.

### GOUPS AND THEIR TOPICS

GROUP 1: FOOD LOCALISATION AND GLOBALISATION IN 2030



GROUP 3: FOOD TECHNOLOGY



**GROUP 5:**FOOD CONSUMPTION AND SAFETY



GROUP 2:

"HUNGER" AND "FOOD LOSS"

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION



GROUP 4:
FOOD AND HEALTH
THROUGH EDUCATION



GROUP 6:

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

DIVERSIFYING FOOD CULTURES 
VEGETARIAN, NON-VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN



#### OVERVIEW OF TOPICS ASSIGNED TO EACH GROUP

#### GROUP 1:

Food localization and globalization was the topic given to group 1. They explained how it affects food production and distribution systems locally and globally.

#### GROUP 2:

"Hunger" and "food loss" was the topic given to group 2. They explained the food loss and hunger and the solution to overcome that through awareness and education of people.

#### GROUP 3:

Challenges hindering the progress of food technology was the topic given to group 3 They explained the issues faced in food technology and how to overcome that.

#### GROUP 4:

"Food" and "health" supported through "education" was the topic given to group 4. They explained the changes in the food habits and how they affect us. The group also talked about spreading awareness to the people about food habits and culture through education.

#### **GROUP 5:**

Food consumption and food safety was the topic given to group 5. They Explained the optimistic value of food safety and consumption and measures to be taken to control food over-consumption.

#### GROUP 6:

"Aiming for mutual understanding between diversifying food culture" was the topic given to group 6. They discussed about the different existing food cultures, like Non-vegetarianism, Vegetarianism and Veganism and how to come to a mutual understanding between them.

- Rinisha.R





#### GROUP 1 OVERVIEW: FOOD LOCALISATION AND GLOBALISATION IN 2030

- Drishti Shroff

The topic of group 1 was "Food Localization and Globalization: Foreseeable future Impacts and Challenges". The contribution was well-balanced by the following members of group 1: "Tuneer Chakrobarti, Drishti Shroff, Richina Shimamura, Rin Tanaka and Sai Sidhaye" who worked relentlessly for months to explore the multifaceted aspects and challenges of Globalization and Localization of food in 2030. With successive meetings and discussions, the members of the group were able to deliver the presentation that highlighted the importance of globalization and localization of food. The presentation fueled intense deliberation between the members as they explored the benefits of "glocalisation" that marked a fine line between global food and local food. An in-depth study on the irreversible effect of globalization was mentioned during the presentation that displaced the traditional consumption patterns of food. The outcomes related to the rise of neoliberalism and agricultural trade since 1980 were brought to the forefront while also discussing the Japan's food self-sufficiency rate. The Japanese members were zealous in their opinions about how globalization resulted in changes to our diet and proposed solutions from both macro and micro perspectives. The Indian side exercised similar approach and put forth solutions from both micro and macro perspectives. The solutions focused on securing self-sufficiency rate and supporting local farmers and food culture. All the proceedings of the meetings conducted in the group were regulated and helped in optimizing the structure of the presentation that inadvertently aided the delivery of speeches in the last leg of the conference. It was unquestionably a memorable and cherishable experience.

# GROUP 2 OVERVIEW: "HUNGER" AND "FOOD LOSS" SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

- Medha chatterjee

On Sunday, January 9th, in the Day 2 of the India-Japan Student Conference, our group presented on the topic "Hunger" and "Food Loss" Sustainable Food Production. The group consisted of 5 individuals: [Medha Chatterjee, Namrata Barua, Rinon Oshima, Emina Ozuka and Suzuka Nishimiya]. Our goal was to present the most important information from the topic in a systematic and creative way. As a group, we wanted to address the key points while relating them to relevant, real life issues.

Our first step in achieving this goal was by attending frequent online meetings and communicating via the whatsapp group which we created for our convenience . We utilized the meetings to get to know each other and work on making the presentation.. We expressed ideas on what we were thinking regarding the topic. Over the next few weeks we proceeded on preparing our presentation . On 15th December, three weeks before the main conference , all presentations were reviewed by Mr. Hiromi Hirose (advisor of Japan-India Student Conference). He had advised our group to add something about Japan & India's eco-culture to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. Also that day, we were sent a form to review each group's presentation individually. Our next week dealt with completing the presentation by paying close attention to the reviews given by Mr. Hirose and members of other groups. Overall, the presentation in the main conference was a huge success. We achieved our goal of relaying the crucial aspects of "Hunger" and "Food Loss" Sustainable Food Production and we did so in a prolific and interactive way. We also expressed our view on the "desirable future" of 2030 and how Japan and India should cooperate towards a sustainable world. We were applauded for our hard work and effort. Working with this amazing group and being a part of this prestigious conference was truly a wonderful experience.





#### GROUP 3 OVERVIEW: FOOD TECHNOLOGY

- Abhrajit Banerjee

Our Group topic was "Food Technology". It demanded opinions regarding improvement or evolution of food, keeping 2030 in the horizon and beyond that. Food has been intertwined with cultures since ages. A lot of habits and traditions are influenced by the food which they consume. With time many countries are having a shortage of manpower due to declining population or shrinking land due to increasing sea levels. Therefore the modern world is looking at a major resource crunch and thus desperately looking for a solution to never let it happen. Action needs to be taken to reduce human labor dependence and get it replaced by machines. Thus the top most priority should be given to food production and efficiency. When we talk about production it boils down to one very basic thing, that is farming or agriculture. Thus the aim of our group was to present new ways and efficient methods to improve the techniques of farming and agriculture to cater to the new times.

We got to know about the challenges both the countries (India and Japan) are facing in farming and agriculture. Some problems are very common to both of them. Various issues like labour intensive jobs, lower productivity, bad transport infrastructure, lack of farmers and lack of land is always there. Upon researching we realized that induction of technology can emerge victorious in each of the scenarios. We discussed many solutions concerning drone technology, power assist suits, building online platforms to lessen food wastage, artificial intelligence and sensors. Drone tech can be used for various purposes like surveillance of fields remotely, planting seeds effectively while power assist suits are enabled to replace human fatigue.

We scheduled meetings every week. My Japanese and Chennai counterparts were equally very supportive. Many times they went out of their way and compromised their daily routine to attend the meeting and get the work done. After many discussions and agreement on the layout, the final task at hand was collecting visual stuff that could represent our ideas in the presentation.

#### GROUP 4 OVERVIEW: FOOD AND HEALTH THROUGH EDUCATION

- Sucheta Halder

We were joined by Indian Members- Ritwika Biswas, Rohan Bhattacharya, Rinisha R, and the Japanese side members- Akari Todaka, Miyu Yukawa, and Kana Saito. Group 4 met regularly every Sunday at 3:30 PM IST/ 7:00 PM JST on Google meet.

In our first weekly meeting, we constructed our plan of action regarding the final presentation and regular agenda discussions. The members brought in their inputs to the regular discussions as we talked through valid points to be included in our presentation. The topic of "Food and Health through Education" demanded us to cover a logistic approach to back our points we had obtained. The Japanese members helped thoroughly in formulating valid points and converging the common ground between both India and Japan. The meetings established the issues and discussions on which we prepared our slides. Each member convened and brought in their individual views which were unanimously scrutinized before we put them up for the final presentation.

The interim presentation helped us inspect the disadvantage of extra time lost in our slides. Henceforth, meetings were focused on eliminating unimportant points and surplus words which would help in reducing the words in each slide and thus cutting down the loss of precious time.

On 8th January 2022 5:00 PM IST/ 8:30 PM JST, the members convened for the last time. We made certain rearrangements according to Mr. Hiromi Hirose's advice and accordingly finalized the presentation for the final day conference. The meeting also unanimously decided on choosing speakers for the presentation, therefore certain members of Group 4 only observed the final showcase. More than a month of preparation yielded a confident and successful showcase of Group 4's presentation. Post-conference, Group 4 members joined together one last time. We congratulated each other and confessed about the wonderful lifelong memories that we've created. The bittersweet parting held a sweet thankfulness to the 25th IJSC/JISC conference for bringing about such an experience to life.



# GROUP 5 OVERVIEW: FOOD CONSUMPTION AND SAFETY

- Aditya Adhikari

Group 5 had the topic of Food Consumption and Safety. After the groups were formed and we had our first interaction on zoom, it became clear to me that I was the only one with prior IJSC experience so I took it upon myself to guide everyone and the presentation towards the best possible outcome. However, I never realized at first that I was working with the best group members ever. Each and every person in the group made their contribution. The Japanese side members were very easy to talk to so it made the experience really satisfying. Our discussion sessions always had a mix of both work and play. So the atmosphere in our group discussions never got dull. We were making worksheets, sharing articles and blogs for research purposes while sharing our personal experiences on the topic as well. Indian side members were proactive and were always working on something or the other. For the final presentation, our objective was simple. It was to provide a solution that's not too far-fetched, but realistic and can be practiced from the moment we end the presentation. So, even though we told the story of food consumption and safety for two different countries separately at much bigger scales, we suggested solutions at an individual level. Solutions that are solely dependent on individual people to practice and implement. That being our goal in mind we worked towards it one step at a time. From time to time members could not join meetings because of other responsibilities but by the time we were done with the final presentation, we could see that there had been a significant contribution by all the members in some way, shape or form. I met and interacted with a lot of new and different people in this term's IJSC and learned a lot from these experiences. I hope next time we will have an offline IJSC and experience everything in its full glory.

# <u>GROUP 6 OVERVIEW:</u> <u>UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DIVERSIFYING FOOD CULTURES -</u> VEGETARIAN, NON-VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN

- Ankana Basu

Our group comprised of like-minded students who chose the topic, "Aiming for mutual understanding between diversifying food cultures: Vegetarian, non-vegetarian and Vegan".

Seven people pitched in their time and intellect to make this presentation a success. Group 6 was led by Anoubhav Bhaduri from the Indian side and Marie Kawamura from the Japanese side. The other contributing members were Namrota Mandal, Ankana Basu, Miu Ueda, Ryuki Kuramitsu, and Shilbha Sathishkumar. Our exchange was observed by a student Aoi Gushima, a practicing vegan who offered her insightful opinion on the topic. The group had regular meetings over the past two months assimilating information culturally pertinent to India and Japan.

Our topic was socio-cultural in nature and focused on the perception of various food cultures. The main hurdle faced by our group was the ambiguity of the topic which made it quite difficult to reach any technical solution. Food is seen as more than just the means of survival; it is an intrinsic part of our cultural identity. Food preferences are not just individual but sometimes religiously and culturally contingent. The prime objective of our presentation was to deepen mutual understanding and respect for the various food cultures. Throughout the course of these meetings, we expanded our understanding of both countries, learning something new each day. With the help of regular deliberations, we were able to value the severity of our topic, locate the issues, and agree upon a feasible solution.

Although the conference mostly focused on intellectual exchange, my most cherished moments are those of the stories shared and bonds formed between the members. We parted with a heavy heart and a treasure trove of memories on the 9th of January with promises of future meets and hoping for an offline conference.

#### JAPANESE SIDE CONFERENCE LECTURE

- Namrata Barua



MR. ICHIRO ABE

On 8th January 2022 the 25th India Japan Student Conference hosted a special guest lecture on "Green Food Systems Strategy" by Prof. Ichiro Abe, International Negotiation Officer, Russia, and South Asia, Councilor in International division Export International Bureau of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. His lecture was intended to raise interest in "Sustainable food systems" especially about "Japan's new strategy for achieving them".

Prof. Abe's lecture addressed how Japan has developed a strategy to transform food systems into sustainable worlds. To build the basis for sustainable food systems, provide nutritionally balanced dietary habits, enhance the circular economy using local resources, improve livelihood and increase job opportunities in rural areas, contribute to carbon neutrality which focuses on minimizing the risk of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and increasing the use of precision technologies. As the challenge of food systems are common around the world and as the world is facing big length occurrences such as large-scale disasters due to climate change and loss of biodiversity, for sustainable food production, it is necessary to reduce environmental impacts since production is fundamentally dependent on natural factors and ecosystems. We were also sent a video of Fukushima Prefecture by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. From the video, we got to know that Fukushima is the leading rice-growing prefecture. We were truly thankful to Prof. Abe for delivering such an amazing lecture and sending us this informative video. The knowledge we gained from this was truly indispensable.

#### INDIAN SIDE CONFERENCE LECTURE

- Tuneer Chakrabarti



DR. NILOSHRBE BHATTACHARYA

The lecture from the Indian-side happened from 11:20am to 12:20pm IST. Dr. Niloshree Bhattacharya, Professor of Sociology at the Presidency University, Kolkata, West Bengal, took us along on an immersive story of rice that is one of the identifiers of both Indian and Japanese culture. Her introspective into the "sociology of food" takes into account rice as a staple food which encompasses identities and social locations and how that is attached to that of rice. She evokes her inspiration from the book "Rice as Self: Japanese Identities through Time" by Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney where the powerful presence of rice in the Japanese imagination and how that in turn has been a driving factor about the aesthetic notions of rice and paddy fields and in turn the core elements of purity in contrast to simultaneously growing modernisation and industrialization. She melded the understanding and the politics of the Bengali upper-caste bhadralok in comparison to the other stratas of society and talked of how the particular imagery has pervaded in the imaginations of Bengal and the greater part of India. She also spoke of the significance and the meaning-making capabilities of rice as the object such as the examples of "Mukhe-bhaat" and "Bou-bhaat" to show us how entrenched such details are to Bengali culture. She also informed about the conservation efforts in rice which range into seed banks to other NGOs which are directly tied into the spirit and the topic for the conference. Lastly during the Q&A session, she clarified pertinent questions about rice and the identities related to it as not only aesthetic or religious but also pertain to geo-spatio-temporal and political discourses well as notions of food safety that are ingrained in our cultures such as the age old tradition of washing the rice before preparing food with it. The presentation was very well received by both the Indian and Japanese sides who faced an overflow of questions to the extent that her email address was sought after to correspond with her beyond the conference. It was truly an educational and worthwhile experience and a part of the IJSC that I would personally never forget.

#### **CULTURAL EXCHANGE: INDIA STUDENTS**

- Subhagata Choudhary

As the 25th IJSC/JISC began on 8th January 2022, a lot of excitement and mirth was noticed among both the camps. Notwithstanding the fact that it was conducted through online means, students thoroughly enjoyed the yearly conference held at the behest of the Nihongo Kaiwa Kyokai Society. After the inauguration ceremony ended and the dignitaries and the representatives of both the countries had finished with their speeches, the program of the cultural exchange began for Day 1. This segment started sharply at 10.30 am IST/2.00 pm JST, and continued for the next 35 minutes as students from both the countries – Japan and India, began showcasing their cultural prowess. The Indian Side began with a mouth-watering video, displaying various Indian Cuisines like 'Bhetki Paturi', 'Macher Jhol', 'Biryani', and 'Palak Paneer'. Finally to end the video was a steaming cup of milk tea – a common Indian gesture in every household to welcome the guests. All the dishes were made by the Indian Students – Ankana Basu, Drishti Shroff and Tuneer Chakraborty, who helped in explaining the theme of the video and its relevance. Special credits should be given to Aditya Adhikari for composing a befitting groovy rap for the video.

To excel in life, one must find oneself before anything else. Bearing this same message a beautiful recitation was performed by Subhagata Chowdhury, his first-ever international performance. Reciting 'Nirjhorer Shopnobhongo' by Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore, the program was filled with absolute bliss. Finally to end it all, Sucheta Halder came in with the most graceful dance and absolutely set the stage for 25th IJSC/JISC. Dancing to the Rabindra-Sangeet 'Amar mukti aloy aloy', it gave the conference a very pious touch. Delivering the message of freedom and self-relevance, she too made her debut on the international stage.

#### CULTURAL EXCHANGE: JAPANESE STUDENTS

- Ritwika Biswas

The 25th Indo-Japan Student Conference, which was a two-day convention, witnessed an exceptional cultural exchange assembly of the two countries, like every year. The conference was successfully held online for the second time due to the Coronavirus restrictions and the theme of this year was looking beyond 2030 from the perspective of food. On the first day, which was on 8th January, the Japan side students presented three short movies showcasing some of the cities of Japan and the food and culture that is famous there.

The short video journey started with Osaka wherein they spoke about the commercial development and the modern as well as historical appeal of it, then showed everyone how takoyaki is made and ended with a small tour around Universal Studios Japan. Takoyaki is an extremely famous street food from Osaka, which is a baked dough ball filled with minced or diced octopus, tempura scrubs, and green onions. The balls are brushed with takoyaki sauce, and garnished with mayonnaise and sliced dried bonito flakes before serving hot and steamy.

The next clip was about Kyoto, the former capital city of Japan, which is the oldest and 8th biggest city of Japan. Kyoto is very popular among foreigners for its old temples and shrines for which it has received a world heritage site status. The video started with a walk around the roads of Gion as we were taken to the Starbucks in Yasaka which is famous for its traditional Japanese house style design. Next, it was a visit to Ocha to Sake Tasuki, which is a famous café in Gion, where they had three types of Kakigoori or shaved ice – matcha, roasted green tea, and sweet potato with strawberry jelly inside. The video also showed two more restaurants where they had ramen, cheesecake, three types of café latte, and French toast.

The final clip was about Mochitsuki or the traditional new year's Rice Cake Making. Mochi is made by pounding steamed rice on a mortar or "usu" which is made of stone or wood, using a meter-long pestle or "kine". It is eaten with red beans, kinako, or soy sauce.





#### **GUEST PERFORMANCE: INDIA SIDE**

- Sabarno Sinha

The cultural program from the Indian side on the second day was an indelible serenade of very powerful ragas and bandish which were presented by Rajkishore Mukherjee accompanied by Subhadrakalyan Rana playing the Tabla. Both are extremely gifted artists who have received extensive training from highly acclaimed gurus in the traditional method of gharana. The duo began their session with a prayer to the kartar or the Lord Almighty with a bandish of Raga Gunkali. The prayer resounded in our hearts and enchanted the entire conference with an austere and compelling silence as Mr. Mukherjee's notes mellifluously travelled across countries. The electric tanpura and the tabla were enough to accentuate the calm of the bandish being sung. It prepared the audience for the second performance, which was to be a bandish in tribute of Lord Krishna, a symbol of culture in several communities of India, on the Raga Dadra. "Basiya Bajaye" was a refreshing and energetic bandish in which Mr. Mukherjee displayed his excellent vocal range in his pitch-perfect voice. It mesmerized both the Japanese and Indian members and audience as he used various techniques of the khayal which was a pleasure to listen to. After their performance, there was a lot of appreciation and questions to the duo. Mr. Mukherjee explained that he chose the Gunkali Raga not only because it was apt for the morning but also it had notes that would sound familiar to the Japanese ear. Many Japanese members questioned about the tabla and Mr. Rana was more than happy to talk about its history, how it was made from the pakhawaj when Hindustani classical music shifted its focus from dhrupad to khayal. He also gave a live demonstration of how the two drums of the tabla work together and are used in a harmonious manner to render the raga complete. There was a very positive response from the audience members who were bewitched by the beautiful voice that had brought life and vigor to the final day of the 25th India-Japan Students' Conference.

#### **GUEST PERFORMANCE: JAPAN SIDE**

- Rheum Bhaumik

Japan India student conference Day 2 began with the mesmerizing Calligraphy Art performance by the high school students of the Shodo club from Aichi Commercial High school. "Shodo" in Japanese stands for calligraphy. The literal definition of calligraphy states "the art of producing decorative handwriting or lettering with a brush".

The calligraphy performance was not restricted to just decorative lettering but was accompanied with a stunning dance performance by the students. The calligraphy show began with the kind words of the principal of Aichi Commercial High school.

This was followed by a welcoming performance by the students where they enlightened us with different Japanese scriptures. This was accompanied with their entertaining dance performance to the Bollywood song "Swag se Karenge Sabka Swagat"

The welcoming performance was followed by their main performance. The students were beautifully dressed in their traditional attire "Kimono". Words will fall short to describe the beauty of their prolific art performance. The dance was in itself very graceful and rhythmic. The calligraphy art work was not only magical but very emotionally touching at the same time. It was definitely a treat to watch.

Their art work had several components to it. The season of spring brings us happiness. We love to rejoice by singing and dancing. It gives us positivity in life and we dream about a bright and good future. We come together and celebrate our festivals together. This helps us to strengthen our bonds.

The big letter was the main attraction of their artwork. The letter stands for "En". It signifies connection or keeping in touch. Through this, they expressed their willingness to keep in touch with each other through our cultures and festivals.



#### INTERACTIONS BETWEEN INDIAN AND JAPANESE STUDENTS

- Anoubhav Bhaduri

The 25th India-Japan Student Conference is the second edition of this conference that was held online, the first one being the 24th India-Japan Student Conference. This year as well, the Indian and Japanese students met each other through their computer screens and deliberated and discussed food, hunger, and nutrition-related issues that were put in front of them. The interactions started with big general meetings that were held twice a week, where every member participated, which later got changed into separate group discussions. Different groups with selected Indian and Japanese students were made, where each group discussed their own specific problems, as they worked towards their specific presentations for the conference. As always, the interactions between the students were both educational and enjoyable. This year, there was a mix of students who were participating for the first time and those who had already participated once before. This mix gave rise to a lot of enjoyable interactions, where the older members told the new members about their experiences and about what IJSC is all about. The students discussed and deliberated on this year's topic, which was, "Looking at food for 2030 and beyond" and even though they may have found many issues that may be unique to both the countries, they were able to build a bridge and find solutions to those problems that can be beneficial for both the countries.

#### QESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AFTER THE PRESENTATION

- Divyananth

The Japan India/India Japan Students' Conference held on January 8th and 9th provided a wonderful experience and a profound exposure to food and also Indo-Japanese culture and how far it has developed over the last 70 years. It paved the way for understanding Japanese culture and also learning their food habits. Keeping all these points aside, my duty is to present a review regarding the question and answer session, conducted after the presentation of all six groups. We discussed the many problems associated with plastic bags which are harmful to the earth and also to the environment. Although the government of India and also the state governments had taken some initiatives to ban the use of plastics which makes the soil sterile, it has not fully reached the people because we believe that it is difficult to control the usage of plastics until the manufacturing unit has been stopped. Also, we discussed the wastage of food in many places including any wedding ceremony or any other function or even in the hotels. As our group dealt with the challenges hindering food technology, we were able to give one suggestion or solution to the problem known as 'happy hour'. It refers to the time that a restaurant offers the food at the rate of more than 70-80 percent discount which is very helpful for the poor and the needy who cannot afford the full cost.. It was a new experience to interact with all the group members.









#### REPORT ON STUDENTS' CONFERENCE DOSOKAI PRESENTATION

- Shilbha S

Members of the alumni association, Mr. Deepro Banerjee, Ms. Anusha Banerjee, and Ms. Reina Ishida, presented a brief presentation on the alumni association and what their primary aims would be at the Students' Conference Dōsōkai (alumni association). The Students' Conference Dōsōkai was founded in 2021 as a formal association of IJSC and JISC alumni members from the previous 24 years.

As most of the alumni must have gathered considerable experience in their respective fields of work and interests by now, a diverse pool of knowledge and ideas can be created by individual contribution for mutual benefit and exchange.

The alumni are spread out throughout the world, not only in India and Japan. Personal experiences and life incidents of alumni from different parts of the world, in addition to local situations, can be shared within the association, so that a global citizen spirit can be nurtured. Such an opportunity will also be a motivation to realize and contribute to solving global problems.

Alumni now working in various fields, organizations and countries can use this association as a platform to cooperate with each other for expanding the scope of their business or research.

The association intends to set up an editorial team, which will request articles from a few alumni every 3 months on various topics and compile and share those among all alumni. This way, the alumni from across the 24 terms will get to know each other in order to achieve the above.

The association wishes to expand the scope and effectiveness of IJSC/ JISC by mobilizing resources and connections available with alumni from various backgrounds, who are willing to cooperate. The goal is to popularize this conference and promote it to the international level, where its contribution in strengthening bi-lateral relations will be officially recognized

At a later stage, the association plans to organize reunions for interested alumni across all terms to encourage, foster, and promote closer relations and cooperation.

#### THE 25TH IJSC'S MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- Sekar Lakshni

The 25th Japan India Student Conference held on January 8th and 9th, 2022, was a huge success. The conference's overall theme was "food" and the social difficulties associated with it in both Japan and India. We also articulated answers to problems identified through student groups. The most memorable item was the cultural exchange event, in which we discussed the various culinary customs of India and Japan, which were intriguing and tempting to look at. The Aichi Commercial High School Calligraphy Club students performed a mind-blowing calligraphy performance on the second day. They were so excited about performing that we, the audience, greatly adored it. We also inquired about the talent they portrayed. Rajkishore Mukherjee and Subhadrakalyan Rana, two musicians from India, took the stage next. They played an Indian song on the Tabla, a traditional musical instrument. We felt revitalised after listening to the music. The most anticipated event was the student group presentation, in which we developed answers to the issues we encountered. We had a great day presenting with our teams. Finally, we had our closing ceremony and discussed our experiences working with our teams and the conference; the leaders shared their experiences, and by the end of it, the members of JISC and IJSC were cheering each other on.



### **GUEST PERFORMANCE: INDIA SIDE**



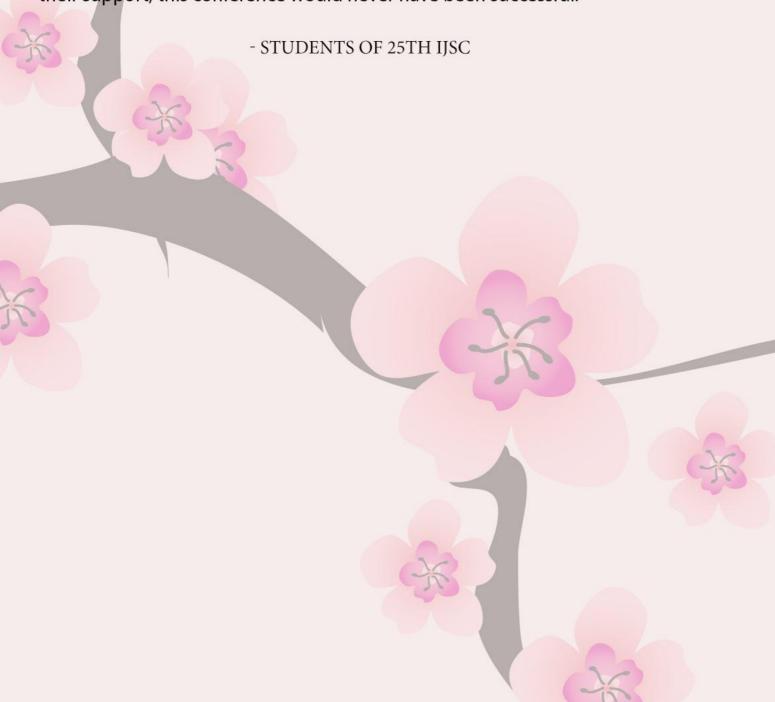
### **GUEST PERFORMANCE: JAPAN SIDE**

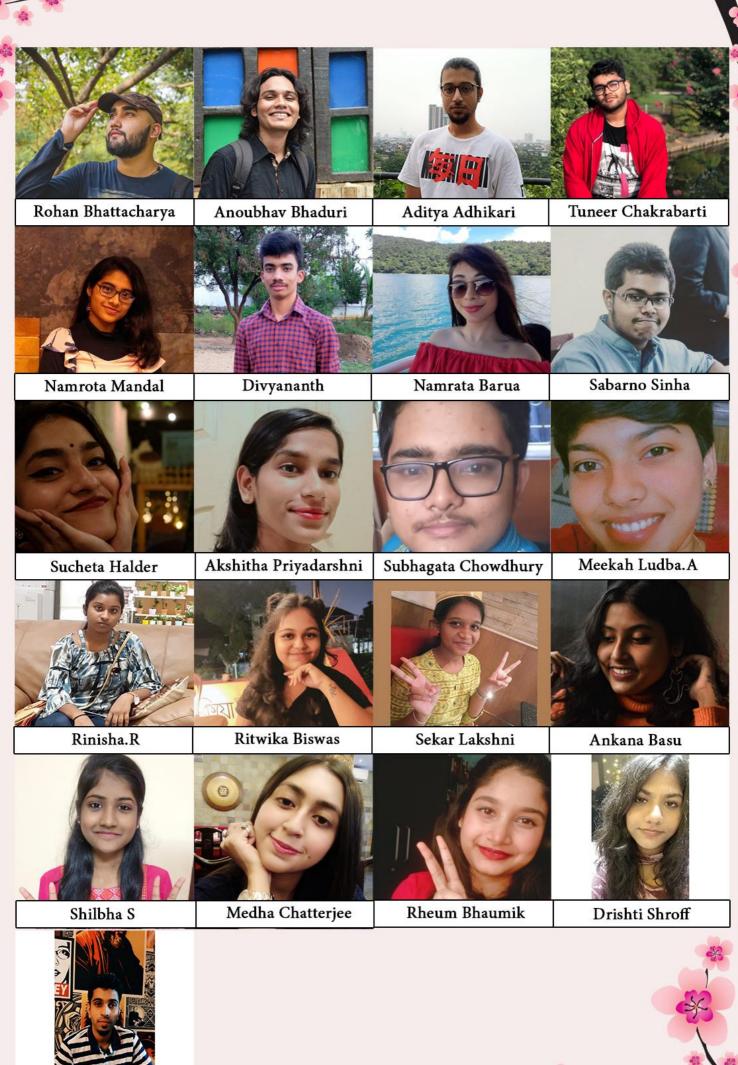




# VOTE OF THANKS

We thank the authorities for giving us the chance to participate in the 25th Japan India Student Conference. Our heartiest thanks to Kazuko Nigam Sensei, the Chief Patron of NKKS, and Hiroko Nagahama Sensei, the founder of JISC, for always going out of their way and ensuring that the conference sails smoothly. We thank the President of NKKS, Mrs. Poonam Nand Dey for supporing our conference every year! Our heartfelt thanks to Mr. PS Mitra for providing his valuable assistance at every step. We would also like to thank Mr. Hiromi Hirose for guiding us through the months before the conference, and preparing us for our final presentation. We want to thank the Professors who went out of thier way, and despite having a busy schedule, came and educated us with their brilliant lectures. We would also like to thank Shri. Rajkishore Mukherjee and Shri Subhadrakalyan Rana for taking out time and giving us a wonderful rendition of Hindustani Music on the second day of IJSC/JISC. Lastly, we want to thank Ms. Richina Shimamura, the president of JISC, and all the students from the Japan Side for their cooperation and assistance; without their support, this conference would never have been successful.







Abhrajit Banerjee



