

Dear Readers,

It is my privilege to compile this message for the website of JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI).

At the outset, I would like to mention that the Indo-Japanese relations have been progressing steadily in which I am sure that JAAI with its large network will play an active role in achieving greater heights. Japan and India share many things in common in cultural and other aspects and the efforts of JAAI to strengthen that bond are praiseworthy.

I am delighted to learn that JAAI has been organizing various activities such as health camp for weaker sections of the society, technical seminars in various fields, environment awareness program for schoolchildren besides promotion of culture of Japan through origami and ikebana workshops and the Japanese tea ceremony.

Further, I appreciate the services rendered by JAAI members who have acted as host families for the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) to enable them to experience Indian home-stay.

It is quite encouraging to know that JAAI maintains its website which contains a directory of its members with complete details which exceed 800, the past issues of its annual publication named `SAHYOG` as well as the details of the past and current events including photographs. As the website is updated regularly, it is a useful medium of interaction and sharing of information among members and also additional information related to Japan can be accessed through the links provided with various Japanese agencies/organizations.

I wish all members of JAAI a bright and prosperous future.

Shinichi Yamanaka