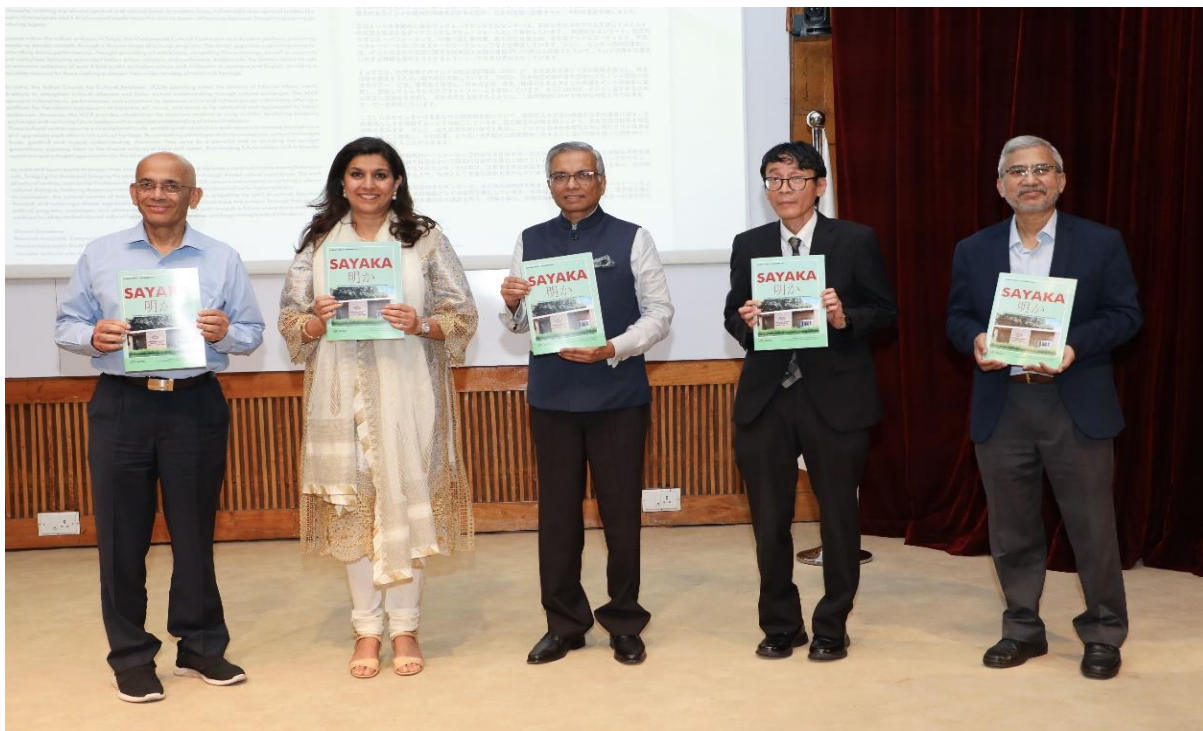


Strengthening India-Japan Ties: Insights from the Mizuho India-Japan Study Centre's 7th Foundation Day Event



- **Celebrating the 7th Foundation Day** of the Mizuho India-Japan Study Center (MIJSC).
- Insights by Geetanjali Kirloskar, Chairperson of Toyota Tsusho Insurance Broker Private Limited.
- Cultural performances showcasing Japan's rich heritage.

September 14, 2023: Mizuho India-Japan Study Centre (MIJSC) at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) marked its 7th Foundation Day on August 23, 2023, with an event that celebrated the strong and growing ties between India and Japan. This event was a significant milestone in MIJSC's journey, focusing on fostering collaboration and sharing insights for an even stronger partnership between the two nations. The day was filled with engaging discussions, valuable insights, enlightening cultural performances, and expressions of gratitude towards the supporters and attendees who have been instrumental in the centre's journey.



Addressing the gathering, **Professor Jaideep Sarkar, Chairperson, MIJSC, IIMB** gave a brief introduction and said, “Relations between India and Japan have never been as strong, wide and deep as they are today, and these relations are only growing”. With a deep passion for fostering collaboration between India and Japan, Professor Sarkar's vision had been instrumental in guiding MIJSC on its remarkable journey. Speaking at length about the bilateral ties of the two nations, he mentioned, “Our aim is to promote a better understanding of Japan in India and to make our own modest contribution to fostering business relations between the two countries”.



After that, **Professor Rahul Dé, Dean, Programmes, IIMB** delved into the excellence of the centre commending on the recent book launch. He focused on research stating, “We would encourage Japan-India experts to write about the experiences that we are going through as this relationship develops, we would like to see more output in terms of research and scholarly writing”.



After a short presentation retracting the recent milestones of the centre, **Hokuto Kaya, Deputy Consul General, Consulate-General of Japan, Bengalur** congratulated MIJSC on its seventh Foundation Day. Noting the centre’s involvement in bilateral ties he said, “Japan and India’s relation has shown good growth in recent times as India’s market has become attractive to Japanese interests”.



Geetanjali Kirloskar, Chairperson and Managing Director, Kirloskar Systems Limited & Chairperson of Toyota Tsusho Insurance Broker Private Limited highlighted how we can integrate Japanese work and social culture to be able to collaborate on a larger and longer scale. She said, “India and Japan as societies have a lot in common, and some synergistic differences. We are both Eastern spiritually vital cultures. We have both progressed over the past seven decades- one recovering from colonialism the other from the devastation of World War II”.



MIJSC celebrated its Foundation Day with two cultural programmes. First was Sado performance by **Lisa Kumar** from Japan. She introduced attendees to Sado, often referred the "Way of Tea", as not just a mere ritual but a profound cultural practice rooted in Japanese history and philosophy. The Japanese tea ceremony is a centuries-old tradition that embodies grace, mindfulness, and the essence of Japanese culture. Sado is the ceremony of serving and having matcha with meal and sweets with the Japanese spirit Omotenashi.



Adding to the cultural richness of MIJSC's Foundation Day, **Riku Kimura**, a university student from Tokyo, presented the dynamic Sooran Bushi dance. Sooran Bushi is one of Japan's most famous traditional folk dances, originating from the northern region of Hokkaido. Riku-San's performance showcased the spirit of Japanese fishermen as they sing and dance to celebrate their catch. The dance involves intricate choreography, mimicking activities like pulling nets, dragging ropes, and lifting heavy loads over their shoulders, all while moving in harmony to traditional folk tunes.



In the vote of thanks, Mr Rathnam said, “As per many beliefs across the world we know that the number seven is a sort of a magic number, a unique number in many belief systems across the world. Even in science, it is said that cells in our body regenerates between 7 and 10 years of our existence. So we are looking forward to this regeneration of the centre over the next three years of our existence”



In conclusion, the 7th Foundation Day of the Mizuho India-Japan Study Centre provided a platform for insightful discussions and cultural exchange. Geetanjali Kirloskar's keynote address underscored the importance of understanding and adapting to Japanese work culture while maintaining trust, respect, humility, and patience. Lisa Kumar's introduction to Sado and Riku Kimura's spirited Sooran Bushi dance offered attendees a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and traditions. These cultural exchanges remind us that the India-Japan relationship is not only about business and diplomacy but also about embracing the beauty and essence of each other's cultures.

As MIJSC enters its seventh year, it continues to be a bridge between India and Japan, facilitating collaborations in academia, industry, and policy-making. The event demonstrated the commitment of various stakeholders, including Mizuho Bank, JETRO, and industry partners, to strengthen the bonds between the two countries.

With the geopolitical landscape favouring closer ties between India and Japan, the opportunities for economic and cultural exchanges are immense. As MIJSC continues to thrive, we can expect a brighter future for India-Japan relations.