



New Year's greetings by Consul General Nakane

Happy New Year!

A New year has thus begun. This year, the year of the Snake, is said to be a year of metamorphosis, growth and development. I am sure that all of you in Karnataka have made your resolutions for the year ahead and are filled with anticipation. I hope that this year will be a healthy and fruitful one for all of you.

Last year, Mr. Nukaga, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Japan, led a delegation of Japanese business leaders on a tour of IT companies and Japanese companies in Bengaluru that employ Indians. In addition, Governor Oigawa of Ibaraki Prefecture issued a joint statement with a prominent local university for the exchange of human resources. Visits to Bengaluru by Japanese university officials are also increasing. Japan's interest in Bengaluru's abundant human resources is only expected to increase further in the future.

The strong economy in Bengaluru has led to many new investment plans by Japanese companies and business expansion by companies that have already established operations in Bengaluru. The visit to Japan by Mr. Patil, Minister for Large & Medium Industries in Karnataka, in June last year, further augmented this trend. I too, have been meeting with more and more Japanese nationals who travel to Bengaluru on business trips and participating in opening ceremonies of Japanese establishments in the city.

In terms of cultural exchange, the "Japan Food Fest" organised by the Consulate-General of Japan and "Japan Habba," organized by a local Indian organisation, and supported by our office, have been very successful, attracting thousands and tens of thousands of visitors, respectively, showing the high level of interest in Japan and Japanese culture among the local people.

With this backdrop, many more events are scheduled for this year, including the visit of dignitaries, various cultural events, and the training and dispatch of human resources to Japan through the Specified Skills Program, with the aim of further deepening Japan-India relations and strengthening inter-personal exchange.

We at the Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru will continue to make every effort to further the relations between Japan and India, and Karnataka in particular.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

