

Report

Invitation Programme for teachers from India 2018 (Japan)

7th -14th October, 2018

1. About the programme-

- ACCU has been organizing international educational exchange programmes for teachers between Japan and Korea, China, Thailand and India since 2001.
- As for International Exchange Programme between Japan and India, “Invitation Programme for Teachers from India” has started in 2016 in close cooperation with Ministry of Human Resource Development of India (MHRD), Centre for Environment Education (CEE) and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT). This year ACCU organised the 3rd programme inviting 15 teachers and other educational personnel from India for 8 days from 7th to 14th October, 2018

2. Objectives of the programme-

- Provide **opportunities** to Indian Teachers to visit Schools and other Educational and Cultural Institutions of Japan to **facilitate the exchange** between them and teachers and students
- **Deepen understanding** the school education system of each country between teachers of India and Japan
- Enable the teachers from India and Japan to **disseminate their learning**
- **Foster sustainable international exchange** after the programme to contribute to friendship and mutual understanding between India & Japan.

3. Programme

Day 1: 8th October, 2018

The participants visited the Indian Embassy in Japan for the orientation program. The Indian delegation coordinated by Mr Santosh Sutar from the Centre for Environmental Education (CEE) was introduced to the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) Staff led by the Director Ms. Yumi SHINDO.

Ms. Yumi oriented the participants to the Invitation Programme for teachers from India. She mentioned that MEXT entrusts ACCU to carry out and manage this entire program. ACCU is a non profit organization working for a sustainable and peaceful society. ACCU has been organizing these exchange programs since 2001 but with India it began from 2016. She briefed the participants with the goals and objectives of the program and gave the general information and instructions for the program.

Dr. Ashminder Singh Bahal, Director Vocational Education, NIOS was announced as the team leader for the Indian delegation.

The team was welcomed by Mr. KaranYadav, Second Secretary, Embassy of India in Japan. He mentioned that it is good to have participants from the ground level who actually work with the

learners. He further stated that Japanese culture is not just a culture but the art of the humans. He said the participants must learn about world famous Japanese skills like KAIZEN and TQM.

He mentioned that Japan is in need of human resource. Japanese as a friendly nation can be a good resource for India. India may propose some programs for Japan like nursing and elderly care.

He wished all participants happy learning experience in Tokyo.

Mr. Brahma Kumar, Counselor, Embassy of India in Japan addressed the participants. He mentioned that the Prime Ministers of both the countries have a very good chemistry and it is good time for both the countries to make the best use of the opportunity. He also remarked that IGNOU has started a Japanese language learning course which is becoming very popular who want to learn Japanese in India as many Japanese having manufacturing industries in India are skilling Indians to work in Japan. He urged the participants to keep continuous contact with the Japanese teachers and to develop life long relationships with them.

He wished good luck to the participants.

Learning outcomes-

- First foreign exposure to most of our delegates
- Understood about ACCU and its activities. Appreciated their initiatives to promote international exchange program
- Got a better clarity about the programme and about its objectives

Day 2: 9th October, 2018

The day began with a visit to MEXT.

Mr. Shiro Terashima, Director Japanese Education and Education for Sustainable Development, MEXT gave the opening remarks for the session. He remarked that India and Japan are friendly nations and have developed strong ties. He told that it will be a wonderful opportunity to interact views with Japanese teachers which will also be beneficial for the professional development of both the teams.

He also emphasized that the program would not only be limited to schools but also to Japanese Space Development Centre and Eco visit to Mount Fuji. At last he thanked the Ministry of HRD and the Centre for Environmental Education (CEE), Asia Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) for their cooperation in this Programme. He wished all the participants a pleasant and fruitful stay in Japan.

Dr. Ashminder Singh Bahal, Director (Vocational Education), NIOS gave the introductory remarks on the behalf of the Indian delegation. He expressed sincere gratitude to MEXT, MHRD, ACCU and CEE for the opportunity to be the part of the delegation. He briefed that the delegation comprises of five members from NIOS, two from NCERT, four from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, two from Directorate of Education, Delhi along with Mr. Santosh Sutar from CEE. He further explained the work each organization is doing in providing education to the learners.

Ms. Kanjol, Director, Office for International Planning and Coordination, Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, MEXT gave an overview of Japan's Elementary and Secondary Education. She

briefed us about the Japanese school system, compulsory educational system, division of roles of national, prefecture, municipal governments in educational administration, framework and aims of Board of Education. He explained Japanese schools as schools imparting education that takes a holistic approach integrating intellectual, moral and physical education. She further focused on national curriculum standards and the developments in the national curriculum standards over the years.

Mr. Takeshi TOKUTOME, Director, Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, MEXT gave an overview of Education for Sustainable Development in Japan and promotion of ESD through ASPnet schools in Japan. He focused on the SDGs and the key role of UNESCO in implementing SDGs. He stressed that ESD is indispensable for the capacity building needed to achieve all 17 SDGs and Quality Education is the only way to support the entire sustainable development agenda. He mentioned the role of UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) in Japan to mutually learn from each other, build an open network through collaboration and to promote ESD outside schools.

The presentation followed with a brief interaction between the delegation and the representatives of MEXT.

The session ended with the felicitation of the MEXT Director Mr. Shero Terashima.

The session was followed by a sumptuous lunch at an Indian restaurant.

The second visit of the day was to Junior and Senior High school at Komaba, University of Tsukuba. Tsukukoma is a boys' school. The Vice Principal of the school Mr. Shinono gave a hearty welcome to the Indian team. He was passionate about India and also mentioned that his first overseas trip was to India.

Dr. Ashminder Singh Bahal, Director Vocational Education, NIOS gave the opening remarks for the session on behalf of the Indian delegation. He said it is a wonderful opportunity for the team to interact with Japanese students and to learn about Japanese education system. He said that the team will surely make best use of the opportunity and to learn the best practices of the Japanese education system.

The participants had a chance to observe English, Algebra and Physics class where the participants closely observed the interaction between the learners and the teacher, the learning habits of the learner and the classroom culture in Japanese school. The participants inquired learners about their subjects, the projects and the various models which they were involved in. The participants also visited physics and chemistry laboratories, library, playground, open space auditorium and witnessed learners performing various activities.

The school visit was followed by a brief interaction with the school Vice Principal Mr. Shinono where he answered all the questions asked by various team members.

Learning outcomes-

- Understood the MEXT – Functions and objectives, organization structure, efforts made in promoting India - Japan educational collaboration
- Better understanding and an overview of Japan's Educational Systems primarily Elementary and Secondary school, Segmentation of schooling, National curriculum standards

- Teacher License and 10 years license renewal concept was a new learning
- Promotion of integrated ESD learning by MEXT in schools through ASPnet
- Dedicated Science High School attached to a University unlike India.
- Promotion of Research Work and Field Work
- Cordial and friendly atmosphere between students and teachers
- Effective use of lab facilities and equipment's by students; medical facilities at School
- More emphasis on sports, club and co-curricular activities.
- A gymnasium court (1964 Olympics) is still used

Day 3 : 10th October, 2018

The third day began with visit to Meguro municipal Gohongi Elementary School. After reaching the school we were received by the staff of the school headed by the Principal Mr. FUKAYA Chie and briefed on school information by the Head Master SUZUKI Yoko. The school has a Gohongi forest, artificial grass schoolyard and a heated swimming pool. There being a public library and a children's centre the school is privileged to have a nice educational environment. There we had a chance to visit the Maths and Language Class and witness the classroom scenario. Ms.Manjusha Sharma from Directorate of Education, Delhi gave a presentation on *Natural environment in India* which was followed by QnA Session with the students. Curious questions were asked by the students like how fish curry is made? Why do Indians eat by hand? What is the meaning of *Rangoli* patterns? What is the average temperature in India? Why red bindi is put on forehead?

Since joining UNESCO ASPnet in 2010, the school has been engaged in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). It was designated as a sustainable school in 2016 and has been aiming for whole school approach. There is a Meguro office located outside the school and pupils take active part in UNESCO activities and cultural exchange with different countries.

We also met special-aid class "YURINOKI" and interacted with the teachers. The visit ended with lunch with the students where we had an informal interaction with the students.

Post lunch we visited Children's Centre in Gohongi Community Centre. The Principal SHINOZAKI Shozo received the Indian delegation. The centre contributes to promoting local welfare and children's well being. It holds events to connect children and local residents for ensuring safety and deeper understanding of children in partnership with resident meetings, primary schools etc. It also serves as a day care centre taking care of children under 18 years of age.

Mr.SATO Emiko gave an introduction about the centre. We visited various activities and play areas like dodge ball, art and craft work, child-staff meeting and the snack time. This was followed by Q&A session.

Learning outcomes-

- Different exposure than the previous visit in terms of infrastructure, ESD practice, sports facility, a small forest inside the School.
- Unique hand gestures of expressing opinion.
- Role of Government in providing facilities for upbringing of children of employed couple and those of disadvantaged group.

- Homework, preparation for cultural programme, art and craft, library facilities and provision of food for students.

Day 4: 11th October, 2018

Day 4 started with a visit to Kanagawa Prefectural Kanagawa General Industrial High School. We were briefed on the school watching a video prepared by the students. The Principal of the school welcomed us and Mr. SATO Hiroyuki gave the opening remarks for the session.

As the only general; industrial high school in Kanagawa Prefecture, students are able to learn a wide range of knowledge from science, technology and international perspectives. The credit based system enables students to make individual study plans according to their interests and career choices. Students can choose subjects from 5 major categories(engineering, information technology, environmental biotechnology, science and liberal arts) other than the common subjects. It has also been selected as the super science High school by the ministry of education.

We had lunch with Japanese students and visited their classrooms and laboratories.

Dr. Ashminder Singh Bahal, Director, VED gave a presentation on Indian politics and Languages.

Ms. Tarun, AD(Acad.) gave a presentation on Indian culture showing the different food habits, dress , festivals and various dance styles in the different states of India which was followed by Q&A session.

Dr. Rajendra Kumar Nayak, AO (Maths), NIOS gave a presentation on Indian Mathematics telling about the contributions of Indian mathematicians, demonstrating vedic Mathematics and different approaches to Mathematics at school level.

Ms. Urvashi Soni PGT (Physics), JNV gave a presentation on Indian dance showing different dance styles in the different parts of the country.

Ms. Anshul Kharbanda, AO (Accountancy) gave a presentation on Indian Yoga talking about the objectives of performing yoga in daily life, different yoga poses and necessary pre-requisites for doing yoga followed by enchanting *aum* followed by performing some simple poses.

The second day of the visit was scheduled to Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) was born through the merger of three institutions, namely the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS), the National Aerospace Laboratory of Japan (NAL) and the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA). It was designated as a core performance agency to support the Japanese government's overall aerospace development and utilization. JAXA, therefore, can conduct integrated operations from basic research and development, to utilization.

JAXA became a National Research and Development Agency in April 2015, and took a new step forward to achieve optimal R&D achievements for Japan, according to the government's purpose of establishing a national R&D agency. JAXA has various space centres in Japan and overseas.

From JAXA we left for Yamagishi Ryokan Hotel and enjoyed the Japanese cuisine and an overnight stay.

Learning outcomes-

- Availability of Night Shift Classes for students who are employed elsewhere shows the commitment of the Govt. for mainstreaming all the children.
- Exchange between Teachers from India and Japanese students, teachers took place through presentations, discussions and interactions about Indian Culture, Dance, Mathematics, Languages and Ancient Practice of Yoga.
- The approach where the teacher was first demonstrating the process and then students were practicing the same under his/her close supervision and guidance were witnessed.
- A student while making a presentation highlighted the work ethics of Japanese that they practice same things till they achieve perfection, impressed the delegation.
- Got to know insights of the children while having lunch with them
- Understood the space exploration undertaken by Japan like Hayabusa.
- Observed the exhibits displayed at the campus.

Day 5: 12th October, 2018

Day 5 began with an eco-tour to Mt. Fuji and visit to Saiko lake Iyashi-no-Satoneba (a traditional Japanese village) where we participated in Japanese paintings and art and craft activities.

We also visited the holy Kawaguchi Sengen Shrine and arrived back to Tokyo the same day.

Learning outcomes-

- Eco tour enabled to explore and experience the young forest of Japan and the geological aspects of Mt. Fuji
- Understood the livelihood options generated through eco tours to local community through eco guides and participatory cooking options
- Enthralled with rich culture that is embedded in the traditional villages of Japan
- Bat caves formed due to lava were interesting to explore
- Observed the peace and serenity of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Lakes in the areas were very clean and neatly maintained.
- Tried to understand Shinto philosophy

Day 6: 13th October, 2018

The 6th day was scheduled for India-Japan Educational Exchange meeting with the teachers and Principals of the select schools of Japan. Indian and Japanese teachers interacted with each other (networking) which will lead to long term relationships. The teachers introduced themselves to each other and discussed about each other's education system and educational policies in both the countries.

Dr. Ashminder Singh Bahal, Director, VED, NIOS gave a lecture on Education system in India which was followed by a brainstorming discussion within the teachers group. This was followed by a lunch in Gandhi Restaurant, Shinjuku.

Post lunch session started with a case study on educational activities for a peaceful and sustainable society. The case studies were followed by a group discussion. All the participants made an individual plan of the educational activities they would undertake in their respective organisations.

The de-briefing of the eight day programme was conducted by Mr.Vikram Yadav, Directorate of Education, Delhi; Mr. Basavaraju Giriya pura, PGT(Biology), JNV and Ms. Anshul Kharbanda, Academic Officer (Accountancy, NIOS).

The closing ceremony and reception was organised at Washington Hotel Shinzuku.

Mr. Shero Terashima, Director Japanese Education and Education for Sustainable Development, MEXT gave the opening remarks for the session.

Mr. Brahma Kumar, Counselor (Politics and IEC), Embassy of India in Japan addressed the participants and assured them of support to pursue any idea.

Mr. Kazuo WATANABE, Adviser ACCU gave certificates to the Indian teachers.

Ms. Anshul Kharbanda, AO (Accountancy) gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the Indian delegation.

NIOS presented mementos, shawls and eco-friendly cloth bags to the Japanese delegates.

Learning outcomes-

- Had a great opportunity to have one to one peer learning and exchange from teachers
- Got an opportunity to know case studies on ESD through presentations.
- Explored the challenges and issues common to both the nations with regard to the education system.
- Had an opportunity to view a presentation on India-Japan cultural relations.

4. Key takeaways-

- Vocationalization of education from early school years
- Exclusive super science schools in every district of our country
- Friendly relations between students and teachers and Principal
- Interactive classrooms with stress free environment foster creativity
- Integration of environmental issues and sustainable society in the curriculum
- Education for sustainable development through networking with schools to share best practices
- Better understanding of Japanese culture and international understanding at schools.
- Better understanding of the education system of Japan.
- Spirit of volunteerism, self-discipline and creative learning

5. Exploring future collaborations-

- NIOS may collaborate with MEXT for promotion of open schooling and provide courses on Yoga, Vedic Mathematics and Elderly Care.

- NIOS may collaborate with CEE regarding promoting education through sustainable development.
- NIOS may introduce Japanese as Language subject at Senior Secondary level in collaboration with MEXT.

Anshul Kharbanda,
Academic Officer
NIOS