Event Title: Japanese Photographic Exhibition and Cultural Sessions in Government Schools of Delhi. (Event No. 65)

Organized by: Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India (SWYAA-India)

Event Dates: Wednesday, 18th September, and Friday, 20th September 2024

The Japan Embassy in Delhi celebrated Japan Month in September-October 2024. SWYAA-India took an active part in bringing the beauty and essence of Japan to young minds in municipal schools through Japanese Photographic Exhibition and Cultural Sessions. The exhibitions provided by Japan Cultural Centre depicted various facets of Japanese life and an display was held in two primary schools of Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of Education, Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

The goal of the event was to foster stronger cultural ties between India and Japan while providing an engaging and educational experience for students.

SWYAA-India is a NPO of Indian alumni from the **Ship for World Youth** program (a global youth exchange organized by the Cabinet Office of Japan) with its headquarters in Delhi. It has a longstanding history of collaboration with Japanese institutions. Over the past 15 years, SWYAA-India has developed enduring bonds of friendship through cultural and educational initiatives, further strengthening India-Japan relations.

Event Location: Municipal Corporation Primary Schools, Southwest Delhi

- 1. MCP School Nangal Raya, New Delhi
- 2. MCP School Khazan Basti, Mayapuri, New Delhi

The events were a part of the larger framework to enhance people-to-people connections between India and Japan, with a focus on cultural exchange and fostering global understanding among students.

Objective:

The initiative aimed to introduce primary school students (from classes 3 to 5), their teachers, and parents to Japan's rich heritage and cultural diversity. Through an immersive photo exhibition and engaging cultural activities, the students were given an opportunity to explore and appreciate Japan's traditions and values.

Event Highlights:

• Participation:

A total of **640 students** from both schools enthusiastically participated in the event.

• Exhibition Content:

The exhibition featured **40 photographs** taken by Indian visitors to Japan, capturing various facets of Japanese life, including:

- Traditional architecture
- Japanese landscapes
- Japan-India relations
- Japanese culture, crafts, shrines, and temples
- o The four distinctive seasons of Japan
- Japanese technology and innovation

These photographs were provided by the **Embassy of Japan in Delhi** and served as a captivating visual journey for the students, offering glimpses of Japan's past, present, and future.

Cultural Activities:

Alongside the photo exhibition, interactive sessions were organized to further immerse the students and teachers in Japanese culture. These hands-on activities included:

- o **Painting Doraemon:** Students expressed their creativity by painting the beloved Japanese character.
- o **Origami making:** Students learned the traditional Japanese art of paper folding, creating cranes, fish, and other shapes.
- o Chopstick etiquette: A fun and educational demonstration on how to use chopsticks while eating.
- o **Classroom cleaning games:** A playful introduction to the Japanese practice of self-cleaning classrooms, encouraging responsibility and teamwork.
- o **Exploring Japanese culture through photos:** Students explored Japanese landmarks, festivals, and daily life through captivating visuals, enriching their understanding of the country.

Feedback:

The events received widespread appreciation from students, teachers, and parents alike. The principal of MCP School Nangal Raya remarked,

"We're thrilled to share Japanese culture with our students. Our goal is to foster global understanding and friendship through cultural exchange."

One of the parents, Mrs. Kavita Kaushik, who attended the exhibition, was so inspired by the event that she created a **YouTube clip** showcasing the highlights of the exhibition. The video can be viewed https://youtu.be/XSwTHfbV05Q?si=U5hF7qdlWvCdMIJe)

Conclusion:

The dedication and hard work of the **SWYAA-India team** in organizing these events were truly commendable. The success of the exhibition and cultural sessions highlights the significance of such initiatives in promoting global awareness and cultural exchange among young students. By offering them a platform to explore Japan's traditions, values, and innovations, SWYAA-India played a key role in fostering a deeper appreciation of Japan's rich heritage.

Acknowledgment:

SWYAA-India expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the **Embassy of Japan** and the **Department of Education, Municipal Corporation of Delhi** for their support and collaboration in making these events a resounding success. This partnership has further strengthened the cultural bonds between India and Japan, setting the stage for future collaborative endeavors.







Japanese Photographic Exhibition and Cultural Sessions in Government Schools of Delhi.

Organized by Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India



Japanese Photographic Exhibition and Cultural Sessions in Government Schools of Delhi.

Organized by Ship for World Youth Alumni Association India



