

Joint Statement on the Promotion of Japan-India Tourism Exchanges

As our two countries hold important positions in Asia, and are the leading growth centres of the global economy, and have common values and a long history of exchanges, it is essential for Japan and India, under the current international situation characterized by interdependence and globalization, to promote bilateral coordination and cooperation in the field of tourism in order to realize peace, understanding, stability and development of not only Asia, but also of the wider world.

The two countries share the view that greater interaction between their people provides a stronger basis for their relationship. Moreover, both the countries recognize that, in view of the scales of their economies and populations, there exists a potential for increased tourism exchanges between the two countries.

Based on the above, the two countries confirm the following for promoting exchanges between their people and strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism:

1. The year 2007 will be commemorated as the 50th anniversary of the 'Cultural Agreement' between the two countries and also as the 'Japan-India Friendship Year'. The two countries also designate the year 2007 as the 'Japan-India Tourism Exchange Year' to further promote tourism exchanges on this occasion.
2. The two countries will implement the following activities in view of the importance of enhancing the attractiveness of India for Japanese tourists and the attractiveness of Japan for Indian tourists:
 - (a) Japan will participate in the SATTE 2007, a travel fair in India, and India will participate in events including JATA World Travel Fair in Japan.

(b) Japan and India will implement events in each other's country, aiming at promotion of tourism exchanges with the participation of relevant people from both the countries.

(c) Japan and India will carry out the invitation programmes for mass media and travel agencies and tourism promotion seminars for travel agencies. In addition, the two countries will consider tourism promotion through such activities as film shootings.

(d) Both countries will take appropriate steps for publicity of their tourism assets and translation of tourism related literature for the promotional purposes.

(e) Both countries will make utmost efforts to enhance cooperation in the field of human resources development in hospitality and travel sector.

(f) Japan has supported projects for conservation of archaeological sites and maintenance of tourism infrastructure through its ODA. Japan will continue to consider assistance towards the development of tourism in India.

3. The two countries will carry out as soon as possible simplification of visa procedures to facilitate two-way travel for business and tourism.
4. The two countries will make their utmost efforts to secure the safety of tourists, improve the sanitary conditions and further enhance the environment for receiving tourists.
5. Both countries set the target of increasing the number of visitors between them to 300,000 in five years by 2010, which will be almost the double of what it was in 2005. The number of visitors will be further increased to 500,000 in ten years by 2015, which will be more than three times visitors as in 2005.
6. The two countries will monitor the records and trends of tourism exchanges and will have discussions to explore measures for further expanding the exchanges between them.

Issued at Tokyo, Japan on 15 December, 2006.

For the Government of Japan

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