

Programme of the International Conference
1st Japan-India Asia Future Forum (JIAFF)
“Japanese Studies in Asia: Building Academic Networks”
Date: 13th March 2026 Time: 9 AM — 6 PM
Venue: Sir Shankar Lal Concert Hall, University of Delhi

Organizers:

Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, in collaboration with Atsumi International Foundation – Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA), Japan

Purpose

Research on East Asia has traditionally been approached either from within the East Asian region or through Western analytical frameworks. In the context of rapidly evolving geopolitical dynamics and the growing importance of inter-Asian connectivity, it has become imperative to reorient these perspectives. This forum seeks to emphasise the significance of East Asian Studies—particularly Japanese Studies in India—as well as research on India conducted within East Asia.

As the first initiative of its kind in South Asia, the forum aims to promote the creation of robust academic networks among scholars and institutions engaged in East Asian and South Asian studies. It will provide a platform for critical discussions on the current relevance of area studies, diverse methodological approaches to the study of Asian societies by other Asian scholars, emerging academic trends, and students’ research interests.

Through interdisciplinary dialogue and exchange, the forum seeks to identify both shared concerns and distinctive trajectories within Asian scholarship. By highlighting key themes and opportunities for future collaboration, it

aspires to lay the groundwork for sustainable and mutually enriching academic partnerships across Asia.

Notes for Participants



- **Advance registration is required.**
Please register via the QR code or the URL below:
Registration URL: <https://forms.gle/HXoJhp7Tfn5ESUys9>
 - **Venue:** Sir Shankar Lal Concert Hall, University of Delhi
 - **Languages:** English
 - **Participation:** Free of charge
 - **Inquiries:** Department of East Asian Studies:
rmukhopadhyaya@eas.du.ac.in
SGRA Secretariat – sgra@aisf.or.jp
-

Programme

9:30 - 10:30 AM – Registration

10:30 AM – 11:30 PM Inaugural Session

- Welcome Address by Prof. Ranjana Mukhopadhyaya, Head, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi.
 - Opening Remarks by Mrs Imanishi Junko, Representative, Sekiguchi Global Research Association (Atsumi International Foundation)
 - Address by H.E. Mr Abe Noriaki, Minister, Political Affairs, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi
 - Addresses by the Dean / Representatives of the University of Delhi
-

11:30 – 12:00 PM Break

12:00 – 1:00 PM: JAPANESE STUDIES IN ASIA

Presentations by Scholars of Japanese Studies from South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and India

12:00 – 12:15 Presentation – 1

Dr Nidhi Maini (Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi)

Japanese Studies in India: Growth, Opportunities and Cultural Exchange

12:15 – 12:30 Presentation – 2

Prof. Nam Ki-jeong (Professor, Institute for Japanese Studies, Seoul National University)

Japanese Studies in Korea

12:30 – 12:45 Presentation – 3

Prof. Chen Tzu-ching (Professor, Department of Applied Japanese, Kainan University, Taiwan)

Japanese Studies in Taiwan

12:45 – 1:00 Presentation – 4

~~**Mr Hoshina Teruyuki** (Director, Japanese Studies and Global Partnerships, the Japan Foundation, New Delhi)~~

~~*The Japan Foundation and Academic Network Building in South Asia*~~

1:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:00 PM Panel Discussion: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS IN JAPANESE STUDIES

Moderator: Dr Amlan Dutta, Japanese Studies, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi.

Panellists: Invited Speakers & Research Scholars of Japanese Studies

- Prof. Nam Ki-jeong (Seoul National University)
- Prof. Chen Tzu-ching (Kainan University, Taiwan)
- Dr. Nidhi Maini (University of Delhi)

Discussants:

- Dr Sweety Gupta, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi
- Arpan Banerjee, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi

Q&A with the Audience

3:00 – 3:15 PM Break

3:15 – 4:30 PM JAPANESE STUDIES IN INDIA

Chair: Dr Alok Chandan, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi.

- Dr Shashank Patel, Researcher, Department of East Asian Studies
India-Japan Techno-Strategic Convergence: Case of Semicon Techplomacy
 - Ahmad Shadaan, PhD Scholar, Department of East Asian Studies
Japanese Anime and Manga in India: Its Reception and Recent Expansions
 - Shreya Mangain, PhD Scholar, Department of East Asian Studies
Women in Japanese Society and Literature: The case of Atarashii Onna and Modan Garu
 - Rashi Chaudhury, PhD Scholar, Department of East Asian Studies
Ayurveda Meets Washoku: Ancient Indian Health Wisdom in Modern Japanese Diet.
-

4:30 – 6:00 PM – Valedictory Session & Cultural Program

4:30- 4:45 – Valedictory Speech by Dean, Academic Affairs, University of Delhi

4:45-5:45 – Cultural Program by Japanese language students of the University of Delhi

5:45 – 6:00 Vote of Thanks by Dr Prachi Aggarwal, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi.

6:00 PM High Tea & Interactions

Speakers' Profiles

Nidhi Maini

Ph.D in East Asian Studies from Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. Currently teaching Japanese Language at St. Stephen's College and Hansraj College. Previously taught as Guest Faculty (Japanese Studies) at Department of East Asian Studies. Research area: Women magazines and Consumption patterns in Interwar Japan with a special focus on cosmetics, sewing machines and bicycles. Certified TESOL Trainer with 10+ years of experience. Completed Japanese Language Teacher Training Course conducted by Ministry of External Affairs and Embassy of Japan. Recipient of JENESYS and TEEP scholarship for research in Taiwan. Currently working on comparative analysis of Indian and Japanese women magazines.

Nam Ki-jeong

Professor and Director, Institute for Japanese Studies, Seoul National University. from the Department of International Relations, Seoul National University; Ph.D. in International Relations, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Tokyo. Formerly Associate Professor and Professor, Faculty of Law, Tohoku University; Associate Professor, School of International Studies, Kookmin University (Korea). Has served as President of the Association for Modern Japanese Studies and the Korean Association for Political and Diplomatic History. His research focuses on Japanese politics and diplomacy, particularly the Japan–U.S. Alliance, within the context of Northeast Asian international politics, and he is also interested in peace movements in Japanese civil society.

Chen Tzu-ching

Professor of Japanese Language at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Master's Program in Applied Language Studies, Kainan University, Taoyuan, Taiwan. PhD in Applied Linguistics (March 2003) from the School of Japanese Studies in a Global Perspective, Ochanomizu University, Tokyo, Japan. Masters in Literature (March 1999) from the Department of Human Sciences, Shinshu University, Japan. Bachelor in Japanese Literature (July 1995), Department of Japanese Language and Japanese Literature, Fu-Jen Catholic University, Taipei, Taiwan. Her current research focuses on several key areas: attitude formation in language learning, the relationship between metacognition and learning outcomes, integration of digital technology in language pedagogy, and fostering learners' practical language proficiency while promoting autonomous learning.

Presentation Abstracts

Japanese Studies in India: Growth, Opportunities and Cultural Exchange **Nidhi Maini**

Japanese Studies in India has witnessed a substantial transformation over the past few decades, evolving from a limited language focused discipline to a vibrant multi-disciplinary field. Contemporary Japanese Studies now encompasses diverse areas including language, literature, culture, society, geo-politics, economics, and policy studies. Strengthening of India- Japan bilateral relations has expanded academic interest in Japan across universities and research institutions in India. Government initiatives, industry demand for Japanese language professionals and cross-cultural understanding has furthered the scope and relevance of this discipline, calling for robust academic engagement and institutional collaboration.

This presentation examines the historical evolution, current trends, opportunities and future potential for Japanese Studies in India with a special focus on Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi. It outlines the challenges and impediments to the growth of Japanese Studies in India, emphasizing that the discipline serves as a vital and strategic

bridge in strengthening the long term engagement between India and Japan. It argues that the future of the discipline lies in fostering institutional partnerships, expanding regional participation and encouraging collaborative research frameworks for advanced knowledge production.

The Development and Future of Japanese Studies in Korea — Seoul National University's Initiative and the Turn to "Post-Area Studies"

Nam Ki-jeong

This presentation examines the trajectory and future direction of Japanese Studies in Korea through the experience of the Institute for Japanese Studies at Seoul National University (SNU). As the post-Cold War global order weakens and exclusion, conflict, and uncertainty intensify, universal theories centered on global politics have become less capable of explaining contemporary realities. In this context, the region has re-emerged as a critical unit of analysis. The issue, however, is not a simple return to traditional area studies, but an effort to move beyond their epistemological and methodological limits on the basis of accumulated regional knowledge—an approach referred to here as “post-area studies.” Japanese Studies in Korea has historically approached Japan through multiple and overlapping perspectives: as an object of vigilance, a source of learning, and a partner with whom reconciliation remains possible. Since its establishment in 2004, the SNU Institute for Japanese Studies has sought to analyze Japan not through one-dimensional images but as a complex “life-world” integrating politics, economy, society, and culture. This orientation has generated diverse research outputs, including publication series, academic journals, and long-term collaborative projects. Recent research frames Japan as a mature, shrinking, and high-risk society, treating its experience as an analytical lens for global challenges such as prolonged low growth, demographic aging, climate crisis, and democratic instability. By critically engaging growth-centered modernization while exploring new forms of social practice and solidarity, this approach contributes to international scholarship and to the construction of knowledge oriented toward reconciliation in East Asia.

The Status and Trends of Japanese Studies and Japanese Language Education in Taiwan: Toward Constructing a Japan-Taiwan-India Academic Network

Chen Tzuching

This presentation examines the current status and trends of Japanese Studies and Japanese language education in Taiwan. Based on the latest comprehensive statistical data and student mobility surveys, it clarifies Taiwan's unique position in East Asia. The analysis highlights how Taiwan's robust academic infrastructure, particularly in higher education, serves as a vital foundation for Japanese Studies as a field of area studies.

Furthermore, by reviewing research trends within Taiwan's major academic associations, the author organizes the expanding scope of interest—ranging from linguistics and literature to social culture and education—to examine the evolving landscape of Japanese Studies in Taiwan. Finally, the presentation explores the potential for academic exchange between Taiwan and India. By analyzing the trends of Indian students in Taiwan and contrasting the educational structures of the two regions, the author identifies significant room for growth and examines the implications of Taiwan's educational expertise for the development of Japanese Studies in India. The session concludes by envisioning how language education can serve as a catalyst for mutual understanding and a foundation for constructing a trilateral academic network among Japan, Taiwan, and India. This research aims to demonstrate how regional expertise can facilitate broader international academic cooperation in Asian Japanese studies.

The Japan Foundation and Academic Network Building in South Asia

Hoshina Teruyuki

Among Japanese studies scholars and researchers in South Asian countries, there has been a growing momentum in recent years to deepen mutual networks, which led to the establishment of Japanese Studies Association in South Asia (JSASA) in 2023. By chance, although not in South Asia, the Japan Foundation Tokyo has started the JFIPP program for 2023 to share issues across the Asia-Pacific region. This presentation will introduce these trends as a place for individual expert to strengthen their networks.