

**Ministry of External Affairs
External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division**

Expression of Interest (EOI) for making documentary film

1. Scope of Work

External Publicity & Public Diplomacy (XPD) Division of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) disseminates information about India worldwide by commissioning of documentary/film on various themes on India and Indian foreign policy and showing these films on different platforms. XPD Division now invites proposals from Filmmakers to make a documentary film on Mr. Saichiro Misumi, Former Managing Director of Japan-India Association's contributions to India-Japan relations. In order to submit their proposal following document may be utilized.

- (a) A short write up on Mr. Saichiro Misumi (Annexure I)
- (b) Transcript of a recent Interview with Mr. Saichiro Misumi (Annexure-II)
- (c) Saichiro Misumi: Gist of "Sixty five years of my life with Japan India Association (Annexure-III)
- (d) Memoir relating to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (Annexure-IV)

Interested Filmmakers will be provided still photographs and a video footage of the interview at (b) above on sending an email request to uspd@mea.gov.in. The film is primarily meant for foreign audience, though this will also be shown in India. It has to be made in English. Other languages if any used in the film will require English subtitles. The successful bidder will be given the work related to production of the documentary film in HD format in these versions of about 30 minutes (full version), 8-10 minutes (shorter version) and 2 minutes (promo version). EOI must contain followings:

- (i) **Title/Theme of the film**
- (ii) **Project synopsis (Not more than one A-4 size page)**
- (iii) **Project objectives**
Bullet points of what your project is trying to achieve and how the message of the film is expected to connect with the audience
- (iv) **Project Description**
Detail the storyline, explain who the characters are, and the questions and topics the film will explore and how this will unfold.
- (v) **Project methodology**
Describe your vision and creative approach for the film. A flow chart would be appreciated. Description should include the detailed visual treatment.
- (vi) **Why do you think your project is well suited to the objectives to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.**
- (vii) **Total Project Cost with details**

- (viii) **Links to YouTube or Other video sharing websites of last two films undertaken by the film maker**
- (ix) **Profile of the film maker**
- (x) **Details of Eligibility criteria under which they seek to be qualified.**

2. Eligibility criteria:

Filmmakers desirous of sending their proposals should have either: (a) Made a biopic documentary film earlier (b) or won a National Films award (presented by Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India) for any film produced/directed earlier (c) or made a film earlier for Ministry of External Affairs.

3. General conditions for EOI

- (i) Mere submission of EOI or giving a presentation shall not confer any right whatsoever on the submitting entity.
- (ii) The EOI shall remain valid for a period of 6 months from the date of publication of shortlisted EOI.
- (iii) It shall be obligatory on part of the submitting entity to furnish any further information as may be sought by MEA.
- (iv) Every page of EOI must be self attested by bidder.
- (v) Neither the issue of this invitation for EOI nor any part of its contents is to be taken as any form of commitment or acknowledgement on part of MEA to proceed with any EOI or any entity and MEA reserves the rights to annul or terminate the process or reject any EOI at anytime or stage without assigning any reason.

4. Evaluation procedure:

Proposals received from filmmakers will be examined by a Film Committee of MEA. Film makers whose proposals are found acceptable will be invited to give a PowerPoint presentation of about 10 Minutes of the proposal. On the basis of proposal, budget and powerpoint presentation, the Film Committee will recommend the most suitable proposal for acceptance of the competent authority. Successful filmmaker will be informed of the decision.

5. Contact details:

Eligible Filmmakers may please submit their proposal clearly mentioning the name, address, Email and mobile phone number of the bidder/authorized representative. The envelopes should be superscribed with "EOI for documentary film on Mr. Saichiro Misumi" and addressed to Mr. Kapil Raj, Under Secretary (Public Diplomacy), Room No. 256-A, 2nd Floor, 'A' Wing, External Publicity & Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi and may be sent by hand, by registered post or courier. Last date/time for receiving the proposals is 30th January 2015 by 1730 hrs.

For urgent communication on working days e-mail on: uspd@mea.gov.in

Mr. Saichiro Misumi: A living encyclopedia on India Japan relations

Mr. Saichiro Misumi was born on 16 June 1916. After finishing graduation from Aoyama Gakuin University, Mr. Misumi joined the Japan-India Association (JIA) as Secretary in 1937. Since then he has been associated with Japan-India Association till 2007. Thus he worked for 70 years for the cause of promotion of friendship and mutually beneficial relations between India and Japan. Established in 1903, the Japan-India Association is the oldest Association of Japan with any country.

In the initial years of his association with JIA, Mr. Misumi was responsible to coordinate with Japanese companies and also for compiling and publication of Business Directory and the JIA newsletter. During the visit of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to Japan in June 1943, Mr. Misumi actively supported and took care of Netaji and arranged lecture at the Big City Hall of Tokyo in Hibiya Park.

After the World War-II, the Occupation Army of U.S.A. banned the Japan-India Association from operating, for the reason that during the War it had cooperated with India's Independence movement. However, the Association, under the name of the 'India Japan Economic Promotion Committee' (IJEPC) restarted its activities in connection with India which had just achieved its independence in 1947. The Association also worked side-by-side with the Government of Japan to promote economic relations and cultural exchanges. In 1952, the Association regained the original name of the Japan-India Association. Association's work also expanded to cultural exchanges between the two countries. Mr. Misumi was instrumental in starting IJEPC and worked as its Executive Director. Later, when JIA was revived Mr. Misumi became the Managing Director of JIA.

Under the leadership of Mr. Misumi, JIA had organized various events during the visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Foreign Minister of India in 1978 and supported various events organized as part of the Festival of India in 1988 which was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Shri Rajeev Gandhi.

In 1990, Mr. Misumi was conferred with the 5th **Order of the Sacred Treasure** (Zuiho Order, Gold and Silver Rays) by the Emperor of Japan for his work to promote India-Japan relations.

In 1992, Mr. Misumi visited India with other colleagues and presented Sakura (Cherry Blossoms) seedlings to the President of India in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the India-Japan Peace Treaty.

In 2007, in the age of 70, Mr. Misumi resigned from the post of Vice-President of JIA.

Interview with Mr Saichiro Misumi

Mr. Kanokogi: You celebrated your ninety-ninth birthday on June 16 this year. Congratulations!

In Japan, the auspicious age of ninety-nine is called "Hakuju." You have dedicated approximately seventy years of your life to the Japan-India relationship. You joined the secretariat of the JIA, and then became a director, and finally, the vice chairman. You were involved in JIA for about seventy years until the fifth year of Heisei. Now, when you look back at the Japan-India relationship, what comes to your mind?

Mr. Misumi: When I approached India, people of India, including PM Nehru, were mainly interested in movements in the West. Only a small number of Indian people were interested in the East. However, Mr. Bose took interest in Japan at an early stage. From the words he spoke, I felt he had an understanding and positive feelings about Japan. During that time, Mr. Bose belonged to the minority who were interested in the East. Back then, Japan was severely criticized by most of the countries in the world for its invasion of Manchuria. The majority joined this Japan bashing. I have a feeling that Chandra Bose was the only person who understood Japan at that time. I also feel Chandra Bose had a good understanding about the Japanese. He did not see Japan as an evil country as a whole.

Mr. Kanokogi: Mr. Bose had an understanding about Japan. Since India achieved independence after the war, you have been involved with India in various ways. What was your first interaction with India? You have also been engaged in cultural activities related to Indian dance and music.

Mr. Misumi: Japan was most influenced by China and India during its modernisation. During Japan's modernisation, India was always regarded as a country friendly to Japan. In fact, there were many Indian people who had amicable feelings towards Japan. Especially people in east India, especially in Bengal, were highly interested in Japan.

JIA had an office in Kolkata with staff members sent from Japan.

Mr. Kanokogi: You mean the Shohinkan (Centre for Japanese Products)?

Mr. Misumi: Yes. As we were also interested in south India, we assigned an employee of Shohinkan to stay in south India.

Mr. Kanokogi: After the war, Mr. Nehru became India's prime minister. India donated the elephant Indira to Japan. I believe PM Nehru came to Japan together with his daughter Indira once. What was your impression?

Mr. Misumi: All people in Japan, not only children, welcomed the gift of the elephant. They were so grateful. That gift of the elephant enhanced the people's impression of India.

Mr. Kanokogi: You have sent many cultural troops to India including the Koto harp performers' group. Since then, India has achieved development. How do you see changes that have taken place from the time of PM Nehru and now, after PM Modi's recent visit to Japan?

Mr. Misumi: Although PM Nehru was a great politician, in Japan, he was generally regarded as a politician whose main focus is on the West. However, Mr. Bose, who is from Bengal, conducted activities which related to Japan. So we were very grateful about that.

Mr. Kanokogi: What was your impression on PM Modi?

Mr. Misumi: I think meeting between prime ministers is the best way to bring two nations close. So I appreciate the visit very much.

Mr. Kanokogi: You participated in the welcome ceremony. PM Modi came to talk to you. What impression did you have?

Mr. Misumi: I had an impression that Mr Modi is one of the prime ministers of India who had the deepest understanding about Japan. Successive prime ministers of India mostly interested in the West. Almost none of them had favourable feelings toward Japan. It was natural for them to feel that way. Since Japan invaded Manchuria, the whole world looked to the West and did not pay much attention to Japan. Even if they did, it was negative attention.

Mr. Kanokogi: There is a very active India-Japan association in Ahmedabad in the Gujarat state. Gujarat is where the new prime minister is from. What is your view on India's future industrial development?

Mr. Misumi: Japan and India can make more effort to understand each other far more deeply than we do now from the viewpoint of location and culture. But the two nations currently seem to be alienated. I hope Japan and India become much closer to each other.

Mr. Kanokogi: Do you mean that not only economic relations, but people-to-people exchange should be promoted?

Mr. Misumi: Yes. Japan-India relations were primarily focused on economic relations. Those who went to India were only merchants, and companies were established only in Bombay.

Mr. Kanokogi: I would like to go back a little and ask about Chandra Bose. How did you come to associate with Mr. Bose and what role did you play with regard to Mr Chandra Bose's visit to Japan?

Mr. Misumi: I thought at the time that the Japanese people should know more about India through my experience with Indians who came to Japan. We wanted Mr. Bose to know more about Japan because he was a great politician and influential person in India. Moreover, many people in Bengal understood about Japan better than people in other parts of India. That is why we wanted Mr Bose to understand about Japan. We thought Japan and India should become the two closest countries in Asia even if special treatment could not be provided. Mr. Bose had the same view.

Mr. Kanokogi: You were the chief of the secretariat of the JIA at the time. You arranged Mr. Bose's lecture event held at the Hibiya Public Hall.

Mr. Misumi: Yes. Mr. Bose liked to take a walk not only in Hibiya Park but in other places in Japan. He visited various places.

Mr. Kanokogi: I heard that Mr. Bose stayed at Imperial Hotel.

Mr. Misumi: Yes. It was on the third floor of the South wing.

Mr. Kanokogi: You remember very well.

Mr. Misumi: From the room, we could see a street just below and see Hibiya Park across the street.

Mr. Kanokogi: Did you actually enter the room to attend a meeting or something?

Mr. Misumi: Yes.

Mr. Kanokogi: Could you tell us your impression when you first met Mr. Bose if you could recall?

Mr. Misumi: I thought that Mr. Bose was a rare Indian person who took a strong interest in Japan, a strong and favourable interest. Why I thought so was that Mr. Nehru, who was the leader in the Indian political world at the time, had westward view. Mr. Nehru was cool to Japan. But Mr. Bose, who was from Bengal in eastern India, wanted to come to Japan and actually came to Japan. I remember I have told a Japanese person that I truly want to invite Mr. Bose to Japan at somewhere around the east coast of the African continent.

Mr. Kanokogi: How was the first meeting with Mr. Bose?

Mr. Misumi: We hugged each other.

Mr. Kanokogi: It wasn't a handshake?

Mr. Misumi: No, it wasn't. He held me tight and didn't let me go for a long period of time.

Mr. Kanokogi: The gesture must be just like the one shown by PM Modi. Mr Modi also came down to the floor from the stage and expressed closeness by hugging.

Mr. Misumi: Right. With Mr. Nehru, it was a cold handshake. He extended his hand as if he granted me permission to shake hands with him. It was a cold hand. Mr. Bose was just the opposite. We hugged each other so close that we could hear each other's heart beat. We patted each other on the back. What we talked was we should work together for Asia. He maintained the stance from the very beginning to the end.

Mr. Kanokogi: In inviting Mr. Bose to Japan, were you directly involved in the plan? Did you give advice on the plan?

Mr. Misumi: I was in charge of Indian affairs when I was with the General Staff Office.

Mr. Kanokogi: So you have given advice.

Mr. Misumi: Yes. I said that it should be Mr. Bose if we should invite someone from India. At the time, Mr. Nehru was the leader of the country. So it was natural for everyone to think that Mr. Nehru should be invited. But I insisted that Mr. Bose should be invited because he had the deepest understanding of Japan. Everyone understood my point later on. I think Mr. Bose also felt contented when he came to Japan. He liked going for a walk in Hibiya Park. He often got out of the hotel and walked around in the park. It was his daily routine. So I had the impression that Mr. Bose liked Japan. He was unlike Mr. Nehru. Mr. Nehru was a smart person. He took all situations of the world into consideration.

Mr. Kanokogi: It was about the episodes around 1943 when Mr. Bose came to Japan. Allow me to go back to the time a little before the visit. I understand that there was a boycott of foreign products in India. In the worst cases, clothes from western countries were burned. The fires were called "bonfire" in Kolkata.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, that is right.

Mr. Kanokogi: Mr. Daisuke Takaoka, who later became a member of the Japanese parliament, was working at the Centre for Japanese Products in Kolkata. After returning to Japan, Mr. Takaoka and you went to Rangoon, Burma, together. What was the reason for the visit? I understand that the Japanese Army requested it. But what was the purpose of the visit? I suppose it was a confidential at the time, but it is fine now to talk about it.

Mr. Misumi: There were opinions in the Ministry of Army that we should increase the number of foreign nationals who understand about Japan. So we invited people from foreign countries to Japan and sent Japanese people to foreign countries.

Mr. Kanokogi: Was there any particular reason why you visited Burma with Mr. Takaoka?

Mr. Misumi: There was no particular reason. Mr. Takaoka frequently visited eastern India and had a good knowledge of the area as he used to work for the Centre for Japanese Products.

Mr. Kanokogi: So you did travel together with Mr. Takaoka.

Mr. Misumi: I remember we visited together a couple of times. My personal objective for the visit was that I wanted many Indian people to come to Japan because I understood about India.

Mr. Kanokogi: I heard that you conducted various researches.

Mr. Misumi: Right. I was the only one who was looking at Indian affairs at the General Staff Office.

Mr. Kanokogi: Burma was part of India at the time.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, that's right. I visited throughout Burma on my own feet. I went up to the border with China.

Mr Kankogi: Was research one of the reasons for the visit?

Mr. Misumi: Yes. When you walk around on your own feet, you will learn many things that you will never learn if you travel in a car. You will know what sentiment local people have toward Japan. Surprisingly, local people had positive feelings towards Japan. I think it was because of their sense of aversion to China. I felt the feeling of trust and affection towards Japan.

Mr Kankogi: In addition to Mr Subhas Chandra Bose, there was another Bose in Japan, Mr. Behari Bose?

Mr. Misumi: Mr Rash Behari Bose was mostly based in Tokyo.

Mr. Kanokogi: I understand that he was involved in the establishment of Nakamura-ya restaurant in Japan. The restaurant continues to be in operation till today.

Mr. Misumi: Right. Behari and Subhas may share the same family name, but the assessments of them in India are completely different. Mr Chandra Bose was a great politician representing Bengal.

Mr. Kanokogi: Indeed. He was the president of the Indian National Congress.

Mr. Misumi: He was the only person among the senior politicians of his level who understood and was interested in Japan.

Mr. Kanokogi: So, in the case of Behari Bose, he was plotting plans only in Tokyo.

Mr. Misumi: Right. I knew very well that Chandra Bose had favourable feelings towards Japan.

Mr. Kanokogi: Mr. Takaoka has visited the ashram of Mahatma Gandhi. There is a picture of him visiting the place. Did you know about the visit?

Mr. Misumi: I knew about it. Mr. Takaoka held Mahatma Gandhi in high regard. But it was difficult to meet with Mahatma Gandhi. For a Japanese person, just to meet was difficult back then.

Mr. Kanokogi: Despite the situation, Mr. Takaoka met with Mahatma Gandhi in Wardha, if I remember correctly.

Mr. Misumi: Right. Mr. Takaoka lived in India and had many Indian friends. So, Indian people did not take cautious stance towards him because Mr. Takaoka was almost like Indians.

Mr. Kanokogi: His appearance may have helped him. He used to wear Nehru cap. He posed in a photo taken in Wardha. The photo may have been taken at the gate of Bapu Kuti, Gandhi's room. I visited the site this year. The venue has been renovated that it looked nicer than seen in the photo. I suppose Bapu Kuti may have been more humble place when Mr. Takaoka visited.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, it was very simple and humble back then.

Mr. Kanokogi: I see.

Mr. Misumi: But in anyways, Mr. Takaoka loved Indian people.

Mr. Kanokogi: I see. Indian people must have liked...

Mr. Misumi: And people of India liked Mr. Takaoka.

Mr. Kanokogi: In the JIA, you were executive director, and Mr. Takaoka was vice chairman. You must have cooperated closely....

Mr. Misumi: Yes, since we knew so well about India, we were able to work very effectively.

Mr. Kanokogi: When I joined the association as a secretariat, I remember you went to India as a leader of JIA India-delegation with 180 participants. I had the honour of being a part of the delegation. During the visit, I was able to feel how much Mr. Takaoka liked India and how much Indian people liked Mr. Takaoka.

Mr. Misumi: I felt so grateful to have someone like Mr. Takaoka as the member of Japan-India Association.

Mr. Kanokogi: I agree.

Mr. Misumi: Not only it was good for the association, but also for India to have such a person as JIA member.

Mr. Kanokogi: Indeed. Because of Mr. Takaoka, we were able to continue the visiting programme for quite some time. By the way, Mr. Misumi, you worked as a chief researcher before the war and you worked for the association after the war as well. I understand you have written something like Indian directory in the course of your work. Could you please share that with us?

Mr. Misumi: You have to visit India if you want to understand it. So I hope to see more and more Japanese people visiting India and communicating directly with Indian people.

Mr. Kanokogi: In addition to promoting person-to-person interaction, I heard you took toiling effort in publishing a catalogue every year introducing various products of Japan to India.

Mr. Misumi: The directory of Japanese products...

Mr. Kanokogi: When did you take part in publishing this directory? Did it start even before the war?

Mr. Misumi: Yes, we started publishing the directory before the war.

Mr. Kanokogi: I see. How about after the war? I remember that Japan-India Association's activity was banned by the Allies after the war and the association suspended its activity for a short while. But economic interaction was allowed.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, I remember that time.

Mr. Kanokogi: am I right to assume that you were allowed to continue publishing the directory during that time when the activity of the JIA was banned?

Mr. Misumi: We continued issuing the directory and mailed them to important places such as Chambers of Commerce and Industries in India for free of charge.

Mr. Kanokogi: I see. I heard that as you were not supposed to use the name of the Japan-India Association, you published the directory under the name of the Japan-India Economic Association.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, that's correct. The Japan-India Economic Association was the name we used.

Mr. Kanokogi: I suppose the association maintained its activity under the name of Japan-India Economic Association for ten years or so.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, the association specialised in promotion of economic activities.

Mr. Kanokogi: When Japan-India Peace Treaty was concluded, JIA was finally allowed to resume its activity under the name of the Japan-India Association.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, that's right.

Mr. Kanokogi: So, you had to tackle various challenges for a long time...

Mr. Misumi: Indeed. The situation that surrounded the association was completely different before and after the conclusion of the peace treaty.

Mr. Kanokogi: Once the name of the association was determined inappropriate by the Allied, you had to go through very difficult time.

Mr. Misumi: It was very hard when we were ordered to suspend our activity.

Mr. Kanokogi: Then again, they allowed activity to promote economic exchange.

Mr. Misumi: Yes.

Mr. Kanokogi: So you changed the name of the association to...

Mr. Misumi: The Japan-India Economic Association.

Mr. Kanokogi: I see.

Mr. Misumi: But if I look back on that time, the fact that I was the member of the association may have contributed to maintain the fundamental flow of friendship between Japan and India.

Mr. Kanokogi: Exactly. The fact that the stream of friendship you initiated before the war is still flowing in the post war era comes from all the effort and hardship you paid, Mr. Misumi.

Now I would like to ask you the final question. I am sure that you know about Justice Pal. And his memorial museum is situated by the Lake Ashinoko in Hakone.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, that's right.

Mr. Kanokogi: I went to the museum, accompanying you, Mr. Misumi. I heard that you had chances to meet Justice Pal several times when he was working in Tokyo?

Mr. Misumi: Yes, I had met him for several times.

Mr. Kanokogi: Why did you get to meet him so often?

Mr. Misumi: Well, Justice Pal liked to go out to visit places.

Mr. Kanokogi: Within Japan?

Mr. Misumi: Justice Pal was staying in a room located on the 3rd floor of South wing of Imperial Hotel. His sphere of activity was very wide spread. He also liked to take a walk, too. In any cases, it was a great thing to have a person like Justice Pal staying in Japan. He interacted with many Japanese and they both had good impression about each other. Justice Pal liked Japan in the first place, so people who met him reacted in friendly manner. Mr. Pal had an impression that Japanese people in general liked India.

Mr. Kanokogi: In that sense, Justice Pal had similarities with Mr. Bose.

Mr. Misumi: In the case of Mr. Bose, he was almost like Japanese.

Mr. Kanokogi: I see.

Mr. Misumi: Once Mr. Bose encountered Japanese, he may walk up to the person and would give him a hug, instead of reaching out his hand for a handshake. And he used to keep hugging that person for a while.

Mr. Kanokogi: So Justice Pal did not express his affection to Japan to the extent that Mr. Bose did.

Mr. Misumi: That's right.

Mr. Kanokogi: Now, the last question. I would like to ask you about your everyday life. I heard that you practice yoga. I suspect practicing yoga everyday may have contributed to your long life of 99 years.

Mr. Misumi: Actually, I believe it must be yoga that helped me to live this long.

Mr. Kanokogi: What prompted you to learn yoga? Did you have a teacher?

Mr. Misumi: Let's see...

Mr. Kanokogi: I have heard that you had Mr. Jivananda Gosh as your teacher. I've met him, too. Did you have close ties with Mr. Jivananda?

Mr. Misumi: Yes, I did.

Mr. Kanokogi: Do you have any particular memories with Mr. Jivananda?

Mr. Misumi: I had very close relations with Mr. Jivananda. We trusted each other.

Mr. Kanokogi: Mr. Jivananda was also from Bengal, wasn't he?

Mr. Misumi: Yes, he was. We hugged every time we met. We patted each other on the shoulder and said, "Let's work together to improve Japan-India relations". Saying so was one of his habits. It made everyone feel like working hard for the purpose. Well, Mr. Nehru was not like that. When we met, his posture was as if he were saying, "I allow you to shake hands with me". It was a cold hand.

Mr. Kanokogi: That was about Yoga practice in your daily life. I would also like to hear about your dietary life. Do you have any particular food you take? I have heard that you prefer meat to vegetables.

Mr. Misumi: Yes.

Mr. Kanokogi: Meat might have given you physical strength.

Mr. Misumi: That may be true.

Mr. Kanokogi: I have also heard that you do not eat much uncooked vegetables.

Mr. Misumi: I pay careful attention to my diet and my health. I try to do good things for my health.

Mr. Kanokogi: I see. So you take nutritionally-balanced food.

Mr. Misumi: Right.

Mr. Kanokogi: I believe your daughter-in-law carefully prepares meals for you considering your health condition.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, she does.

Mr. Kanokogi: Dr. Hinohara at St Luke's Hospital is over 100 years old. You are following him.

Mr. Misumi: I have two more years to catch him up.

Mr. Kanokogi: I hope you will live a long life.

Mr. Misumi: I think I am able to live for many more years to come.

Mr. Kanokogi: Thank you very much for answering questions.

Mr. Misumi: Not at all.

Mr. Kanokogi: Lastly, I would like to ask about the person you developed the closest ties with during the course of your 70 years of engagement in the Japan-India relations. I understand you were close with Mr. G.S. Poheker, the executive director of the Indio-Japanese Association in Bombay.

Mr. Misumi: That is right.

Mr. Kanokogi: You visited Bombay a couple of times.

Mr. Misumi: Yes, I did.

Mr. Kanokogi: After Japan signed a peace treaty with India, the Japan-India Association was re-established.

Mr. Misumi: Right.

Mr. Kanokogi: Since then, you organised and sent various delegations to India. Among them were delegations for music exchange led by Mr Hideo Tanabe. You travelled around India with them.

Mr. Misumi: Right.

Mr. Kanokogi: You visited Kalakshetra, the music and dance academy and Bharatanatyam School in Madras.

Mr. Misumi: Right.

Mr. Kanokogi: So your contribution spans from economic exchange to cultural exchange. You played the role of introducing not only Japanese products, but also Japanese music to India.

Mr. Misumi: There is one thing I would like to say. I hope Japan's key persons to learn about India. India is a complicated and vast country. You will not be able to understand the whole of India by engaging with the country just a little. If Japan and India work harder to learn about each other, both countries will benefit. And the benefits will increase through mutual engagement. There is no negative factor there.

Mr. Kanokogi: I see. Speaking of learning about India, I understand you read Bhagavad Gita, India's holy book.

Mr. Misumi: I make use of the knowledge obtained from the book in life.

Mr. Kanokogi: That is something we should also learn.

Mr. Misumi: I learned a lot from the book.

Mr. Kanokogi: Bhagavad Gita is a thick book. It must be difficult to read it. I believe Bhagavad Gita have enabled you to stay calm spiritually. Yoga and Bhagavad Gita must be the two main pillars of your health.

Mr. Misumi: Exactly.

Mr. Kanokogi: Thank you very much for answering questions.

Mr. Misumi's profile by Mr Kanokogi

Mr. Kanokogi: Mr. Misumi was born in Omiya, Saitama Prefecture on 16th June, 1916. He liked exercising and staying in shape since youth. He graduated from the English Literature Department of Aoyama Gakuin University. His

encounter with Mr. Yasoroku Soejima has led him to joining the JIA. Mr. Soejima was the chief secretary of Mr Shigenobu Okuma, who co-founded the JIA with Mr Eiichi Shibusawa. Mr. Misumi later became the chief researcher in the secretariat of the association.

As the likelihood of the outbreak of the Pacific War increased, the independence movement grew in Asian countries including India. Mr. Misumi was despatched to those countries including Burma, which was under the rule of the United Kingdom, to conduct research.

As we discussed earlier in the interview, Mr Subhas Chandra Bose came to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Army. Mr. Misumi took care of Mr. Bose during his stay in Japan. Mr. Bose did various activities in Japan including delivering a speech at the Hibiya Public Hall.

The allied powers ordered the JIA to suspend its activities after the war. Until then, Mr. Misumi was in charge of various works such as editing news letter of the JIA, which I think was an important work. The allied powers told the JIA not to conduct political and cultural activities. They even prohibited the use of the name "Japan-India Association". Therefore, "The Japan India Economic Association" was established. Mr. Misumi became the representative director of the association and worked for promoting economic relations between Japan and India.

Japan wanted to import iron ore from India at that time. So he worked in between Japan and India to promote the import of iron ore. The iron was used for the reconstruction of Japan from the devastation of the war. The Japan-India Association was later re-established when the peace treaty was signed between Japan and India.

Mr. Misumi initiated a number of cultural activities since the re-establishment. For example, he organised various cultural delegations. He sent the delegations to India or travelled with them around India.

Mr. Daisuke Takaoka, who later became a member of the national parliament, was appointed chairman of the JIA around that time. He was the only MP at the time who graduated from the Hindustani Language, now Hindi Language, Department of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Mr. Takaoka and Mr. Misumi organised various delegations and invited members of the Indian parliament.

Mr. Takaoka and Mr. Misumi also helped Japanese prime minister's first visit to India. When Prime Minister Kishi visited India for the first time as a Japanese prime minister, Mr .Takaoka and Mr. Misumi gave various ideas to make the visit a success. This is how the political exchange between Japan and India began to develop.

There were many Indio-Japanese Association, the counterpart of the JIA, in many cities in India including Bombay, Ahmedabad, which is the hometown of Prime Minister Modi, and of course Delhi. Mr. Misumi promoted Japan-India relations in collaboration with the Indio-Japanese associations in India.

I joined the JIA in 1971 and have mainly engaged in cultural exchange under the guidance of Mr. Misumi. I have supported him and worked together with him in the JIA.

Mr. Misumi became the vice chairman of the JIA after serving as the representative director. It was his final post in the JIA. When Mr. Misumi was the vice chairman, Mr Hirabayashi retired from his position as ambassador and became the president of the JIA. Chairman at the time was Mr. Mori. When Mr. Misumi was the representative director, Mr Ichimada was the chairman of the JIA. That was soon after the war. Then Mr Yoshio Sakurauchi succeeded Mr Ichimada as chairman. Mr. Misumi supported the Japan-India exchange under the 3 chairmen after the war.

Gist of “Sixty-Five Years of My Life with Japan India Association”

Author: Japan India Association Managing Director Saichiro Misumi

From: Monthly Journal of JIA “Gekkan Indo: 100th Anniversary Special Issue” (Published by Japan India Association in November 2003. P.16~P.53).

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JIA’s Activities in My Earliest Years (P.19~)

- I was employed by JIA in March 1938. JIA’s main activity back then was to collect products to be displayed at Calcutta Nihon Shohin Kan (Calcutta Center for Japanese Products) and edit, print, and send “Business Directory” to India.
- I visited major exporters based in eastern and western Japan. I developed ties with many manufacturers including Toyota and Suzuki, both of which were producing weaving machine. These contacts later proved to be useful when we established the Japan India Economic Association after the war.
- MOFA bought one thousand copies and distributed them to Indian economic organizations.
- This was a year when conflicts between US, UK, France, Russia and the Netherlands escalated to the point when a worldwide war seemed inevitable. Thanks to the advice from MOFA’s Mr. Masayoshi Kakitsubo, who was then a senior official of the No. 4 Asian Affairs Section, we managed to reduce the scale of operations and obtained the status of incorporated foundation.

During WWII

- 28 August 1941, I was summoned to the Imperial Japanese Army’s Staff Headquarters. Several officers told me the following: “The world situation is extremely serious. A war with US and UK seems inevitable. The Japanese Army has not carried out substantive investigations in South Asia. We would like to find out about the situations in Burma and India. Please cooperate.” I accepted the request.
- We received subsidies totaling 95,000 yen, which is equivalent to the current 500 million to one billion yen. The Staff Headquarters wanted us to submit a report by the end of October so that they can send reference materials to the Imperial Army’s bases in South Asia.
- JIA created a 200-page book consisting of information on India’s geography, resources and industries. WW II started on December 8.
- In 1942, Mr. Daisuke Takaoka, who later became an MP, and myself were instructed by the headquarters to go to the Army’s Burma base. I went through several near-death experiences on the way to Rangoon. My mission in Burma was to gather information on political situations including India’s independence movement and the Allied Powers’ moves and other information required for the Army’s operations. As a result of three months’ hard efforts, I managed to collect an enormous amount of materials and send them out to Japan. I suffered from a severe dengue fever.

<On Subhas Chandra Bose> P.20~21

After I returned to Japan, the Imperial Japanese Army Staff Headquarters discussed whether or not to invite India’s independence activist Subhas Chandra Bose to Japan. I offered my opinion: When Japan’s invasion of China was severely criticized not only in US, UK but also in India, including prominent figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Nehru, and Mr. Tagore and the Indian press, Mr. Bose was the only one who calmly analyzed the geography, population, and industries of Japan and enumerated reasons as to why Japan had to head for China.

Immediately after his arrival in Japan, Mr. Bose stayed in a room facing the Hibiya Park on the third floor of the Imperial Hotel’s South Wing, under a false Japanese name. JIA’s office was only one hundred meters away from the hotel. I was fortunate to see Mr. Bose a couple of times.

I remember the way Mr. Bose greeted me. He hugged me so tight that we were able to hear each other’s heartbeats. Such an expression of intimacy would make anybody think, “I would do anything for this man.” Mr. Bose appeared before the eyes of Japanese people when he gave a lecture at Hibiya Hall. The lecture was hosted by JIA. At the request from Mr. Bose, Masayoshi Kakitsubo, who was Mr. Bose’s alumnus at a British university, served as his interpreter. The lecture was quite long. Its full text was published in JIA’s monthly journal.

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Memoir of Misumi Saichiro; the Story of Indo-Japanese Relation
Chapter: Subhas Chandra Bose
(P.89-91)

* The book is written in the form of questions and answers between interviewers and Mr. Misumi.

MP Daisuke Takaoka went to see Subhas Chandra Bose to seek his advice about India's boycotting of foreign products including Japanese products.

Sato: What did Mr. Takaoka and Mr. Bose talk about when they met?

Misumi: Mr. Takaoka went to see Mr. Bose because he was then the president of the Indian National Congress. They had met before when Mr. Takaoka was a salesperson of the Nihon Shohin Kan (Calcutta Center for Japanese Products). Takaoka-san had lived in Calcutta for four years already, so their conversation ran quite smoothly.

Sato: What was the main topic?

Misumi: Takaoka-san wanted to ask Mr. Bose to put pressure on the Indian government to stop the boycotting of Japanese products. However, Mr. Bose replied "I cannot do that. Only Mahatma Gandhi can stop it." Then Mr. Takaoka went to see Mahatma Gandhi. But Mr. Bose basically had positive feelings towards Japan. As I wrote in the JIA's journal, Mr. Bose had written a long essay entitled "Japan's Position in the Far East" in 1937, before I joined JIA (See Note 16). Back then, all Indian politicians including Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Nehru were critical of Japan's invasion of China. Even Mr. Tagore had an open debate on the issue with Yone Noguchi (poet, author, critic, scholar and father of sculptor Isamu Noguchi). Chandra Bose was the only one who called on the others to consider why Japan had had to invade China. Bose pointed out the following: 70 million people have to live in the Japanese territory of which seventy-percent is mountainous; However, US and UK imposed an oil embargo on Japan. Bose did not approve of Japan's invasion of China. However, he was the only one who looked deeply into the reason behind Japan's infiltration into north. All others were just attacking Japan. However, Mr. Bose understood the background and described the position of Japan in his thesis from the points of view of geography, climate and industries. This was back in 1937.

Fujii: The original text written by Chandra Bose was published in the Modern Review magazine.

Sato: Its Japanese translation is introduced in volume 63 of JIA's monthly journal. Somebody must have found and translated it.

Misumi: We used to subscribe to Modern Review at JIA. Mr. Takaoka or somebody else must have translated it. We had other members who were fluent in English and had just returned to Japan from Calcutta, such as Naoya Kitazawa. Anyway, Mr. Bose was the only Indian politician who maintained the stance of trying to understand Japan. That was an important point when Japanese officials decided to invite him to Japan. They regarded Mr. Chandra Bose as the only reliable politician who can get to the top echelon of Indian politics and therefore they decided to invite him to Japan.