Forum calls on India, Japan to work together to cope with environmental issues

On Sept. 5, Nikkei Inc. and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) of India held the second of four projects in July 2006, Rajasthan Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd. partnered with JETRO to develop an exclusive Indian investment project in Nimrana. However, there have proven to be infrastructure hurdles. So 10 Japanese companies participating in the Nimrana investment project 1970s and early 1980s. They brought about a major and remarkable shift in the use of energy, as a result of which the Japanese economy did extremely well during the 1980s and 1990s. This example gives us a great deal of confidence that a nation clearly articulates a goal and establishes the political will to bring about a major shift, it certainly can be done. We have a lot to learn from the Japanese society. What I want to emphasize is the fact that there is a business rationale for Japan and India working together. That rationale has strengthened much further, now that we have a national action plan on climate change. The advisory council to the prime minister, of which I am privileged to be a member, has approved in principle two major missions: the solar mission and the energy-efficiency mission. These could open up enormous business opportunities for Japanese and Indian organizations to work together. These really would be revolutionary steps, because if you look at the staggering scale on which the country intends to bring about a major transformation of the way energy is used in this country, then I think a combination of capacity and skill is required to make that happen. And that is the combination of the two major missions: the solar mission and the energy-efficiency mission. There will be an increasing flow of technology, of skills and of services. There will be an important partnership between India and Japan. All of this is extremely important, because the problem of climate change threatens every part of the globe. The IPCC has provided overwhelming evidence on the scientific realities of climate change, and while every leader in the world will say that he is taking action, we just don’t see evidence of the level of action that is required.

What we should really be working on is a range of technologies, and all of these are going to be absolutely essential. With respect to increasing growth continues as we all have a certain historical background. India has huge potential for growth, with a potential market of 1.1 billion people, and not work together with India? But even in New Delhi, the number of experts from Japan is very small compared to China. Perhaps one reason is that we are not familiar enough with the way of thinking and the differences and similarities of Indian citizens and their potential business partners. There are many Indian students at the moment around the world but the number of Indian students studying in Japanese colleges and universities is disproportionately small. If you start negotiating with India’s businesses you may find it very difficult because their strength is in negotiation skills and finance. But I think once you make a friend, that will be a great opportunity. I would like to welcome many Indians to come to Japan, but I also must urge Japanese students of business or bankers”