

# THE HINDU

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ePaper

## Tamil Nadu



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### India and Japan to strengthen ties to promote overlapping interests: Okada

Staff Reporter

*Negotiations on for more flights between the two countries*



**REWARDING PROFICIENCY: Yuji Okada, Japanese Consul, presents a `special performer' certificate to K. Mahadevan at the Japanese Language Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday. Karthik Tirupathi (right), President of Nihongobashi, and S. Selvatharasu, President, HCL, Japan, are seen. — Photo: S.S. Kumar**

CHENNAI: India and Japan will be strengthening bilateral ties in the coming months to promote overlapping interests in the changing global economic scene, said Yuji Okada, Consul, Consulate-General of Japan.

He said negotiations were on for more flights between the two countries, and an increasing frequency of visits of dignitaries. 2007 will be a year to promote `Indo-Japan Friendship', associated with which will be various cultural exchange programmes between India and Japan. He noted that the number of Japanese business delegates exploring opportunities

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in India had increased considerably, as had the number of Indians living in Japan.

Mr. Okada was speaking at the sidelines of a ceremony to announce the graduation of newly recruited engineers from the 'Nihongobashi Institute of Japan'. The batch of 24 was recruited by HCL Technologies Ltd. from engineering institutes across the country. They were presented certificates of Japanese Language Proficiency. He said Japan had an aging population and India a large and skilled manpower. "We (the two countries) can complement each other," he said.

Karthik Tirupathi, President of Nihongobashi, said that though Japan is the world's second largest economy, language, culture and the Japanese mindset posed barriers. "Indian professionals occupy a critical position here. We can help the Japanese communicate with the rest of the world (as most Indians are English speakers)," he said. This is where learning Japanese comes in handy as "there are very few techno-linguistic experts available today," said Mr. Tirupathi.

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