**International Seminar**

**On**

**Japan’s Multidimensional Engagements in South Asia**

**Organized by the Pan-Asia Research Institute (PARI) (Tokyo and Dhaka) in Association with the Centre for Studies of South and Southeast Asian Societies, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal India, and the** **Hiralal Majumder Memorial College for Women** **(HMMCW), Dakshineswar, Kolkata**

**Date: 25th September 2023**

**Time: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm**

**Venue: HMMCW Auditorium**

**Concept Note**

There is no such country in the world that actively works for global peace and prosperity as Japan. The Japanese engagements in South Asia on various issues, such as strategic, trade, investment, technological cooperation, humanitarian assistance, peace, and democratic rebuilding are very much focused points in recent times. The generous approach Japan has assumed during the financial crisis of Sri Lanka has been globally appreciated. Japan is also focusing on ‘soft power’ and ‘knowledge economy’ in the South Asian region. Furthermore, both India and Bangladesh have been two important parts of South Asia of Japan. Understanding the changing geopolitical realities of the global order, increasing strategic demand of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and the huge potential market for Japanese goods, Japan has now broadened its foreign and defense outlook and economic engagement with this region. Moreover, with the rise of middle-class consumers, South Asia will soon become an ‘economic hub’. In that case, China’s growing investment and proximity to South Asian countries, particularly Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) under his ‘China Dream,’’ has been seen as a significant threat to Japan’s new strategy. Besides, South Asia became a crucial part of the Asia-Pacific region to implement Japan’s new Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) policy and make the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) effective. From this strategic point of view, Japan already has maintained warm relations with India and swelling its relations with other South Asian countries. Given the above circumstances, this paper aims to figure out the prospects of Japan’s new shifting foreign policy towards South Asia and identify the critical challenges of Japanese engagement with this region, where China is already a decisive actor.

This is our immense pleasure to organize such an event to explore further cooperation among Japan -India – and Bangladesh. The proposed international symposium aims to delineate about potential challenges and prospects of Japanese engagements in South Asia, especially India and Bangladesh. The Academicians and policymakers will be gathered in the august presence of Japan’s consular General in Kolkata, Mr. Nakamura Yutaka.

**Tentative Programme Schedule**

**11:30 AM** - Welcome Address by Dr. Soma Ghosh, Principal, Hiralal Mazumdar Memorial College for Women **(**HMMCW)

**11:35** -**AM**- Inaugural Address by Dr. Rupa Sen, Associate Professor & HoD, Department of Political Science, HMMCW

**11:40** -**AM** About PARI, Dr. Abdullah Al-Mamun, Executive director, PARI

**11:50** -**AM**-Speech by Mr. Masutaro Yanasaki, Honorable Acting Consular General of Japan in Kolkata

**12:05 PM**-Speech by Deputy Consular General of Japan to Kolkata

**12:15** **PM**-Lecture by Dr. Debasish Nandy (Member of PARI, and Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Kazi Nazrul University, West Bengal, India)

**12:40 PM** Speech by Dr. Abdullah-Al-Mamun, Executive Director, PARI and Ex-Chairman, Department of Japanese Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**1 PM** speech by Md. Saifullah Akon, Assistant Professor, Department of Japanese Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

**1:20 PM** Interactions

**1: 30 PM** -Vote of Thanks by Dr. Pardipta Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, HMMCW

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