

The year 2025 was the year of consolidating our research and collaboration endeavours into tangible academic outputs. Our “Indo Class” (Culture, Environment, and Technology of India) remained as a favourite choice for the students from 6 campuses. While we focused on publishing two edited publications of the selected academic papers of the India-Japan STI Forum held at Keio University in 2024, we held the 3rd Science, Technology and Innovation Forum at the beautiful campus of IISc Bengaluru with the participation of more than 220 students, academicians, practitioners, industry leaders, and government officials and chief of agencies. Three Indian students under Sakura Science Program 2024 came to Keio University SFC for research collaborations. We are truly grateful for our industrial consortium members who provided consistent support throughout the year.

Lectures and Classes @ SFC

● Spring Semester 2025 :

The 6th Year of “India Class”— Culture, Environment and Technology of India

In Spring Semester, India Japan Laboratory offers a specially curated online elective course titled “Culture, Environment, and Technology of India” on various perspectives on the relationship between India and Japan to Keio students from all 6 campuses. This is the sixth year of this course. We discuss about innovation, latest technologies, politics and diplomacy, economic engagements, SMEs, development challenges and social issues, astrology, cultural exchanges and food and culture. Because of the clash of class hours of some compulsory courses in some campuses some students could not join our Indo Class, but over 800 students have taken the course in total over the past six years.

Rakuten’s session on innovation along with special Q&A sessions with student facilitators from Keio University was truly innovative and engaging. Student volunteers engaged with Rakuten professionals led by Mr. Tsubasa Shiraishi. PADECO offered a gift lecture on development activities with inputs from their experiences in Asia beyond India. We are thankful to our corporate partners and eminent speakers from academia, industry, and both governments from India and Japan.

● Fall Semester 2025 : National Institute for Technology Calicut: Dr. Mohammed Firoz C. as a Visiting Professor

India Japan Laboratory has collaborated with Dr. Firoz and his team from NIT Calicut in Kerala for Wayanad Landslide case of 2024 along with IIM Kozhikode and IIT Bombay.



Lecture on Development



Ms. Hikari Miyahara of PADECO, SFC alumni and development consultant, and her team talked on development perspectives through her work at PADECO (May 2025).

Special Lectures by Indian Professors (June 2025)



Prof. Parmeshwar D. Udmale



Prof. Sudip Mitra

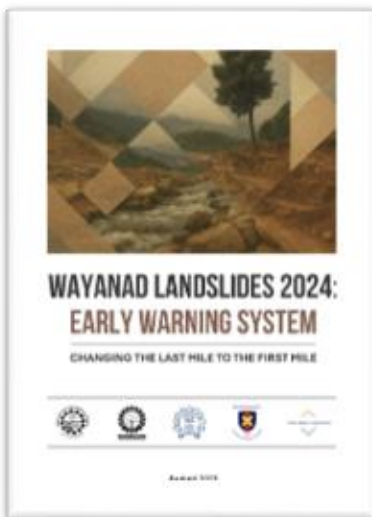


Dr. Shiva Ji

Lecture on Innovation



Mr. Tsubasa Shiraishi, Vice-Chairman, and his team specially curated a dedicated 90 min long sessions for India Class on Rakuten and innovation (May 2025).



Detailed Report Available at:
https://indiajapanlab.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Wayanad-Landslide-2024_Early-Warning-System.pdf

Wayanad Landslides 2024: Early Warning System-Changing the Last Mile to the First Mile is an outcome of a Joint Report by India-Japan Center on Climate and Culture Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode, Center for Climate Resilience and Disaster Management National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut, Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, and India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan. It was published in August 2025.

This report is a collaborative attempt of four universities to look at the issues and challenges of early warning system during Wayanad landslide of 2024. A joint field investigation was undertaken in January 2025, followed by interviews with local communities and stakeholders at different intervals. Most of the data collection was done by the graduate students from four universities. We acknowledge the strong support from the district administration as well as local communities.

Team members: India-Japan Center on Climate and Culture, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode Salmanul Faris K Sanjay Krishnan C Anupam Das Center for Climate Resilience and Disaster Management, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut Krishnadas Sasidharan Nair Mohammed Firoz C Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay Shashank Kumar Anshu Parmeshwar D. Udmale India Japan Lab, Keio University Seira Mary Cherian Tomo Kawane Rajib Shaw



Indian Ambassador to Japan His Excellency Mr. Sibi George

The unfortunate landslide that struck Wayanad, Kerala in July 2024 was a stark reminder of our growing vulnerability in the face of extreme weather events. More than a natural disaster, it was a call to rethink how we anticipate, prepare for, and respond to such crises. This study thus addresses the issue by placing people and communities at the heart of disaster preparedness and calling for early warning systems that are not just technically sound, but socially meaningful.

FOREWORD

India-Japan Bilateral Relations and Beyond: Empowering Next Generation: Student Voices and Aspirations

This report—**India Japan Bilateral Relations and Beyond**—is a part of Keio University's India-Japan Laboratory research initiatives and highlights student voices and aspirations to further strengthen India-Japan bilateral relations. As 2025 marks the 73rd anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two nations, the report begins with a historical overview of India-Japan ties and emphasizes its growing importance for the future. The main section of the report synthesizes perspectives from Keio University students, particularly those from the 2025 batch of the course 'Culture, Environment, and Technology of India'. It reflects how India is perceived in Japan today and identifies potential areas for cooperation to enhance future relations. The insights are drawn from two-page summaries submitted by students as part of their coursework. The findings from this report hope to offer valuable guidance for shaping India-Japan bilateral relations for the future. The report was prepared by Ms. Seira Mary Cherian of India Japan Laboratory, Keio University.



Detailed Report Available at:
<https://indiajapanlab.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/India-Class-Report-2025.pdf>

India Japan Laboratory has been continuously engaged with detailed field-based collaborative research beyond classrooms. We hope to create such platforms and connect researchers with practitioners in various fields.



LOTUS PROGRAMME @ KEIO 2025 Sustainability and Resilience— Learning from Japan's Society 5.0

People to People
Exchange in Japan

Innovations in Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development: *Pathways for a Resilient Future*

On 19 June 2025, under LOTUS Programme of Japan Science and Technology Agency, **Prof. Parmeshwar D. Udmale, IIT Bombay**, **Prof. Sudip Mitra, IIT Guwahati**, and **Dr. Shiva Ji, IIT Hyderabad**, were invited to Japan. They gave lectures on a joint seminar for Indian scholars and Keio students on disaster risk reduction. Indian Professors could observe the progress of the JST scholars through their presentations, which helped them to plan for future research directions.



LOTUS RESERCH SCHOLARS @KEIO 2025

Jebin Sultana Ahmed (IITG): "Developing a techno-social Framework for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to the recurrent flood situation in Assam, introducing Lessons learnt from Japan's Society 5.0"

Shashank Kumar Anshu (IITB): "Adapting Japan's Landslide Management Strategies to Enhance Disaster Resilience in the Western Ghats, India"

Nidhi Prathap (IITH): "Historical Maps as a Tool to Enhance Urban Flood Resilience in Varanasi"



Izu City & India Japan Laboratory signed "Agreement on Educational and Research Exchange and Collaboration Projects"

On July 10, 2025, IJL signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement with Izu City, Shizuoka Prefecture, in the field of education. This agreement marks the lab's first comprehensive cooperation agreement with a local government that is based on year-round project development. The program is being developed primarily by Sachiko Takane, a researcher at the lab who is responsible for the design and implementation of XR disaster prevention education. It is being implemented based on Izu City's ICT education environment and the lab's expertise in international collaboration and XR education.

4th & 5th December 2025 <https://www.india-japan-sti-forum.com>



The 3rd India-Japan STI Forum at Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru Theme: Innovative Solutions for India-Japan Synergy

Group Photo@Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru: With the presenters from India for Academic Seminar



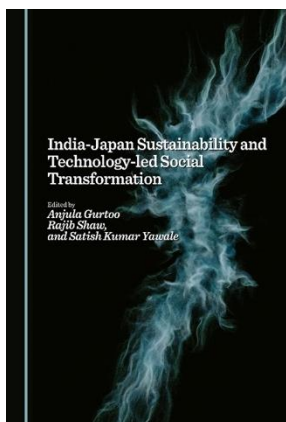
Group Photo@Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru: With the dignitaries and IJL representatives



The Core Team for STI Forum

- The two publications of the academic papers presented at the 1st and the 2nd STI Forum were officially presented to the audience at this 2025 India-Japan STI Forum.
- IISc: Prof. Anjula Gurtoo, Ms. Minnu Malieckal, Ms. Veena Gururaja, Mr. Ponnanna KA, Ms. Tasmiya
- IISc Alumni: Dr. Satish Yawale (TERI, New Delhi)
- Keio IJL: Prof. Rajib Shaw, Dr. Tomo Kawane
- Indo-Japan Business Council: Mr. Siddharth Deshmukh (President), Mr. Abhishek Chaudhury (Vice-President)
- Mphasis Lab of Prof. Anjula Gurtoo of IISc helped organize this STI forum on their campus.

Rajib Shaw, Tomo Kawane, Anjula Gurtoo eds. *India-Japan Sustainability and Technology-led Social Transformation*. Cambridge Publishing, November 2025

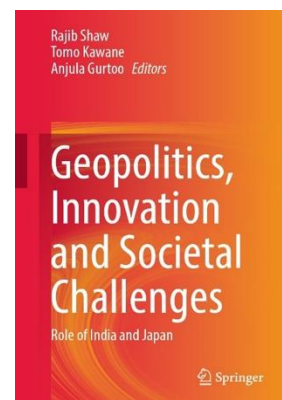


2023
STI Forum

This book explores how science, technology, and innovation can advance sustainable development by comparing India's traditional sustainability with Japan's technology-driven model. It focuses on three key areas: emerging technologies such as hydrogen fuel, UPI, and semiconductors; international cooperation through Indian Ocean prosperity and people-to-people exchange; and climate strategies including net-zero pathways and decarbonization. It links these themes to real sectors—railways, food processing, patents, and SME innovation—offering practical insights for policymakers and industry. By blending sustainability, geopolitics, and innovation, the book highlights how India-Japan collaboration can shape a more resilient and inclusive future.

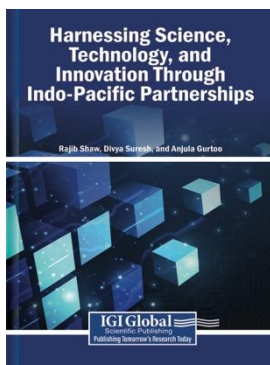
Rajib Shaw, Tomo Kawane, Anjula Gurtoo eds. *Geopolitics, Innovation and Societal Challenges*. Springer Singapore, November 2025

India-Japan bilateral partnership could address major regional and global challenges through collaborative approaches on infrastructure, clean energy, advanced technology, and defense. It highlights joint work in AI, renewable energy, the Blue Economy, rural development, healthcare, and waste management. Through real examples, the book delves into how cultural exchange, business ties, and even feminist foreign policy deepen their relationship. Together, India and Japan are shaping a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive future.



2024
STI Forum

Rajib Shaw, Divya Suresh, Anjula Gurtoo eds. *Harnessing Science, Technology, and Innovation Through Indo-Pacific Partnerships*. IGI Global Scientific Publishing. March 2026



2024
STI Forum

This book explains how partnerships among governments, universities, and industries strengthen security, economic ties, and regional connectivity. Covering topics like public policy, the blue economy, and social capital, it serves as a practical resource for policymakers, researchers, business leaders, and others interested in how science and innovation can support the region's development.



The India-Japan STI Forum Publications were celebrated at the 2025 Forum at IISc Bengaluru.

Celebrated the Publication of the Two Books of India-Japan STI Forums



Event Partners
 From Japan:
SEIKO
 From India:
Indo-Japan Business Council (IJBC), Pune.



KEIO TEAM @IISc Bengaluru



From left: Ms. Sujata Saunik, I.A.S., Dr. Tomo Kawane, Prof. Rajib Shaw, Dr. Arunab Mitra, and Mr. Abhishek Chaudhury

From left: Prof. Rajib Shaw, Ms. Laxmi Priya, I.A.S., Ms. Sujata Saunik, I.A.S., with Prof. Anjula Gurtoo of IISc Bengaluru



Prof. Hiromi Hosoya



Prof. Hiroto Kobayashi