

**METI Japan Delegation**  
**Inaugural Function of the Seminar on Core Nodal Development and**  
**Signing of Letter of Intent**  
**Speech of**  
**Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister**  
**Thiru. M.K. Stalin**

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011**  
**(Hotel Taj Coromandel)**

- His Excellency, Thiru Hideichi Okada, Hon'ble Vice Minister, METI Japan
- His Excellency, Thiru Kazuo- Minagava, Japanese Consul in Chennai
- Thiru. Rajeev Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries
- Thiru. Fujii, Director General, JETRO
- Thiru. Hidenobu Teramura, Director – METI, Japan.
- Thiru. Ishibashi, of Toshiba
- Thiru Sakurai, of Nissan
- Thiru. T.T. Ashok, Dy. Chairman-CII
- Members of Japanese Delegation,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen, Vanakkam!

ஒ உறா யோ ஷெறாசை – மாசு,

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the people of our State, I extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Hideichi Okada and his delegation to India and to Chennai.

We are indeed honoured to receive the delegation headed by the Vice Minister in charge of International Affairs, METI Japan to Tamilnadu.

I am indeed very happy to learn that the delegation consists of most of the leading companies of Japan.

The relationship between India and Japan is a historical and longstanding one.

Today, the bilateral relations between India and Japan is very strong and is marked by mutual goodwill, amity and respect. With the proposed signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between our two countries our economic relations will further improve and deepen significantly. Who can doubt that the future belongs to Asia and that the Asian, giants, India, China and Japan will dominate the global economic scenario.

Tamil Nadu is one of the fast growing economy in India. Tamil Nadu is also the most preferred destination for Japanese investment. Out of about 725 Japanese companies in India, more than 240 are located in Tamil Nadu. Leading Japanese companies, like Nissan, Toshiba, Mitsubishi, Marubeni, Mitsui, Hitachi, Komatsu have chosen Tamil Nadu to make their investments. Recently, JETRO has established an office in Chennai and this will facilitate more investment in this region.

The Government and the people of Japan have played a generous role in India's development. Tamil Nadu is extremely grateful to the people of Japan for the assistance extended by JICA to Tamil Nadu, for our important projects like, Chennai Metro Rail and Hogenekkal Water Supply Scheme.

Recently, the reputed independent research organizations, CATO Institute and Indicus Analytics, jointly conducted a study to rank Indian States according to the level of economic freedom available in the states. Tamilnadu was ranked as number 1.

I take this opportunity to invite Japanese companies to invest in Tamil Nadu the most investor friendly state. The government of Tamilnadu is determined to provide world class infrastructure to the people of Tamilnadu and there is a vast scope for massive investment in core infrastructure.

I am sure that Japanese companies will seize this opportunity. I assure you that we will spare no efforts to make Japanese companies welcome and to make them feel at home. I hope that with the signing of the Letter of Intent between METI and Tamil Nadu today the Japanese investment in Tamil Nadu will receive further boost. Our State will provide all support and assist you and your delegation in every possible way.

I wish your Excellency, and your delegation, a very fruitful and enjoyable stay in Chennai. Nandri ! Vanakkam!!

அரிகாதோ ஷெறா சைமாக

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