

Understanding South India and Japan-India Future Vision Focusing on Academic and Economic Exchange

Objective

Ferris University signed a comprehensive agreement in August 2025 to implement academic exchanges and student exchange programs with St. Joseph's University in Bengaluru, South India, and Stella Maris College in Chennai. With a significant population increase and economic development, India is making a strong presence in the international community. The relationship with Japan is also expanding rapidly, with not only a surge in IT professionals moving from India to Japan but also a growing number of Japanese companies entering India.

During the recent Japan-India summit, a joint declaration was issued confirming cooperation in eight fields. This includes specific measures, such as revitalizing mutual human exchanges and a 10 trillion-yen investment from Japan over the next ten years, indicating that Japan-India relations are expected to enter a new era.

In this context, Ferris University aims to enhance Japan-India exchanges as a research institution by providing insights into the fields of communication and co-existence society to society at large, and from the standpoint of educating students, reaffirming its commitment to nurturing globally active human resources through exchanges with India.

The purpose of this symposium is to promote exchanges with India at the regional level, deepen the understanding of India in society broadly, and facilitate interaction across all levels of students, society, and economy. In addition, we aim to share insights from both Japan and India in the fields of politics, economics, and culture, to promote mutual understanding within Japanese and Indian societies.

Overview

The symposium will be divided into two parts: the first part will feature online presentations from experts at St. Joseph's University in Bengaluru about the social changes in the rapidly developing region, and from experts at Stella Maris College in Chennai about the changes in India after the COVID-19 pandemic. The second part will classify the current state of Japan-India relations from the perspectives of 'government', 'region', and 'economy', and will share prospects.

Format & Details

- Format: Public Symposium
- Date: December 13, 2025, from 14:00 to 17:30
- Venue: Kidder Hall, Ferris University, Ryokuen Campus, Yokohama

Program Schedule

1. Greeting

President Dr. Rui Kohiyama, Ferris University

2. **Many Souths: Urbanization and Diverse Social Landscapes in South India**
Dr. Chandni Bhambhani, Assistant Professor of Sociology, St. Joseph's University
3. **Women and Social Change in South India: Post-COVID Perspectives**
Dr. Padma V. McKertich, Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, Stella Maris College (Autonomous)
4. **Resilience and Recovery: South Indian Society After COVID-19**
Dr. Cinthia Jude, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Stella Maris College (Autonomous)
5. **Commentary**
Dr. Arun Prakash D Souza, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism, Sophia University
6. **Outcomes of PM Modi's Visit to Japan and the Future of Japan-India Relations**
Shingo Miyamoto, Director-General, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department
7. **Exchange between Yokohama and India and Economic Development**
Nalin C. Advani, President, Yokohama India Center
8. **Economic Exchanges between Kanagawa Prefecture and Tamil Nadu**
*Hiroyuki Nitani, Representative, Industrial Labor Bureau, Business Attraction and International Business Division, Kanagawa Prefecture
Kanagawa Prefecture Representative in Singapore*
9. **Q&A and Discussion**
10. **Closing Remarks**
Dr. Toru Umezaki, Dean of the Faculty of Global Liberal Arts, Ferris University

Key Roles

- Moderator: Prof. Chiho Ogaya (Faculty of Global Liberal Arts, Ferris University)
- Coordinators: Dr. Tatsuya Hikichi (Faculty of Global Liberal Arts, Ferris University), Prof. Saranyaraja Muthumaniraja (The Center for the Liberal Arts, Ferris University)
- Secretariat: International Center of Ferris University (Contact: Yoshihara and Kitamura)

Organizer

Ferris University International Center