

## **His Excellency, Mr. Ryoji Noda Consul General Japan visits MPT.**

‘Back home in Japan we have learnt about Goa and that the Portuguese ruled over here in our history books. But, there is a need to know and learn more about Goa with respect to its tourism potential in the Far East. In the near future around 300 Japanese Entrepreneurs will be attending a Trade Conference in Goa. Our two countries enjoy friendly relations and we have good trade relations too. We are setting up the Bullet Train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in India, and the prototype of the Bullet Train will be manufactured in Japan. We need to take the trade relations between our countries forward’ said His Excellency Mr. Ryoji Noda, Consul General of Japan in India during his brief visit to the Mormugao Port Trust, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

His Excellency Mr. Ryoji Noda, Consul General was received by Shri G. P. Rai Chairman (i/c), MPT at their main administrative building and the Chairman (i/c) along with the Heads of Departments had wide ranging talks with the visiting dignitary in the Board Room. Shri Vipin R Menoth, Traffic Manager MPT, gave a brief on the Mormugao Port, its history, location, infrastructure facilities available to the trade and the cargo profile. The Traffic Manger informed that despite the ban on Mining activity in the State, and Iron Ore exports, the port has diversified into other bulk cargoes and this year the Port is confident of touching around 18 to 20 Million Metric tonnes of cargo. The Consul General was also appraised on the present status of the future developmental projects that are underway to facilitate the Shipping trade. A short documentary on the Mormugao Port was also presented to the visiting dignitary.

Addressing the Chairman (i/c) and the Heads of department, His Excellency Mr. Ryoji Noda said, ‘My Consulate is looking after the trade interests of 5 states in India, viz., Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. We are undertaking the underground Metro Project in Mumbai. The Japanese Port of Osaka and Yokohama has a sister-Port tie up with the Mumbai Port. The Mormugao Port too should work towards having a sister-port tie up with other Japanese ports. We could work together on various aspects as the Government of Japan wishes to promote people to people contact with the people of India and we are gradually working and promoting this relationship’.

Food processing was another field that the visiting Consul General laid emphasis on, especially in the State of Goa. ‘Food processing is an important and fast growing industry. There is a need to tap the food resources from the sea to meet the ever growing food demands of the increasing world population. Being a coastal state, Goa has a good potential to set up food processing industries where the waste fish could be put to good use’.

On this note, Shri Menoth, the Traffic Manager enlightened the Consul General on the Ministry of Shipping’s ambitious Sagarmala Project which he said is aimed at Port led Development

focusing on the development of the hinterland in Goa. Shri Menoth said ‘Your Excellency, we have a dynamic Hon’ble Minister of Shipping, Government of India, Shri Nitin Gadkariji, and he is the right person to take the project idea forward’. He appealed to the Consul General to take up the initiative at the Central Ministry level through the Consulate so that both the Governments could collaborate and work together in the future. The Consul General expressed his happiness and showed keen interest for a joint venture, when he concluded ‘This is just a start, we can surely take the idea forward from here’.

The meeting which was held in a cordial atmosphere ended on a happy note. The Consul General and two other dignitaries were later taken for a port visit to familiarize them with the port operations and the infrastructure facilities available at Mormugao Port.







