



## “Is He An Indian or A Japanese?”

— An International Person with Sensibility Both for India and Japan—

President of Discover India Club (DIC)

Rabinder Malik, Ph.D.



Discover India Club (DIC) was established on 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2013. The year 2018 was thus the fifth year of commemoration of the DIC. The President of DIC, Dr. Rabinder Malik talked about his life from his young age and his thoughts about the importance of India-Japan relations.

Dr. Malik was born in 1934 and was initially raised in West Punjab in undivided India. When India became independent in 1947 and was divided in two countries, India and Pakistan, his family was forced to leave West Punjab because of religious reasons, and moved to New Delhi, India.

Dr. Malik is now 84 years old, and has spent over 40 years, half of his life, in Japan. He has a deep emotion both for India and Japan and continues to work towards promoting friendship and understanding between the peoples of the two countries. He has maintained his lifestyle based on values of peace, equality of human beings and environmental safety of the planet.

And he is so good at singing that his Japanese and Indian songs seem at times to serve as a bridge between the peoples of India and Japan. He has found a common sensitivity between the cultures of India and Japan through the lyrics and melodies of the Japanese traditional folk songs, “Enka” and “Minyo”, which he has been

learning for several years.

—INTERVIEW—

\* \* From his young age to when he came to Japan \* \*

Q: Would you mind telling about where you were born and raised?

Malik:

I was born in 1934 in a town in Punjab State in undivided India. My father was a rich businessman and also owned lands. But in 1947, when India became independent and was divided into two countries, India and Pakistan, because of religious reasons, my family was forced to move from West Pakistan to India as refugees. My father lost everything - his business, property and lands he owned. We settled in New Delhi, and like millions of other displaced persons, our life was a struggle for survival.



## Partition of India Map sight ↓

[https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%82%A4%E3%83%B3%E3%83%89%E3%83%BB%E3%83%91%E3%82%AD%E3%82%B9%E3%82%BF%E3%83%B3%E5%88%86%E9%9B%A2%E7%8B%AC%E7%AB%8B#/media/File:Partition\\_of\\_India\\_1947\\_en.svg](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%82%A4%E3%83%B3%E3%83%89%E3%83%BB%E3%83%91%E3%82%AD%E3%82%B9%E3%82%BF%E3%83%B3%E5%88%86%E9%9B%A2%E7%8B%AC%E7%AB%8B#/media/File:Partition_of_India_1947_en.svg)

Q: How did you go to school in such a serious situation?

What were you like in your young age and what subject did you study harder?

Malik:

Fortunately, my elder brother was able to get a good job in New Delhi, India, and he supported our family during those difficult days. He also helped me to go to school.

I was a hard-working student and received very good grades in High School. English language was my favorite subject.

Q: What occupation did you start with, and at what age?

Malik:

As my family could not afford to send me to college, after finishing High School at the age of 17 years, I started working as a “salary man” in an insurance company, and later on, at the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) in New Delhi, where I worked for two years. As you know, these days the ICCR is becoming well known in Japan as it sends cultural delegations of Indian dance and music to Japan every year.

However, while I was working in an office during the day, in the evenings I went for higher studies at a Camp College that was set up by the Government for people displaced from Pakistan. I obtained my graduation degree from Punjab University. It was really hard work for me to work during the day and to go to college in the evenings but my university studies brought very good results later on.

In 1955, at the age of 21 years, I was selected by the World Health Organization (WHO) to work in its Regional Office in New Delhi, India. My work in WHO was appreciated, and in 1959 I was promoted and sent to Indonesia to work in the WHO Country Office in Jakarta.

This was the beginning of my long career with the United Nations, which carried on for a long period of 40 years: including long stays in Jakarta, Indonesia,

to work for WHO; in West Papua in New Guinea, Indonesia, to work for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); and from 1976 onwards, in Tokyo, Japan, to work for the newly established United Nations University (UNU). After working at UNU for 20 years, I retired in 1996 but as you know I have continued to stay on in Japan after retirement.

**Q: How was the life in Indonesia? It was a difficult situation in Indonesia in those days, wasn't it?**

**Malik:**

As Indonesia was my first experience of living in a foreign country, in the beginning I faced some difficulties in getting used to a different kind of food and culture. Also, the language was a problem because not many people in Indonesia at that time spoke English. However, I was still young and soon made many Indonesian friends, and also started learning Indonesian language.

After being able to speak Indonesian language and getting to know Indonesian people, my life in Indonesia became most enjoyable, and I stayed there for five years. During this period, I went to India on home leave and got married, and my wife also

joined me in Indonesia.

We were happy living in Indonesia but, unfortunately, in early 1965 there was a political revolution in Indonesia and the President of Indonesia decided to resign from the membership of United Nations.



Indonesia Map ↓  
<http://indahnesia.com/indonesia/indonesia.php>

The result was that all United Nations projects in Indonesia were closed. My project was also closed and I had to leave Indonesia, and I returned to India without a job.

**Q:** What did you do, then?

**Malik:**

But I was very lucky. Soon after returning to India, I was selected by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to work in their office in India. I enjoyed working for the United Nations in my own country India and found the work very interesting. I worked with UNDP in India for five years until 1970. My three daughters were born in India during that period.

Q: That's great!

Malik:

Meanwhile, Indonesia had rejoined the United Nations, and in 1970 I again went to Indonesia to work for the United Nations. However, this time my assignment was in the remote area of WEST IRIAN (nowadays known as WEST PAPUA) on the Island of New Guinea. The living conditions in West Papua were extremely hard because of lack of development of basic facilities like roads, schools, etc. My family also joined me there but as there was no school for my daughters in West Papua, they had to go back to India to continue their studies in a boarding school.

Q: They must have felt lonely. How long did you work there?

Malik:

Yes, it was very hard - both for us and for our children who were still very young - but the advantage was that they were receiving good education at a famous boarding school in India. After five years of stay in West Papua, my project was completed in 1975 when I returned to India and had to look for another job.

But, fortunately again, because my work in West Papua was much appreciated by the United Nations, I was selected for assignment to work with the newly established United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan. I arrived in Japan in February 1976 and started working at the headquarters of the United Nations University in Tokyo.

\* \* Deepest Sorrow And The Later Happiness \* \*

Q: That's how you came to Japan? Your family also came with you?

Malik:

I came first and my wife was to join me later but at that time, I faced the biggest tragedy of my life. My wife suddenly passed away in India because of a serious illness

she had picked up while we were living under very hard conditions in West Papua.

Q: .....was that so ... ? How did you get over the biggest tragedy, your deepest sorrow?

Malik:

It was indeed the hardest time in my life. I went back to India to take care of my wife's funeral, and was also joined by my three daughters who were studying in the boarding school in India. It was very difficult for me to decide what to do. After serious consideration and discussion with my children, I decided that after all I have to work to support my family, so I came back to Japan to continue my work at the United Nations University. My children continued to stay in the boarding school in India, but they came to Japan every year during summer vacation at their school.

Q: You must have had tough days to work in new surroundings and in a new country after your wife's passing away, and more so, you must have been worried about your children. How could you control yourself?

Malik:

Yes, it was indeed the most difficult period in my life. In order to cope with my tragic loss, I absorbed myself completely in my work at the U.N. University, which kept me very busy. My status was that of an official of the United Nations, and the work was most challenging because this was the first international organization to set up its headquarters in Tokyo at the invitation of the Government of Japan.

Now, 42 years have passed since that tragedy in my life. There is an English saying: "Time is a great healer". During this long period many things have happened. My three daughters came from India to Japan to live with me. Subsequently, I remarried in Japan and my fourth daughter was born. The whole family was able to live together and my wife was of great help and support.

All four daughters went to an international school in Tokyo up to high school, and for higher studies they went to USA. Now they are all married and well settled in USA. My wife and I continue to live in Japan but we make occasional visits to USA to spend time with our children and grandchildren.

**\* \* Deciding To Stay in Japan \* \***

Q: So, for your family, your wife has been most helpful, and all your daughters and their families and your grandchildren live in the U.S. happily! You must be feeling so happy. That is why you mention your daughters and grandchildren often (^\_^)! Didn't you want to live with your family in the U.S. after retirement?

Malik:

After working in different positions with the U.N. University(UNU) in Tokyo for 20 years, when I retired in 1996, I had to make a decision as to where to live. As I had received some very attractive offers to teach about International Relations at Japanese universities after retirement from UNU, I decided to stay on in Japan and started teaching at a Japanese university. I welcomed this opportunity to share with students in Japan what I had learnt from my 40 years of experience of working with the United Nations in different countries.

To start with, for three years I taught at Chiba University, and later on, for two years at Kokushikan University. After that, I started teaching a course on "Global Issues and Role of United Nations" at the famous Keio University in Tokyo, which I continued to teach for a long period of ten years.

Also, while teaching at universities in Japan, I started to undertake studies for

Ph.D. In International Relations from an American university via distance learning. I felt so happy when, after several years of research and study, my Thesis on “Challenges of Global Governance” was accepted and I was awarded Ph.D. Degree in 2003, at the age of 69 years.

During this period, while teaching at universities in Japan, I was also happy to get involved with several other interesting assignments: On two occasions, in 1998 and again in 1999, I was invited to serve as Adviser/Lecturer for the “Ship for World Youth Program”, which is sponsored by the Government of Japan to promote cultural exchange among the world youth. The two-month long program took place on board a cruise ship “Nippon Maru”, chartered by the Government of Japan, with young participants coming from several countries including Japan. My lectures were on: “A Vision for the United Nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”.

Another interesting assignment that I have enjoyed performing during the last 20 years, is to serve as the Representative in Japan of a well-known Indian research institution, “The Energy and Resources Institute” (TERI), which undertakes research in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development. My task is to help promote its collaboration with the relevant institutions in Japan.



Dr. Rabinder Malik  
Participated in  
“International Forum  
for Sustainable Asia and  
the Pacific 2018”  
held in Yokohama.

**Q: Do you have another assignment?**

Also, I have been involved in several voluntary activities as a member of a number of social and cultural organizations in Japan with the mission to promote international friendship and understanding. And, as you know, I have also been involved in promoting Japan-India relations and am currently serving as President of the “Discover India Club” (DIC) in Japan.

**Q: Yes, you have! By the way, you have lived in Urayasu City, haven't you?**

**Malik:**

Yes, I have been living in Urayasu City for the last 37 years, where I also got actively involved in several community activities. I served as President of Urayasu

Foreign Residents Association (UFRA) for many years, and was able to play a special role in promoting multi-cultural exchange and understanding among the Japanese and foreign residents of Urayasu City. In recognition of my contributions in the community, the *Mayor of Urayasu City* honored me with the “*Education and Culture Award*” in 2005.



*Malik receives an award from Urayasu Mayor Hideki Matsuzaki.*

Dr. Rabinder Malik received the Urayasu City Cultural Education Achievement Award from Urayasu Mayor Hideki Matsuzaki in 2005.

**Q:** Among Japanese cultures, what have you been specifically interested in?

Malik:

My keen interest in learning traditional Japanese folk songs (*Enka and Minyo*) has been of great help to me in understanding the culture and the way of life in

Japan and in assimilating in the Japanese society.

Soon after coming to Japan when I first heard Japanese *Enka* songs, I was attracted because I found the melodies to be quite similar to Indian songs called *Ghazals* that I used to sing when I was young.

I started taking lessons in singing *Enka* and after years of training, I have been singing on stage and television, taking part in contests and winning prizes. I also made debut as an Enka singer in Japan as a member of the Trio named “Oyaji Gumi.”



CD Jacket of “enka” songs by “Oyaji Gumi” (Big Buddy Trio)- Ebihara, Kinomura, Malik

“TOMAN-UMINCHU”  
CD Jacket of “enka” songs  
by “Oyaji Gumi”

Q : You often sing Minyo, too?

Malik :

About ten years ago, I started learning the more traditional Japanese folk songs called *Minyo*, which are accompanied by *shamisen*, *shakuhachi* and *drums*. These

are songs that were originally sung by farmers, fishermen and others while performing their traditional tasks, and each Prefecture in Japan has its own favorite *Minyo* songs and styles.

There are national contests held for *Minyo* songs, often for just one song, and I have been taking part in such contests held in different parts of Japan, Being the only Indian singing Japanese *Minyo*, I have become well known in the *Minyo* community in Japan.



Dr. Rabinder Malik, dressed in Kimono, singing traditional Japanese *Minyo* song on stage of Minyo/Minbu Festival in Chiba prefecture in 2012

Q: What have you learned from Japanese folk music (*Enka and Minyo*)?

Malik:

As I said earlier, the Japanese folk songs helped me to understand the Japanese culture a little better, and I began to perceive many similarities between the cultures of Japan and India. Not only through songs but also during my day-to-day interaction with family and friends in Japan, I have noticed that we tend to share the same values.

What I have observed at weddings, festivals and other social occasions in Japan is that while the styles and decorations may be different, there are certain basic similarities in the traditions and customs of Japan and India.

This inspired me to study more in depth about the centuries-old spiritual connections between Japan and India that began in the 6<sup>th</sup> century when Buddha's message of compassion reached the shores of Japan via China.

**Q : It sounds interesting!**

**Malik:**

This spiritual connection between Japan and India can also be deduced from the fact that there are several gods and goddesses of Indian origin in the Japanese mythology and folklore. For example, out of seven Japanese gods of good fortune,

three gods are of Indian origin: DAIKOKUTEN, BISHAMONTEN and BENZAITEN.

After Meiji restoration, some famous Indian religious leaders and scholars such as Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore visited Japan and interacted with Japanese scholars. They were deeply impressed by the people and culture of Japan.

Also, after Japan opened up, many Indian traders came to Japan and settled down in Yokohama. This led to the development of close relationship between the cities of Yokohama and Mumbai (formerly Bombay), and they have been sister cities for more than 50 years.

**Q :** You also have been learning “Shigin”, haven’t you?

**Malik :**

“*Shigin*” is a type of traditional Japanese chanted poetry. The poems are centuries old and cover many topics from war to love and legends of Japan and China. Five years ago, my Japanese friends introduced me to “*Shigin*”. It was not very easy for me to learn *Shigin* because I am not good at reading Chinese characters, but my teacher and friends helped me to understand the meaning of each poem.

I found this fascinating because through these poems I could learn more deeply about the history and culture of Japan. For example, after starting to learn *Shigin*, I came to know about some well-known Japanese historical personalities like Sugawara no Michizane and Katsu Kaishu through *Shigin* poems written by them. “I like *Shigin* very much and am glad to say that I have reached Level 5 in “*Shigin*”.

\* \* As President of “Discover India Club” \* \*

Q: How did DIC begin?

Malik:

In 1978, some members of The Japan India Association had founded a group named “Discover India Club” (DIC) with the objective to promote more social and cultural exchanges between the peoples of Japan and India, and to organize tours to India. I became a member of DIC and joined a special DIC Tour to India in 1997, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of India. As I was the only Indian in the tour, I made many Japanese friends during our travels together in different parts of India. For several years, the DIC members were quite active but

unfortunately the membership started declining and the DIC was closed a few years ago.

Subsequently, some of my Japanese friends were keen on restarting Japan-India related activities, and the new “Discover India Club” (DIC) in Japan was inaugurated on 13 July 2013. It was a great honor for me to be elected as the first President of the new DIC.

The new DIC aims to draw people from diverse fields, and also Indians living in Japan, to make it a forum where Japanese and Indians can become friends and get a better understanding of each other’s country and culture. I am happy to say that the membership of the new DIC has been growing rapidly.



The foundation ceremony of the “Discover India Club” (DIC)  
Vivekananda Cultural Center (VCC) of the Embassy of India in Tokyo  
18/10/ 2013

Malik:

The foundation ceremony of the “Discover India Club” (DIC) was held at Vivekananda Cultural Center (VCC) of the Embassy of India in Tokyo on 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2013, when we were happy to receive messages of support from the Ambassador of India to Japan and the Japan India Association.

An impressive cultural program was arranged to mark the occasion, which included Indian and Japanese music and dance performances. An interesting feature of this program was that the performer of the Indian *Odissi* dance was a Japanese (Sachiko Ito San), and the singer of Japanese *Minyo* songs was an Indian

(myself).



Japanese minyo “Otachi zake” performed by Dr. Malik accompanied by Shakuhachi, tsuzumi, and Nihon Buyo

At the foundation ceremony of the “Discover India Club” (DIC)

**Q:** What do you think is the mission of DIC and what are your own expectations with regard to India-Japan relations?

**Malik:**

For more than a century, the Japan India Association has been making concentrated efforts to promote Japan-India relations. There are also many other institutions in Japan that have been actively involved in the promotion of business and economic relations between Japan and India. In recent years, the bilateral relations between Japan and India have been growing much closer and stronger in

all areas.

However, it became obvious that there was a need to enhance and strengthen more cultural and people-to-people contacts between Japan and India.

The new DIC was formed in 2013 with the mission to contribute to building and expanding cultural and inter-personal relations between the peoples of Japan and India. Since its establishment five years ago, the new DIC has been able to organize in Japan several cultural events and seminars on Indian life and society. The new DIC also maintains a website that helps in disseminating information about Indian society and culture among the general public in Japan.

We undertake our activities in collaboration with the Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC) at the Embassy of India, The Japan India Association, India-Japan Cultural Network, The Vedanta Society of Japan and other friends and supporters.

[Q: How do you think people-to-people contacts between Japan and India have been realized?](#)

Malik:

Besides organizing cultural programs in Japan, the DIC has also been able to arrange some programs in India to give the people of India a glimpse of the Japanese culture.

Following the establishment of DIC in Japan, some DIC members visited New Delhi and met the officials in charge of cultural matters at the Japan Foundation and the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi. We also met many of our Indian friends and were happy to find that they were interested in learning more about Japan and its culture.

In coordination with our Japan-loving friends in New Delhi, and with the support of the Japan Foundation and other partners in India and Japan, in 2017 the DIC was able to organize in New Delhi a very successful “Konnichiwa Japan” Festival, in which many aspects of the Japanese culture were presented, including the Japanese traditional sport of Sumo.

The two-day program was so popular that again in 2018 the “Konnichiwa Japan” Festival was organized in New Delhi in collaboration with the members of the “Konnichiwa Japan Club”, which was formed for this purpose.

In 2017, the DIC had also organized a cultural tour to Gujarat State in India in collaboration with the India-Japan Friendship Association and the Japan Information and Study Centre at the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA), Ahmedabad. They welcomed us warmly and arranged cultural programs and home stays for our Japanese members who enjoyed being with Indian families at their homes in Ahmedabad. Thanks to their support, the tour was a great success.

While in Ahmedabad, the tour participants also visited Sabarmati Ashram, which was home to Mahatma Gandhi from 1917 until 1930 and served as one of the main centers of the Indian freedom struggle.

Also in 2017, during our tour to India, the DIC started supporting a project called Friends of All (FOA) to help children with education at Nootan Bharati Institute in Madana-Gadh in Gujarat State. The organizer of this project is Mrs. Tomo Kawane who lives in Gujarat State and is a member of the DIC, Japan..

I believe that such exchanges between the people of our two countries would help provide a strong foundation for long-term, mutually beneficial bilateral relations between Japan and India.



**KONNICHIIWA JAPAN: INDO-JAPAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL**  
At Saket Mall in Delhi 18-19/11/2017



**Indo-Japan Friendship Association, Gujarat**  
**Japan Information & Study Centre in Gujarat 20/11/2017**



At Nootan Bharati Institute in Madana-Gadh 23/11/2017

Q: DIC had the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary at VCC hall on 14<sup>th</sup> of September in 2018. Do you have any comments?

Malik:

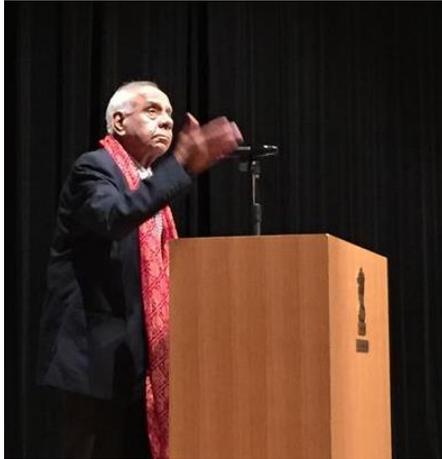
It was because of the strong commitment and support of the members of the DIC that we were able to organize a very meaningful and attractive program for the celebration of its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of DIC, which took place at the VCC Auditorium at the Embassy of India in Tokyo.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program of the DIC was greatly appreciated by Ambassador Hiroshi Hirabayashi, President of The Japan India Association, Professor Siddharth Singh, Director of VCC at the Embassy of India, as well as by more than 160 participants who joined us in our celebrations.

This gives me a great hope and confidence that the DIC would be able to continue to play an important role in promoting and strengthening cultural and people-to-people connections between Japan and India.

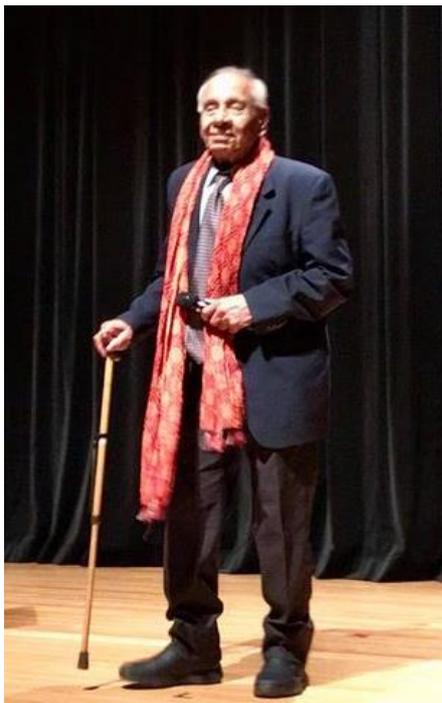


The Celebration of 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of DIC  
at the VCC Auditorium at the Embassy of India  
14/9/ 2018



**“NEW ERA OF INDIA-JAPAN  
RELATIONS”**

A keynote speech by the  
president of DIC, Dr. Rabinder  
Malik



**♪ SANSU SHIGURE ♪**

A Japanese traditional popular  
song of celebration.

Sung by Dr. Rabinder Malik

Q : While you have been serving as President of Discover India Club, you have kept visiting Onagawa-town in Miyagi prefecture where Higashi-Nihon Big Earthquake hit on 11<sup>th</sup> of March in 2011 and where the Indian Disaster Rescue Team had come to help later?

Malik:

When Japan faced the triple tragedy of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear plant disaster on March 11, 2011, the whole world shared in Japan's sorrow. At the same time people around the world also admired the fortitude, discipline and resilience of the Japanese people and prayed for a reenergized Japan.

At that time, India had also sent a special contingent to Japan to help and support the distressed people in the affected areas in East Japan. As the Indian contingent was based in Onagawa-town in Miyagi Prefecture, a special relationship has developed between India and Onagawa-town. To mark this special relationship, "NAMASTE INDIA" Festival is held in Onagawa-town every year.

I was very happy to join this Festival in 2017, where I sang a traditional Japanese *Minyo* folk song, "*Sansa Shigure*", accompanied on *Shamisen* by local musicians. As this is a very popular song of celebration from the Miyagi Prefecture itself, the audience knew the song well and joined me while I was singing. It was a deeply touching moment for me.



♪ Sansa Shigure ♪  
By Rabinder Malik at  
“ NAMASTE INDIA ”  
Festival in Onagawa-  
machi, Miyagi prefecture  
4/5/2017

You were deeply moved by the audience joining you in the song! You are able to be a visible bridge between India and Japan wherever in Japan and whenever you sing a Japanese folk song. It seems an easy way to make friends in Japan; however, you must have worked hard to be a singer and an international person like you are now.

Q : Let me ask the last question. What is your impression on Japan and Japanese people?

Malik:

While my work with the U.N. University was of an international character, during my long stay in Japan, I was able to establish many contacts and friendships, both officially and socially, with the Japanese people in the Government, academic circles, business and social and cultural organizations. Moreover, as my wife is Japanese, I acquired relatives in Japan.

I thus got to know Japan and Japanese people well and became a great admirer of the Japanese culture. I appreciate the quietness, cleanliness and kindness of the Japanese people and the egalitarian society of Japan. One cannot find another example of a society like Japan that has progressed so rapidly in attaining high levels of development and growth and creating a modern society without losing its cultural roots.

Life is so well organized here and people are very kind and helpful. It is one of the cleanest and safest countries in the world. I enjoy living in Japan and feel grateful for all the kindness and support I receive from my family and friends.

**Q. Do you have any final remarks or thoughts?**

**Malik:**

It gives me great pleasure to see the growing interest, both in Japan and India, in improving and strengthening social and cultural contacts between the peoples of our two countries. For example, Yoga that originated in India has become quite popular in Japan since the designation by the United Nations of the 21st of June as the International Yoga Day.

Also, I am glad to see that the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi is well known in Japan for his message of non-violence and peace. This year many events are being planned to take place in Japan to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi.

Finally, for me personally, at the ripe old age of 84 years, and having spent half of my life as an Indian resident of Japan, to use a Japanese expression, it is my “IKIGAI” to devote the rest of my life for the promotion of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Japan and India.

*Dr. Rabinder N. Malik has a long United Nations career, including 20 years with the United Nations University, Tokyo, and 20 years with WHO and UNDP in India and Indonesia. He was visiting lecturer at Tokyo’s Keio University, and is a member/advisor of several social, cultural and educational organizations in Japan. Dr. Malik is President of the “Discover India Club” (DIC) in Japan.*

Thanks

Firstly, I appreciate that I was given this opportunity to interview Malik-sensei who has a lot

of rich experiences and deep thoughts that I could learn for my life. He told his life history in gentle talk and by detailed mails, which were very helpful for this interview report. Malik-sensei has been enjoying the latter of his life with the Japanese traditional music: *Enka*, *Minyo*, and *Shigin*. He found a similarity between Indian *Ghazal* melodies and *Enka*, which made him more interested in Japanese culture. His discovery of this similarity about 30-40 years ago still shows when he sings Indian and Japanese songs and convinces the listeners that there are undercurrents flowing through two cultures, Indian and Japanese.

Secondly, I have worried about my English skill though, Malik-sensei has kindly supported it to the end. Let me show biggest appreciation for his help and support.

Lastly, I also appreciate that Kaneko-san, the vice president of DIC, had been watching the way this interview report went on.

7 /may/2019

Interviewed/edited by Rumiko Nishio

A publicist of DIC

### *BRIEF PROFILE OF DR. RABINDER MALIK*

1934: Born in West Punjab, Undivided India

1947: When India was divided in two countries, moved from West Pakistan to

India and settled down in New Delhi, India

- 1952: Started working at Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) in New Delhi, India
- 1955: Started working for World Health Organization (WHO) in New Delhi, India
- 1959: Moved to Indonesia to work in WHO Country Office in Jakarta
- 1964: Moved back to India to work for United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- 1970: Moved to Indonesia again to work for United Nations in West Papua, New Guinea
- 1976: Moved to Japan to work for United Nations University (UNU) in Tokyo
- 1996: Retired from United Nations University (UNU) and continued to live in Japan

*TEACHING AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS AFTER RETIREMENT*

- 1996: Visiting Professor, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA
- 1997: Resident Director in Riga, Latvia, for Study Abroad Program of Wisconsin University
- 1997: Visiting Lecturer on “Reform of United Nations” at University of Central

Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA

- 1998: Visiting Lecturer, International Relations, Chiba University, Japan
- 1998: Adviser/Lecturer on board “Ship for World Youth” Program sponsored by  
Government of Japan
- 1999: Chief Adviser on board “Ship for World Youth” Program
- 2002: Visiting Lecturer, Kokushikan University, Tokyo, Japan
- 2003: Ph.D. Degree on “Challenges of Global Governance”
- 2003: Visiting lecturer, Josai International University, Japan
- 2006-2009: Director, Tokyo Centre, IES Study Abroad Program in Japan for  
Students from USA
- 2006-2016: Visiting lecturer, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan
- 1998- to present:
- Representative in Japan for Indian research institution, The Energy and  
Resources Institute (TERI) dealing with energy, environment and  
sustainable development

### *AWARDS*

- 1985: Meritorious Services Award from United Nations Secretary-General

1996: Meritorious Services Award from United Nations University

2005: “Education and Culture Award” from Mayor of City of Urayasu for contributions towards promoting multi-cultural relations among Japanese and foreign residents of Urayasu City

*VOLUNTARY SOCIAL/CULTURAL ACTIVITIES*

-- Senior Adviser, Urayasu Foreign Residents Association (UFRA), Urayasu City

-- Councilor, International Youth Exchange Organization (IYEO), Tokyo, Japan

-- Adviser, English Speaking Union of Japan (ESUJ), Tokyo, Japan

-- President, Discover India Club (DIC) in Japan

*HOBBIES*

-- Singing Japanese traditional Folk Songs (ENKA and MINYO)

-- As a Member of Trio “OYAJI GUMI”, made a CD issued by “Nihon Crown” in 2002

-- Learning SHIGIN, traditional Japanese Chanted Poetry about Japanese history and culture

*ARTICLES*

2010: “Japan, India & United Nations – Reflections of a Long-term Indian Resident  
in Japan” JAPAN SPOTLIGHT March/April 2010

[https://www.jef.or.jp/journal/pdf/170th\\_viewpoints.pdf](https://www.jef.or.jp/journal/pdf/170th_viewpoints.pdf)

2015: “The Message of Mahatma Gandhi” JAPAN SPOTLIGHT May/June 2015

[https://www.jef.or.jp/journal/pdf/201st\\_Special\\_article\\_2.pdf](https://www.jef.or.jp/journal/pdf/201st_Special_article_2.pdf)