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Miss World Japan-2016 to visit Assam from Nov 1

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, June 4 - Miss World Japan-2016, Priyanka Yoshikawa, will be travelling from the land of 'Sakuras' to the home of the one-horned rhinoceros, Assam, to participate in the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum-2017 on November 2 and 3.

Priyanka has been a role model for Young Japan and Young India for representing the rich bio-cultural heritage of both the nations with pride and will be delivering the sub keynote address at the forum to evangelize 'Community Conservation and Social Mobility.' Concerned about the welfare of communities that live in the forests and the lost habitats of Asian Elephants, she emphasises on community conservation for living in harmony with nature and to help restore safe habitats for humans and elephants.

Over the years, Japan and India have been closely attached through cultural exchange and the common goal of wildlife protection. A certified elephant trainer, Priyanka feels passionately about the well-being of the elephants and got the Laos National certification so that she could personally do something to help elephants. She hopes to foster eco-elephant tourism between India, Japan and in Asia through her support to the cause.

"She will be exploring the wildlife-friendly tea plantations of Assam and honouring real heroes of conservation – mahouts, elephant legends of the Eastern Himalayas and forest guards, who work tirelessly to protect our natural treasures," an official of Balipara Foundation, the organisers of Naturenomics Forum-2017, told *The Assam Tribune*.

The forum provides a platform to recognise the role of botany and communities in the conservation of ecosystems through the lens of Naturenomics, innovation and information. Priyanka will be visiting the Eastern Himalayan Botanic Ark, a biodiverse haven of the Eastern Himalayas, which has been nurtured and grown by botany villages that live around the Ark.

A half-Japanese and a half-Indian, Priyanka calls herself 'Indian at heart.' Proud of the picturesque heritage of Japan, she is equally excited about her visit to India and celebrate the diversity of nature, arts, history and culture with its people. She will be travelling through Assam from November 1 to 5, supported by Balipara Foundation and has been invited by Ranjit Barthakur, founder trustee of Balipara Foundation, founder of the Eastern Himalayan Naturenomics Forum and Elephant Country – a global brand which synergises community and elephant conservation efforts.

She is also the brand ambassador for 'Me for the World' charity savings bank box, an innovative concept that encourages children to save for themselves and give back to global communities. During her visit, she will be visiting schools to interact with children and inspiring the next generation through charity and compassion. She is scheduled to be accompanied by Harry Hakuei Kosato, founder and managing director of La Ditta Limited, promoter of Japanese arts and culture in India for the last ten years through both 'Sushi and More' and 'The Cool Japan Festival', India's largest Japan event.

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