

JICA Extends Its Cooperation to Strengthen India-Japan Relationship

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Events / Workshops

Promoting Efficient Transport Network by Inaugurating Delhi Metro's Grey Line (Line 9)



Flagging off ceremony of Delhi Metro Grey Line done by Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri and Mr. Arvind Kejriwal

On October 4, 2019, the Delhi Metro's Grey Line (Line 9) under Phase-III, financed by JICA, was inaugurated. The newly inaugurated line will connect Dwarka to Najafgarh with three stations - Dwarka, Nangli and Najafgarh. On this stretch of 4.3 kms, Dwarka and Nangli are elevated stations and Najafgarh is an underground station.

The new line was flagged off by Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India and Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi. The other key dignitaries present at the ceremony were Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India, Embassy of Japan; Mr. Parvesh Verma, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) West Delhi Constituency and Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India.

JICA recognizes the need for efficient transport network for a balanced socio-economic growth, we are pleased to be a part of Delhi Metro's important role in this context. Najafgarh town is a hub encircled by large number of villages, Delhi Metro's Grey Line will boost the mobility in the area. With opening of the new line, Delhi Metro network has grown to 347.97 kilometres with 253 Metro stations (excluding Noida and Greater Noida line). It is heartening to see that the constant collaboration with which JICA and DMRC are working together has improved connectivity issues to such large extent.

Ensuring holistic Human Resource Development by hosting 8th "IIT-H-Japan Collaboration Academic Fair"



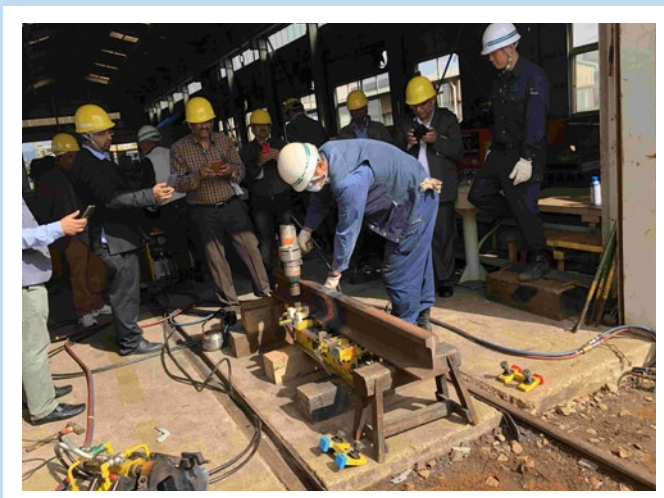
Students of IIT-H, while attending the presentation by Dr. Kimura

On October 30, 2019, JICA held the 8th Edition of the 'IIT Hyderabad - Japan Collaboration Academic Fair' organized under the JICA-FRIENDSHIP Project. The purpose of the fair is to introduce a clear vision of career in Japan to the Indian Institute of Technology- Hyderabad (IIT-H) students including study environment, career opportunities, and life in Japan. Faculty and staff members of prestigious Japanese universities, such as University of Tokyo, Hokkaido University, Ritsumeikan University, Shimane University, Shizuoka University, amongst others came to recruit IIT-H graduates and expected graduates for their Master/Doctoral Programs.

The fair was attended by more than 220 students who received energetic and encouraging messages from Dr. George Kimura, President and CEO, NTT Advanced Technology Corporation, and other speakers. IIT-H students also proactively visited Japanese Universities' information booths to seek their academic career in Japan.

During the Fair, JICA announced the scholarship program for IIT-H students to study in internationally renowned universities of Japan. These Scholarships will be offered to 30 graduating students of IIT-H to pursue masters or Ph.D. and will cover tuition fees and living cost in Japan.

Supporting Capacity Development for Indian Railway Safety



Rail welding work: quality of work

On November 18, 2019, under the ongoing Technical Corporation (TC) Project 'Capacity Development on Railway Safety', which aims to enhance the capacity of Indian Railways (IR) and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), JICA invited officials from IR and DFCCIL to attend the Knowledge Co-Creation programs, focusing on Track Maintenance, Rail Welding and Rolling Stock Maintenance conducted during October and November, 2019.

In order to improve railway safety including derailment prevention, the interaction between the terms of rolling stock,

track and the structural & material strength of the components are considered highly essential. These Knowledge Co-Creation programs organized by JICA have been showcasing Japanese good practices of construction and maintenance work, shared Japanese knowledge and experiences relating to preventing derailment including the efficient but qualitative maintenance work. While in Japan, Indian officials visited West Japan Railway Company, Railway Track and Structures Technology Co., LTD. (Rail Tech), Railway Technical Research Institute, Japan Freight Railway Company etc. After the detailed explanation and demonstration of various aspects by Japanese experts at each working site and facility, Indian officials shared their views and approaches with Japanese experts through detailed interactive discussions.

Dr. Makoto Ishida, Chief Advisor JICA expert team who led these Knowledge Co-Creation programs said, "JICA expert team and Indian officials had detailed interactive discussions with regard to maintaining the quality of rail welding and examination work and effective track maintenance works under short window time of track possession, and maintaining the quality of truck/bogie and/or running gear maintenance work. During these programs, Indian officials have developed draft Action Plans to improve quality of maintenance work in respective fields regarding technical, structural implementation and mind set point of view based on detailed discussions at sites between Indian and Japanese officials. It is hoped that these program in Japan would contribute to bring the safe environment with the help of the functionally useful Action Plans prepared in promoting railway safety in India."

Providing Solutions for Biodiversity Conservation and Human-Wildlife Conflict Resolution through Workshop in Sikkim



The dignitaries on the stage while unveiling of the project publication

On November 15, 2019, JICA supported a workshop on "Challenges for Biodiversity Conservation and Human-Wildlife Conflicts – Identifying the problems and possible solutions" was held in Sikkim. The states with JICA-supported forestry projects, MoEFCC officials, NGOs and research institutes based in Sikkim were invited to the workshop.

Mr. L.B. Das, Honourable Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly delivered the inaugural address as the Chief Guest. Mr. Karma

Loday Bhutia, Honourable Minister for Forest and Mr. S.C. Gupta, Chief Secretary of Government of Sikkim attended the workshop. Mr. Gupta addressed the delegates. In addition to the officials of the Sikkim government as the host of workshop, representatives of JICA-supported forestry projects which have a component of Biodiversity Conservation and/or human-wildlife conflict like Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Meghalaya made presentations on their experiences on the issue.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India mentioned about JICA's cooperation to the North East States to promote sustainable development of the region and highlighted that, "Conservation of biodiversity is crucial for India because the consequences of biodiversity loss will impact negatively livelihoods, health, food security and overall well-being of human society. JICA aims to work with a dual conservation strategy which includes conserving protected areas by collaborating with local communities to reduce their impacts on the protected area. Our solutions include improving livelihood base through alternative income generating activities by SHGs and promoting alternative cropping & land-use through appropriate incentive program. This kind of workshop helps all stakeholders present to share and in cross-learn about the challenges, solutions, innovations and opportunities in biodiversity conservation and ways and means to enhance the resilience of local communities with adaptive measures in forest fringe villages."

Enabling Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable Agriculture & Irrigation in Mizoram



The JCC Meeting with the officials from JICA India Office and Government of Mizoram

On November 22, 2019, the 4th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of JICA supported "Project on Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development in Mizoram" was organized by the Government

of Mizoram at Aizawl. The Technical Cooperation (TC) Project that commenced in July 2017 aims to enhance organizational capacity of the Government of Mizoram to promote sustainable agriculture and irrigation development. The TC project shall contribute in reduction of shifting cultivation, which results in better food security and environmental conservation.

Mr. Pu Lalnunmawia Chuaungo (IAS), Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram, acted as the chairperson at the JCC meeting. Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India gave a short speech at the meeting in presence of other dignitaries from the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, "We believe the project has an immediate effect on the lives of dependent communities as it aims at increasing farmers' incomes. With institutionalization of operations we aim to provide a concrete structure of improving agriculture productivity of the farmers by creating a committee of related departments of the government of Mizoram. The Project reaffirms its commitment to contribute to increasing farmers' income in a sustainable manner. JICA's vision for Mizoram is in synchronization with the Government of India's Development of North Eastern Region (NER) and we aim to advance the region accordingly."

Events / Workshops

Mentoring Young Leaders of India in Renewable Energy Development through Japan's Knowledge Co-Creation Program



The participants receiving the program participation certificate

From November 17, 2019– December 3, 2019, JICA invited 6 young leaders to Tokyo, Japan for building capacities of India's

renewable energy sector by training young leaders through its Knowledge Co-Creation Program, which promotes human resource development in developing countries across sectors.

Under the program, the young leaders learnt basic technologies and systems in the field of renewable energy, which contribute to future problem-solving efforts and raise their awareness of development issues in their own country such as reduction of air pollution, leading to better living environment. The program was held in Kitakyusyu, which is one of the most advanced areas to promote clean energy in Japan with the historical background and the city also tries to build a "smart community."

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said, "We recognize the need for clean energy solutions and thus promote construction of social systems to make effective use of green resources. Our aim is to lend expertise in renewable energy and find sustainable substitutes for energy production in India. As part of KCC program, we need to encourage and sensitize future young leader to minimize the effects of polluting energy resources."

Promoting Holistic Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment of Pediatric Amblyopia through Workshop in Ahmedabad



The attendees of the workshop included representatives from Yaguchi Electric Corporation, Cooperative Hospital staff members consisting of Ophthalmologists and Optometrists from Eye Care hospitals in India and JICA India

On December 15, 2019, JICA supported the Workshop on Medical Equipment for Amblyopia Treatment in Children held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat as part of JICA's private sector participation project being implemented by Yaguchi Electric Corporation in collaboration with Ahmedabad Civil Hospital.

The workshop was attended by Prof. Hansa Thakkar, M&J Institute, Associate Professor Dr. Vaishali Prajapati, Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, and Ophthalmologists and Optometrists from Eye Care hospitals in India to share the case study and how to use the advanced equipment for Amblyopia Treatment with guidance from Professor Dr. Tomoya Handa of Kitasato University and Yaguchi Electric Corporation.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Koichi Ogyu, Senior Representative, JICA India said, Yaguchi Electric Corporation has been committed keenly to this project since 2018 through JICA's Feasibility Study. A basic trial was conducted at the cooperative hospitals to test the effectiveness of vision training tablet. The success of which brought Yaguchi Electric to launching an extensive trial as JICA supported "Verification Survey for Amblyopia Treatment in Children in India" with an objective for building future distribution chain to reach patients in need of care. JICA is facilitating treatment of Amblyopia in children, enabling their "right to sight". JICA's vision is in line with the National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB), which aims to improve primary care for proper vision."

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