

Jamaica

Telecommunication Network Expansion Project



The microwave transmission tower

Outline of Loan Agreement

Loan Amount / Disbursed Amount	9,054 million yen / 8,154 million yen
Loan Agreement	November 1988
Terms & Conditions	Interest rate 3.75% p.a. Repayment period 30 years (Grace period 10 years)
Final Disbursement Date	January 1994

Project Outline

The project involved the establishment of digital exchanges and a microwave transmission system, and the installation of subscriber cables, with the aim of meeting increased demand for telephone service in Jamaica.

Results and Evaluation

The project covered the construction of digital switching equipment at 13 stations (total capacity: approx. 39,000 lines) and a digital microwave radio system (19 routes), the installation of additional subscriber lines (approx. 320,000km), and the provision of telephones (approx. 100,000 sets). In order to respond to changes in telephone service demand during implementation, location and the capacity of switching equipment were partially revised, and the project was completed at the end of 1991 as planned. In 1986, the telephone density rate was 3.2 units per 100 people, and had reached 7.2 by 1992, after project completion. The project is thus considered to have responded timely to telephone service demand, which began increasing at an exponential rate in the latter half of the 1980s. Moreover, the fault rate, which was roughly 8% in 1990, decreased to the post-completion level of 7% in 1992, and has since dropped to around 5%, and the establishment of exchanges and peripheral equipment implemented under this project, is considered to have improved the reliability of telecommunications services. Revisions to the Telecommunications Law in 1998 have resulted in the gradual liberalization of the telecommunications market, thus it will be necessary to address improvements to services, including a revision of fees, and to pursue operational efficiency.