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For Immediate Release

JICA'S SURVEY SHOWS URBAN RAILWAYS HELP REDUCING CO2 EMISSION

October 23, 2020 – The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Vietnam Office organized the final workshop of the “**Data Collection Survey on development of Measurement, Report and Verification (MRV) system in urban railway sector in Vietnam**” in Hanoi on October 23, 2020.

The JICA survey has been successfully completed with the cooperation of the Department of Climate Change (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment -MONRE), Department of Environment (Ministry of Transport –MOT), and Ho Chi Minh City's Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE). It was conducted between February 2019 and September 2020 targeting at urban railways Line 1 and 2 in Hanoi and Line 1 in HCMC, which are all financed by Japanese ODA.

Using a simple methodology, Japanese experts estimated the potential greenhouse gases (GHG) emission reductions by the three urban railway lines, which will be used as a scientific base to promote low-emission means of transport such as metro in metropolitan areas like Hanoi and HCMC.

The survey has shown that once operated, Hanoi's Line 1 and Line 2 have the potential to help reduce GHG emission by 54,541 tons and 39,614 tons of CO₂/year, respectively. So does HCMC's Line 1, which can help to reduce GHG emission by 56,877 tons of CO₂/year.

Mr. Ken Kumazawa -team leader of the survey- said, urban railways have become a daily part of Japanese life. In Vietnam where most people use motorbikes, getting them to change to urban railways would not be easy. In the future, ensuring service quality and showing the environmental positive impacts of the urban railways will surely increase the ridership.

“Not only providing more efficient mobility, urban railways can reduce carbon dioxide and air pollutants. We hope that the survey will help people to understand the importance of our metro projects and more people will shift from motorbikes and private cars to urban railways in Hanoi and HCMC. The urban railway systems to be developed in Hanoi and HCMC will not only meet public demand of transportation but also contribute to the national target of 9% GHG emission reduction by 2030 committed in the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Vietnam, that has been recently submitted to the UNFCCC”, said Mr. Murooka Naomichi, Senior Representative of JICA Vietnam Office.



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Speaking at the workshop, Mr. Tran Anh Duong, Director General of MOT Department of Environment highly appreciated JICA's support. He said: "The survey provided suggestions for conducting interviews to households and proposed a simple methodology with an institutional arrangement for the future monitoring of GHG emission reduction when the urban railways are operated. MOT will utilize the results of the survey for upcoming development of the MRV system in transport sector".

Cities like Hanoi and HCMC are suffering severe air pollution leading to health damages which are known through increasing cases of respiratory diseases. Development of urban railways is not only considered one of the potential options for GHG mitigation but also widely known as an effective solution for traffic congestion and air pollution.

The result of interviews to households living along the urban railways which are planned in Hanoi and under construction in HCMC reveals that a significant majority of the correspondents (81% along Line 1 in HCMC and 66% along Line 1 in Hanoi) expressed their willingness to use the urban railways in the future.

お問い合わせ：

JICA ベトナム事務所 高木 結実（広報班）

11th Floor, Corner Stone Building, 16 Phan Chu Trinh Street, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi, Viet Nam

Tel: (84-24) 3831 5005 (ext. 137)