

# · TRENDS ·



United Kingdom

## JICA President in London: Meeting with DFID, Speech at Chatham House



**J**ICA President Shinichi Kitaoka visited the United Kingdom between January 21 and 24, 2018. He held talks with UK government officials and British academic experts, and spoke on the role of Japanese ODA in the Indo-Pacific region at a seminar sponsored by British think tank Chatham House.

Mr. Kitaoka met with Nick Dyer, Interim Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development (DFID), to discuss the need for partnerships with the private sector, as well as the importance of creating common standards for international cooperation, given the growing importance of the role of emerging donors.

Later, Mr. Kitaoka gave a talk at a seminar sponsored by Chatham House, discussing the assistance JICA is providing in the Indo-Pacific region. Noting the Japanese government's Free and Open Indo-Pacific

*JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka in discussion at Chatham House*

Strategy, he presented examples of JICA's contributions to regional development. These included social development support through improvement of infrastructure, such as the Delhi Metro in India; maritime safety enhancement work centered in Southeast Asia; the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA); peace building and refugee crisis response in locations including the Philippines and Myanmar; and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction assistance as well as disaster risk reduction in Nepal.

The British experts who participated in the seminar made positive comments about Japanese ODA. One said, "The Japanese contribution to the development of a more open international community is significant." Later, Mr. Kitaoka met with Chatham House Deputy Director Adam Ward to discuss topics including approaches to uncertainty in international relations (as exemplified by Brexit); relations with Russia and China; the role of Japanese ODA; and the differences between British and JICA assistance.



Jordan

## Financing Jordan's Largest Solar Project: Power diversification and climate change mitigation



**J**ICA has signed a loan agreement with Baynouna Solar Energy, a company owned by Abu Dhabi Future Energy (Masdar) and Taaleri, for a solar power project in Jordan. The loan is co-financed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH (DEG), and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).

Jordan faces a tight power supply-demand balance and its power production facilities are deteriorating; continuous power development is essential. Because Jordan imports 97% of its energy, it is easily affected by fluctuating fuel prices. The government aims to increase renewable energy capacity by up to 20% by 2020.

To that end, this project will construct and operate a 200-megawatt solar power plant in

*Masdar's CFO (center), IFC's Manager of the Middle East and North Africa Infrastructure (left), and Mr. Junichi Yamada, Senior Vice President, JICA*

the Al-Muwaqqar District of Amman Governorate. It will be the largest photovoltaic plant in Jordan, and it is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by some 360,000 tons per year.

The project's solar plant will supply power to urban host communities that have been accepting refugees from nearby countries. The Japanese government has pledged at two international summits and at the UN General Assembly to strengthen Japanese support for the stabilization of the Middle East and the provision of aid for countries and communities that accept refugees. These promises are embodiments of Japanese assistance policy.

JICA has supported the introduction of an automatic tariff adjustment system that is linked to energy prices through Development Policy Loan and the formulation of an optimal power supply plan, and it will continue to cooperate with international financial institutions working to improve the socioeconomic situation in developing countries.



India

## Japanese ODA agreement with India for water and sewerage infrastructure



**O**n January 24, 2018, JICA signed a loan agreement in Delhi with the Government of India to provide a Japanese ODA loan of up to 45 billion yen for Phase 3 of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project.

The project will be carried out in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, and it will provide water supply facilities that will use the Cauvery River as a water source, and sewerage facilities for the Bengaluru metropolitan area. The target area of the project, the Bengaluru metropolitan area (with a population of 8.5 million), is a core region of the software industry in India. As of March 2017, 90 Japanese companies have offices in that region. As a result of rapid industrial development, the metropolitan area has expanded and has seen an increase in the population, but the infrastructure for

*ODA agreement signing*

water supply and sewerage has not kept pace with the continuing rise in the need for water. This has led to challenges, particularly a chronic shortage of water and an unsanitary living environment.

The loan funds will be directed at the construction of facilities including a water treatment plant, water transmission pipes, distribution reservoirs, and sewerage treatment plants, and at providing consulting services including detailed design work, assistance with bidding, and construction supervision. The new facilities will provide stable water and sewerage services to meet rapidly rising demand, contributing to the creation of a sanitary living environment and stimulating industrial activity in the region.

JICA's intensified support in the form of a water treatment plant, water supply facilities, and sewerage treatment plants will help lead the region to greater prosperity and quality of life.