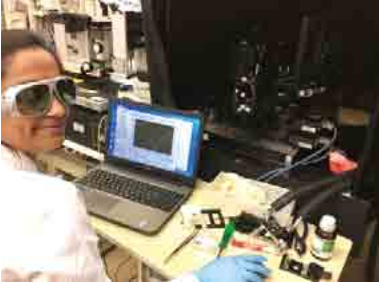


Trends



India

Collaboration at IIT Hyderabad is Helping Realize Innovative Research



The discovery of a new alloy with ultrahigh strength and ductility gained worldwide interest this February after publication in "Scientific Reports," an online journal of global publisher Springer Nature. A collaborative effort by researchers from the JICA-supported Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) and Kyoto University, Dr. Pinaki Prasad Bhattacharjee and Dr. Nobuhiro Tsuji played an important role in this research. The alloy holds potential to create lighter and safer automobiles and planes, and subsequent additional joint research is garnering attention.

Research on this new alloy is being supported by JICA's Future Researchers at IIT-H to Enhance Network Development with Scholarship of Japan (FRIENDSHIP) project, which began in 2012 with the aim of promoting industry-academia partnerships between Japan and India. JICA's support for IIT-H seeks to

build networks among researchers and construct facilities, and is greatly expanding possibilities for industry-academia partnerships between Japan and India. Twelve leading Japanese universities are involved in the project, introducing leading-edge research findings to Indian students through joint research, special lectures, and workshops. So far, about 200 researchers from Japan and IIT-H have traveled between the two countries.

Established to strengthen the country's engineering human resources, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are India's most prominent institutes of higher education in engineering, and their graduates are highly sought after domestically and abroad. In Japan, where demand is rapidly increasing for high-level human resources to work in fields such as AI and cybersecurity, big things are expected from partnerships with the IITs.

Divya Anand is involved in world-class research in a doctoral program at the University of Tokyo.



Bangladesh

Large-Scale Water Supply Assistance to a Camp for Evacuees from Myanmar



Since August 2017, some 800,000 people have reportedly fled Rakhine State in Myanmar for Bangladesh. JICA is cooperating with the government of Bangladesh and other international agencies to provide support for the evacuees and the host communities in the area. Survey results from Kutupalong Camp in Ukha, Cox's Bazar in southeastern Bangladesh, which is home to about 600,000 evacuees, indicate that the urgently dug shallow tubewells are running dry in the dry season, and that the majority of these tubewells are also contaminated with E. coli.

In response to this critical situation, JICA decided to assist with supplying safe and sufficient water to the camp by digging a deep tubewell (400 meters), laying 5,190 meters of pipeline and connecting 216 water taps. The groundbreaking ceremony has already taken place, and when completed the well will service some

40,000 people and be amongst the largest water supply systems in the camp. JICA will drill the deep tubewell as a part of the grant aid project, and will then hand it over to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to build water supply facilities.

Apart from this assistance, JICA provided pre-dispatch training in disaster nursing to nurses dispatched to the camp and provided equipment to prevent infectious diseases. JICA has also provided equipment for testing non-communicable diseases (such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases) to the district hospital for use by both evacuees and local residents. In addition, JICA is preparing assistance to local governments affected by the large influx of evacuees, such as repairing local infrastructure and supplying machinery and materials for educational facilities.

A well dug next to a toilet. There are concerns about sanitation.



PALM 8

President Kitaoka Holds Discussion Meetings with Leaders at PALM 8



JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka was joined by the leaders of thirteen Pacific Island nations for the 8th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 8) in Iwaki Fukushima Prefecture, Japan on the 18th and 19th of May, to discuss JICA activities and exchange opinions on policy development for future cooperation.

On the first day, Samoa's Prime Minister Malielegaoi said he looks forward to cooperation on harbor infrastructure. Palau's President Remengesau said he looks forward to the plan based on the JICA survey into renewable energy coming to fruition, and to strengthening existing cooperation in agriculture and fisheries. President Heine from the Marshall Islands expressed her gratitude for the existing cooperation and discussed the importance of infrastructure development. President Mamau of Kiribati spoke highly of the national development plan currently being finalized. Prime Minister O'Neill of Papua New Guinea discussed the upcoming APEC Economic Leaders'

meeting and current infrastructure projects.

On the second day, President Waqa of Nauru discussed climate change and requested infrastructure cooperation. Micronesia's President Christian said he looks forward to Japanese cooperation in electricity generation and Japanese language education. Prime Minister Salwai of Vanuatu expressed his gratitude for the recently completed freight port. Prime Minister Sopoaga of Tuvalu discussed the impact of climate change and policy measures in a global context. The Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Houenipwela praised the contributions of JICA volunteers. Finally, Tonga's Deputy Prime Minister Sika recommended spreading the fruits of Japanese cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction to other Pacific Island nations.

JICA values the exchange of opinions at PALM 8 and looks forward to continuing these discussions and incorporating them into realizing a dynamic cooperation within the Pacific region.

JICA is promoting renewable energy in the Pacific Ocean countries.