



Sri Lanka: Kuliyaipitiya Temple, a school where young boys train to become Buddhist monks through communal living [Photo by Shinichi Kuno]



Toru Arai
Director General
South Asia Department

Director General's Message

South Asia

Enhancing Diverse Cooperation Amid Progressive Polarization

South Asia has become clearly polarized between countries with rapid economic growth, such as India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and countries suffering from instability, such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. In fiscal year 2012, JICA extended large-scale ODA Loans to the former three countries in accordance with their infrastructure needs. Among the latter countries, JICA enhanced reconstruction of Afghanistan. Furthermore, JICA assisted disaster management measures for climate change and natural disasters, a common theme in the region.

In fiscal year 2012, we expanded the scope of ODA Loan projects in India and Bangladesh. In India, we extended assistance for building a dedicated freight railway route between Delhi and Mumbai and construction of the Chennai metro. We also extended assistance for other infrastructure, such as electric power, water supply and sewage systems, which are essential for economic development. In addition, we worked with India on a joint program to enhance the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad.

In Bangladesh, we extended assistance for infrastructure development, such as transportation systems in Dhaka and electric power projects. We also continued to extend assistance toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the areas of disaster prevention, education, healthcare and hygiene.

In Sri Lanka, we also extended an ODA Loan project on building national road bridges with Special Terms for Economic Partnerships (STEP) scheme, and other assistance for infrastructure development such as electric power, disaster management and water supply.

For countries suffering from conflicts and instability, we also

extended a wide-range of assistance. In Nepal, which is facing a severe electric shortage, we extended its first ODA Loan in 12 years for construction of a hydroelectric power station. In Afghanistan, to solve problems caused by the rapid population growth, we assisted urban development in the Kabul metropolitan area and agriculture and rural area development focusing on rice cultivation. In Pakistan, we extended projects for the construction of the Child Health Institute in Karachi and polio eradication.

In fiscal year 2013, we will continue our assistance for the dedicated freight corridor project, development of the southern region of India and other measures as agreed on at the Japan-India Summit Meeting. Our assistance to Bangladesh will focus on the fields of establishing water supply systems, rural development and transportation sectors. In addition, while implementing a survey on regional cooperation to strengthen the linkage between ASEAN and South Asian countries, we will steadily implement the assistance for Afghanistan outlined by the policy stated by the government of Japan in the 2012 Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan.