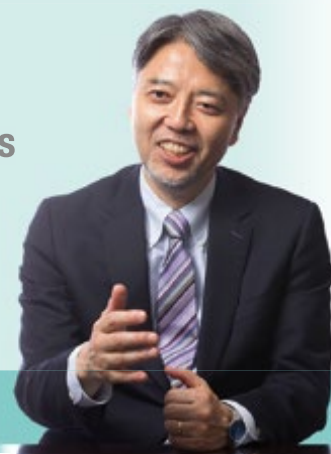




# South Asia

Contributing to Dynamic Growth in the Region That Serves as the Center of the Indian Ocean-Rim Economic Region



## Director General's Message

**Toru Arai** Director General, South Asia Department

### Regional Issues

- ➔ Although the South Asian economy has been expanding remarkably in recent years, some 230 million people in the region remain poor, living on less than \$1.90 a day.
- ➔ Ending poverty in the region requires sustaining dynamic and quality growth that takes human security into account.

### Fiscal 2015 Initiatives

- ➔ JICA promoted the development of large economic corridors in India and Bangladesh that boost the economic activities of the private sector.
- ➔ Under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, JICA supported the reconstruction after the major earthquake that hit Nepal in April 2015, as well as strengthening the disaster response capacities of the countries in the region.
- ➔ JICA supported the peacebuilding and reconstruction processes in the region by, for example, inviting core personnel in Afghanistan to Japan to study and providing assistance to conflict-affected areas in Sri Lanka.

### Future Cooperation

- ➔ In order to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), JICA will promote cooperation in areas that support job creation and balanced development, including economic corridor development.
- ➔ JICA will support efforts to address the global issues that are particularly serious in South Asia, including climate change, natural hazards, and health risks.
- ➔ JICA will also support the enhancement of intra- and inter-regional connectivity in both tangible and intangible aspects to help fulfill growth potential.

pick up  
A look at  
programs by  
numbers

**476** km

This figure represents the total length of urban Metro railways that are already in operation or in the planning phase in six cities in India. JICA actively supports urban railway development in India, where traffic congestion and air pollution are worsening due to rapid economic growth. The daily average number of passengers for the lines in operation in the capital city of Delhi alone, totaling 193 km in length, stands at some 2.4 million. This figure outnumbers that for all the subways in Osaka, which amounts to about 2.3 million.

India: Students cheerfully put up awareness posters they have drawn on the theme "Precious Water" for the Agra Water Supply Project. (Photo by Osamu Funao)