On Thursday 28th February, 2013, the Ministry of Water Resources and Government of Japan commissioned a newly constructed slow sand Filtration system under the Japanese Grant Aid Scheme, which has been proven as a viable technology for rural communities. The location of the water works is at old Town in the north of Kambia Town.

The project is sponsored by the government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The objective of the project is to improve water supply condition in the Kambia town through construction of water supply facilities as well as the establishment of water tariff system.

Beneficiaries of the project will be approximately 25,000 inhabitants of Kambia Town. The project is expected to improve water supply and sanitation, curtail water borne diseases, stimulate economic development and ensure environmental sustainability.

Under the project, the water supply facilities including service network to customers will be improved.

Water will basically be supplied to the people through public faucets with special connections to the Kambia Hospital, Kambia District Council and Resource centre.

Deputizing the president H.E Ernest Bai Koroma was Mr. Kemoh Sesay, Minister of Political Affairs. He thanked the Government of Japan for their continued support in various sectors especially the water sector. He said that this project will lead to the reduction of water-borne diseases and some social effect among families especially children who expend valuable time to cover distances to fetch water for their families disturbing their school standards and attendances.

The Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Momodu Maligi in his statement said that the gesture of goodwill in supporting our development aspirations is the essence of mutual respect and friendship. He wished that the relationship be solidified by the maintenance of this facility. He later admonished the people of Kambia to upkeep the $8m gift.

Also, Mr. Hirofumi Kurata, Representative from the Embassy of Japan in Ghana said he hoped that the facility will continue to strengthen the cordial and long lasting relation between Japan and Sierra Leone.

Mr. Jiro Inamura, Representative from the JICA Ghana Office who tried to be very terse in his statement said that he hoped that this facility will improve the livelihood of people in Kambia town because reliable water is one important factor for maintaining people’s life.

Similarly, some other prominent personalities made concise statements to grace the occasion. A gift was presented to Mr. Kurata as appreciation from the people of Kambia District and the cutting of the tape was done by Mr. Momodu Sesay.
The Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Miss. Diana Konomanyi on Thursday 14th February, 2013 commissioned a feeder road with length of 15.1 km covering approximately 8 Villages in the Magbema Chiefdom, Kambia District.

The objective of the project is to develop capacity of district councils and other stakeholders on formulation of planning and also improve transportation linkages in the chiefdom.

It is expected that the project will create tremendous impact in the lives of the community people like farmers who were finding it difficult to take their produce to the market because of the bad road condition, vehicles and motorbikes could not ply the road because of dangerous pot holes and school children will arrive unkempt because of the muddy road.

The handing over of the road in Kambia was honoured by the presence of the Minister. In her speech said that the completed project would go a long way to complement Government's agenda for growth and prosperity which aims to improve the lives of its citizens. She said the rehabilitation of the road will improve linkages in the intervention zones in order to reduce transportation difficulties, thereby enhancing social and economic development of the people.

Mr. Shin-ichi Honda, First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Ghana opined that Sierra Leone and Japan have enjoyed amicable bilateral relations and he trust that the CDCD/JICA will deepen that relation through their activities in Kambia District and other areas of the country. He said the ceremony does not only celebrate the completion of the rehabilitation of the feeder road, but also the improved capacity of local government administrators including, engineers, secretaries, support staff and others.

The Head of Office, JICA Sierra Leone Field Office, Mr. Kazuaki Sato, indicated that this is a turning point of the Kambia District Council in the context of capacity development, and will surely make big contribution to improve the living conditions and boost economic growth in the area.

The project leader Mr. Atsutoshi Hirabayashi said that the economic rationale of rehabilitating this feeder road is that the road will stimulate agricultural activity and improve transportation situation within the area of influence. It will also help local government administrators to obtain adequate capacity to develop the District better.

The Kambia District Officer, Mr. S.S.A Sankoh thanked CDCD/JICA and the people of Japan for their moral and financial support. He however asked for additional support from JICA to complete the rest of the feeder roads in the community which are yet to begin.

He said he believes that as a result of the project the capacity of District and technical staff will be strengthened. The District administrative office has also promised to secure funds from the government in order to provide regular maintenance of the road.

In another project activity, an 11.7km feeder road was handed over to the residents of Port Loko District on the 19th February, 2013.
JICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy (MOE) and the National Power Authority held its 5th JCC (Joint Coordination Committee) on the project “Capacity Development for Maintaining Power Supply Facilities” which was successfully concluded on the 27th February 2013 at the Board Room of the National Power Authority (NPA).

The purpose of the JCC is for JICA project team and NPA to qualify progress on the activities of the project. The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of engineers and technicians of NPA to be able operate and maintain diesel generation facilities and transmission and distribution system.

Delivering his key note address, the Honorable Minister of Energy, Oluniyi Robin-Coker who was very much pleased to vindicate the need to maintenance both Niigata Engines at Kingtom Power Station as they were due for maintenance. He further disclosed that the operating environment has changed and that programs should be robust enough to adapt to realities in order for them to stand out.

In the aspect of knowledge transfer, he said that the recipient should have to demonstrate that the knowledge gained during classroom and on the job training are fruitful to them and they should also cultivate the habit of asking questions when in doubt.

Mr. Kyoji Fujii, The Chief Advisor, JICA Expert Team expounded on the Mid Term Evaluation of the second year in respect of the Project Design Matrix (P.D.M) whiles Dr. Noboru Matsumura and Mr. Tadashi Nio both dilated on the Review of Past Activities and Perspectives of Future Activities in the field of Generation and Transmission and Distribution respectively.

There were also presentations from NPA engineers for the first time in order to catalogue the experience gained so far since two years of implementation.

From Generation, they highlighted some of the experiences gained like classroom training on Diesel engine theory, preventive maintenance of generator engines, support for updating equipment ledger with the use of the computer and the development of a data sheet- ( A soft copy of the log sheet) for recording and basic analysis of engine parameters.

Transmission and Distribution, enumerated their achievements focusing on maintenance of generator control panel a practical experience they’ve never acquired before and the use of a software programme (Auto-CAD) to update ledger, tools and test equipments.

An introduction to the Loss Reduction Project site at Dwazack Farm, George Brook which is an integral part of the capacity development component was presented by one of the engineers.
In July 2012, JICA sponsored three Generation staff to take part in a one month training programme on “FUEL REDUCED OPERATION BY ECONOMICAL LOAD DISTRIBUTION OF MULTIPLE DIESEL GENERATORS” in Okinawa, Japan from July 18 – August 16, 2012.

The training contents include: BECE (Basic Education Certificate Examination) analysis which focuses on improving the teachers' understanding of the characteristics of BECE questions & the abilities required to answer them correctly.

The use of the syllabus to up-skill teachers' understanding on how to make long-term and short-term teaching plans using the Teaching Syllabus, and also the correspondence between the latest Syllabus and the Government recommended textbooks.

Analysis of pupil’s wrong answers help teachers to understand typical misconceptions of pupils and analyse the reasons. Going through the practices of this topic, teachers are able to improve their ability to anticipate pupil’s answers, and to assess pupil’s level of understanding.

On the aspect of Content Mastery (Hands on practice), teachers were able to improve their knowledge and understanding of the subject contents through hands-on activities or basic experiments on certain topics.

The following hands-on activities were conducted:
- For Mathematics- Basic construction, Solid shapes, Plane shapes, Measurement, etc.
- For Integrated Science- Electricity (Conductivity & Circuits), Magnetic Field, Levers and Pulleys, Electromagnetism, Techniques for Separating Mixture and Energy (Potential & Kinetic).

Most of the training contents were new to the participants but they were interested in the topics, the group works and the discussions. The participants were proactive to learn the new knowledge and they really understood what were described in their text books. The entire trial INSETs were very successful.

In attendance were; one participant from the Fiji Islands, Cook Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu, two from Iraq and three from Sierra Leone. I was in the company of Mr. Mohamed R. Kamara, Senior Electrical superintendent and Mr. Anthony Geegbae, Assistant Mechanical Superintendent at Kingtom Power Station.

The training was found to be very useful for our operations here in Sierra Leone. A detailed explanation was given relating to the principle behind the economic dispatch control (EDC) system.

Fuel consumption rates at various loads (50%, 75% and 100%) were taken and compared. It was confirmed that at low loads, fuel consumption rates are high compared to those at high loads. The results were first analysed on an excel spread sheet and thereafter, transferred on an EDC software for further analysis.

Towards the end of the training every participant was asked to produce an action plan for implementation of the EDC program.

Ing. Aiah Morsieray
Station Head, Black Hall Road Power Station
National Power Authority