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JICA Extends Technical Assistance for the Phase II Project for Crop Diversification in Himachal Pradesh and Slope Disaster Mitigation Component in Uttarakhand

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed the Record of Discussions (R/D) with the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the Government of Uttarakhand to implement Technical Cooperation (TC) for projects titled “Phase II Project for Crop Diversification in Himachal Pradesh” and “The Project for Natural Disaster Management in Forest Areas in Uttarakhand.”

Phase II of JICA’s Technical Cooperation in Himachal Pradesh will uplift and stabilize farmers’ livelihood level through further expansion of crop diversification according to agro-ecological situations in the five districts of the state including Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi and Una. JICA’s Japanese experts will visit to transfer their technologies to concerned officials and educate farmers in various areas including vegetable cultivation, post-harvest management, marketing, water management, gender empowerment and social inclusion. Trainings in Japan are also planned for capacity development of management level functionaries, field level officers and Krishak Vikas Association (KVA) members.

In Uttarakhand, JICA’s Technical Cooperation will enhance the capacity of the state in general and Uttarakhand Forest Department (UKFD) in particular, to appropriately plan and implement erosion control works for slope disaster management in forest areas of the State, to mitigate the effects of natural disasters timely and most effectively, as a part of future preparedness strategy. JICA’s Japanese experts will also visit the project sites and assist UKFD on field survey, plan and supervision for erosion control works. JICA’s new technical project is designed to develop capacity of UKFD for sediment disaster mitigation so that the people of Uttarakhand will be able to prepare themselves in better way against landslide disasters in future.

Left to Right: Ms. Anuradha Thakur, Hon’able Secretary, Irrigation and Public Health; Mr. Sujan Singh Pathania, Hon’able Power and Agriculture Minister, Himachal Pradesh and Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India at the signing of “Phase II Project for Crop Diversification in Himachal Pradesh”

Left to Right: Mr. Shatrughna Singh, Chief Secretary, Mr. S. Ramaswamy, Additional Chief Secretary, Mr. Anup Malik, Chief Project Director, Shri Harish Rawat, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India and Mr. Vineet S. Sarin, Additional Chief Development Specialist, JICA India at the signing of “The Project for Natural Disaster Management in Forest Areas in Uttarakhand.”
Inaugurated Hyderabad Outer Ring Road and Part of Corridor 1 of Chennai Metro

Hyderabad Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Telangana and Part of Corridor 1 of Chennai Metro in Tamil Nadu being implemented through Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from JICA were inaugurated by the Government of Telangana, and the Government of Tamil Nadu respectively.

JICA-assisted Hyderabad Outer Ring Road (ORR) between Shamirpet to Ghatkesar, would improve connectivity and help decongest the city by diverting traffic away from the core area, promoting industrial vitalization and livelihood improvement.

In addition, JICA assisted part of Corridor 1 of Chennai Metro will cover a distance of 9 kms between Airport Station and Little Mount Station comprising of six important stations; Airport Station, Meenambakkam Metro Station, Nanganallur Road Station, Alandur Station, Guindy Metro Station and Little Mount Station. By the inauguration of this stretch, the Chennai International Airport, the fourth busiest airport in India, and the other important transportation hubs, e.g. Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT), the biggest bus terminal in the city are connected. This will mitigate the impacts caused by mounting traffic in Chennai such as increased traffic congestion, air pollution, road accidents and journey time.

When the whole project is completed, travel time will be reduced drastically.

Delhi Mumbai industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) Organized Workshop to Enhance Trade between Japan and India

Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) organized a workshop to enhance the trade relations between Japan and India. The convention was aimed at sharing the current progress of DMIC smart cities and projects, Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project and industrial corridors such as Bangalore Industrial Corridor. The meeting also aimed at gathering the consideration of Japanese enterprises to DMIC smart cities and exchange opinions with them.

The workshop was attended by dignitaries from Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), State Governments (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh (MP), and Uttar Pradesh (UP)), Embassy of Japan (EOJ), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India, JICA.

The highlight of the workshop was the insights shared by each of the dignitaries’ on the proposed and ongoing projects. Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary, Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Company Secretary, DMICDC, said, “The concept of DMIC pioneers in industrial corridors and the concept is gradually proceeding from the development stage towards the implementation stage. There are several opportunities for the Japanese enterprises to invest in DMIC and lot of progress can be seen.”

Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA, added, “The concept is considerably important based on the agreement between Japan and India. It may be a good idea to develop an area which can be the engine of economic growth in such a wide country as India. Japanese companies face lot of obstacles in India but that can be resolved through Mutual Corporation and assistance. The private companies should also get involved in order to achieve the sustainable development JICA targets. India is important for Japan as Japan concluded Strategic and Global Partnership with India.”
JICA Organized a Forestry Project Directors Meeting for the Government Officials of Forestry and Natural Resource Management Projects in India

In New Delhi, JICA organized the 7th Forestry Project Director’s Meeting for JICA assisted Forestry and Natural Resource Management Projects. The meeting was aimed at sharing the experiences and cross learning with respect to working on JICA assisted projects in India by the project heads and strengthening the working environment and relationship between the Government of India, JICA and the Forest Department Officials of projects.

Dr. Rekha Pai, Inspector General, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India was the Chief Guest at the event. She appreciated the work and achievements of the JICA projects in Forestry and Natural Resource Management sector in India. She congratulated JICA and the rest of the implementation partners for timely implementation of their projects.

Various key participants made presentations, including project heads of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project, Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (Phase 2), Tripura Forest Environmental Improvement and Poverty Alleviation Project, Swan River Integrated Watershed Management Project, Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project, Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (Phase 2), Tripura Forest Environmental Improvement and Poverty Alleviation Project, Swan River Integrated Watershed Management Project, Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project and West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project.

Review of each project under various sector was discussed and each executing agency reached agreement based on the Project Status Sheet. The sectors discussed were - Water & Sanitation Sector, Transportation, Energy, Forestry, Agriculture and others.

Tri-partite Review Meeting of JICA ODA Projects Organized by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)

DEA organized a Tri-partite review meeting of JICA ODA Projects aimed at identifying the challenging area of each project undertaken by JICA, and discussing milestones, time-line, transparency and safety under the projects. The meeting was attended by DEA, Line Ministries, Executing Agencies (EA), the Embassy of Japan (EOJ) and JICA.

Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA, said, “In terms of ODA, India is the most important partner for JICA. It is necessary to seek quality infrastructure, which provides timely, safe, and comfortable services in order to achieve sustainable, resilient and inclusive impacts. Another important issue is anti-corruption. Each actor is urged not to commit corruption in accordance with the anti-corruption policy guide distributed from JICA to each EA.”
JICA’s SMEs Survey Mission to India for Strengthening Private Sector Partnership Activities

JICA dispatched the survey mission composed of 11 members including 6 Small and Medium Enterprises from Hokuriku region of Japan from the 17th to the 23rd of July 2016 to understand the Indian market in order to strengthen private sector partnership activities.

The main industries in the Hokuriku region include chemicals, medicine, tourism, textiles and textile machinery, heavy machinery, farming, and fishing. The mission team sought the key factors to be success in giant Indian market.

The mission members spent valuable five days by experiencing a ride on the Delhi Metro (Japan ODA Loan), and visiting Sikandra Water Treatment Plant by Agra Water Supply Project (Japan ODA Loan), Panasonic India Pvt., Ltd.(Hajjar, Haryana), Honda Siel Power Products Ltd.(Greater Noidea, UP), and two organizations where JOCVs (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) were dispatched namely Aasha Deep Foundation (Ghaziabad, UP) and Muni International School (Uttam Nagar, New Delhi).

The team presented the following findings as necessity for their future businesses:

- **Local specification through research:** The manufacturing products which can satisfy the preferences of Indian consumers in terms of “convenience in local context”, “lower price” and “uniqueness”

- **Partnership with local companies:** Cooperate with local partner closely in order to utilize the strength of both Japanese and Indian companies rather than manufacturing and operating by only Japanese side.

- **Perseverance:** Branding seems to take time in the Indian market compared with other countries; however Indian consumers seem to have a great loyalty to the brand which they once preferred. Hence, perseverance is the most important factor in order to gain a larger share of a big market in India.

Furthermore, the members held a seminar in Japan to share the insights from the mission and presented that some member companies have started preparing for future opportunities in the Indian market.

JICA along with Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) Organized Japanese Business Culture and Communication Seminar in Ahmedabad

JICA along with Ahmedabad, Management Association (AMA), organized a two-day seminar on Japanese Business Culture and Communication for Ahmedabad citizens, who are aiming to start working with Japanese business people. The seminar reached out to the participants who work at various restaurants and hotels, aiming at potential increase of Japanese visitors and the people working in the Japanese companies, who feel the need to establish and/or strengthen business connections with the Japanese business people.

The seminar was conducted by six JICA Volunteers i.e. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), and featured role-playing exercises and participants learned quick Japanese tips such as simple Japanese greetings, ways to give self-introduction using Japanese words, ways to exchange business cards and ways to serve in a restaurant in the Japanese style.