JICA extends its cooperation to strengthen India-Japan relationship.

On the occasion of the visit of the Hon'ble Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe, JICA extended a new financial assistance with a total amount of 146,494 million Japanese yen (INR 8,230 crores) to five projects in various sectors, including Transport, Infrastructure, Human Resource Development (HRD), Environment Management and Investment Promotion. These agreements were signed between Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, and Mr. S. Selvakumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in presence of Mr. Kazuhiko Koshikawa, Executive Senior Vice President, JICA.

Various JICA signed ODA loan and grant agreements in September 2017 in India are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. no.</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>ODA Loan Amount (JPY Million)</th>
<th>ODA Loan Amount (Approx. INR Crore)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Training Institute for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project*</td>
<td>10,453</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Electric Locomotives for the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) Project*</td>
<td>108,456</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gujarat Investment Promotion Program*</td>
<td>16,825</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Upgradation of Environmental Management for Ship Recycling in Gujarat*</td>
<td>8,520</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Varanasi International Cooperation and Convention Centre Project**</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>146,494</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,230</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The date of LA Signing is September 15, 2017. The exchange rate of JPY 1 = INR 1.73 is used to calculate. * ODA Loan Project ** Grant Aid Agreement

For further details on the project LA signings, please visit our website page https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/topics/press.html

Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office; Mr. Kazuhiko Koshikawa, Ex. Senior Vice President, JICA and Mr. S. Selvakumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)
On July 7, JICA’s support led to the addition of three new Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) at Raja Canal, Nagasandra and Chikkabanavara in Bengaluru with a total treatment capacity of 65 Million Liters per Day (MLD). JICA-assisted STPs Projects will treat the sewerage generated by around 5 lakhs people in Bengaluru, and the total capacity will sum up to treating 3.5 million people’s sewerage, which consists more than one third of the total population in Bengaluru.

The STP’s were inaugurated by Mr. Siddaramaiah, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, including Mr. K.J. George, Hon’ble Minister for Bangalore Development, Town Planning, Government of Karnataka; Mr. Tushar Girinath, Chairman Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB); Mr. Takayuki Kitagawa, Consul General, Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru, and Mr. Takayoshi Tange, Senior Representative, JICA India Office, among others.

Mr. Takayoshi Tange emphasized that JICA project will contribute to improve the quality of life by improving the standards and quality of water and sanitation services, including effectiveness and efficiency along with focusing on institutional development of BWSSB. He said that the newly constructed STPs are the starting point, and stable service delivery with good operation and maintenance to realize a better quality of life is the key to success of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase II-2).

Phase II-2 Project assists rehabilitation of sewer network, reduction of Non-Revenue Water (NRW), installation of advanced Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system which enables remote control and monitoring of the facilities, and consulting services to the Project as well as to BWSSB.

On August 7, the launch meeting of a new Technical Cooperation (TC) project titled “The Project on Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development in Mizoram” (the Project) was held with the chairmanship of Mr. Lalrinliana Fanai, Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Home Department, Government of Mizoram.

From 2013 to 2015, the Government of Mizoram and JICA implemented “The Study on Development and Management of Land and Water Resources for Sustainable Agriculture in Mizoram”. As a result of the study, a master plan was formulated and officially authorized as the road map of the Government of Mizoram for future agriculture and irrigation development in the State. Based on the successful formulation of the master plan, a new chapter of the cooperation by JICA has just begun for the efforts of the Government of Mizoram on uplifting farmers’ income through the promotion of sustainable agriculture and irrigation development. In the launch meeting, Mr. Sakamoto narrated the unprecedented phone call his office received directly from a farmer in Mizoram who informed him of their zeal and high expectations for JICA project. Mr. Sakamoto expressed his surprise and delight to get such a very positive and enthusiastic call directly from a farmer, which he feels is the clear sign of readiness and willingness of farmers on the ground and the state to implement the project. He stated that we have heavy responsibilities to respond to their expectations and we shall always keep the faces of the actual beneficiaries in mind.
JICA is Actively Participating in the Dialogue for North-East States of India

JICA together with the Government of India is working enthusiastically towards developing infrastructure projects in various regions of North-East India.

JICA has been participating in meetings and workshops organized by the Government of India and Representatives of North-East India, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, NITI AAYOG and Secretaries of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

On August 3, JICA participated in the Japan-India Working Group on “Development of North East” at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi. Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office spoke on the occasion emphasizing the importance of North-East Region (NER) from the viewpoints of balanced development of India (disparity mitigation) and connectivity policy. He said, “JICA is keen to promote sustainable development of NER and actively conducting various projects across the region, in the field of road networking, agriculture, water, sanitation, forestry and so on.”

In August, JICA also actively participated in the first meeting of the Japan-India Coordination Forum (JICF) for Development of North-Eastern Region. Road networks, power infrastructure, tourism, handicrafts and handlooms, organic farming, food processing, disaster management, bamboo and fisheries, were the areas that the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region was keen to get external assistance. Secretary, DoNER, Shri Naveen Verma mentioned that Business-to-Business (B2B) and people to people contacts should also be promoted. JICA hopes that the recognition/understanding of Japan in North Eastern Region and vice versa are deepened towards the future.
Project Directors Meeting for Government Officials of Forestry and Natural Resource Management Projects Organized by JICA

On August 18, the 8th edition of Forestry Project Directors Meeting for JICA-Assisted Forestry and Natural Resource Management Projects was organized by JICA in Delhi. The purpose of meeting was to share the experiences and to facilitate cross learning and discussions on issues, such as challenges and opportunities. These pertained to afforestation, biodiversity, soil and moisture conservation, livelihood improvement, Income Generation Activities, Information Communication Technology and financial inclusion for sustainable forest management as well as women’s empowerment under JICA-assisted projects in India by the project heads and to strengthen the working environment and relationship between the Government of India, JICA and the Forest Department officials of all projects.

Esteemed guests and dignitaries included Mr. S. Selvakumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, Mr. Soumitra Dasgupta, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India and Mr. Avanish Kumar Mishra, Director, DEA, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and projects heads of various states of India, participated in the Project Directors Meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative JICA India Office mentioned, “It gives JICA immense pleasure and pride to facilitate such important cross learning and experience sharing over all these years among Project Directors. Sustainability and replicability of JICA-assisted projects are important, and the meeting brought together the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and Forest Departments of various states to share best practices in design, implementation and evaluation in JICA-assisted forest resource management projects. I would also like to highlight the collaboration between Technical Cooperation and Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan for erosion control in Uttarakhand, as a good example of integration of JICA’s various schemes.”

Informative Academic Fair: Broadening the Career Horizon with “Master of Public Policy”

On July 13, one-day academic fair was organized by Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP), University of Tokyo under the aegis of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and JICA to highlight the opportunities to study at universities in Japan. The informative session was attended by Mr. Toshiro Nishizawa, Project Professor & Chair, International Affairs Committee, GraSPP; Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, VC Ashoka University; Mr. Yoshiki Ehara, Representative, JICA India Office; Mr. Rajat Kathuria, Director & CE, ICRIER as panelists. Ms. Sanjana Joshi, Senior Consultant ICRIER was the moderator for the event and students from the various reputed colleges from Delhi University attended the academic fair.

Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Vice Chancellor Ashoka University commenced the session with a keynote speech and he rolled a panel discussion on ‘Education for the future and the role of young professionals.’ The informative session by Professor Toshiro Nishizawa, spoke about the multi-disciplinary courses and scholarship opportunities that can be availed by the students at the University of Tokyo in the Master of Public Policy, International Program (MIPP/IP). The two-year course equips the future global leaders with the cutting-edge skills and knowledge needed to solve the world’s most pressing policy challenges. The program offers a broad, multidisciplinary menu of courses taught in English by world-leading practitioners and academicians.

Mr. Yoshiki Ehara, Representative, JICA India Office spoke about the JICA-assisted ‘Champions for Societal Manufacturing (CSM) Project’. He mentioned, “JICA is facilitating a National Integrated Human Resource Development Program in Manufacturing by Fostering Visionary Leaders through five courses. These courses are being implemented in collaboration with the Government of India, Industry and Academia and over 5,100 CEOs and senior/middle-level managers have participated the programme.”

The distinguished faculty members from the Japanese universities shared the scope for research and the importance of course dedicated to public policy and discussed the industry-academia linkages wherein such research is applied seamlessly in industrial and economic development, and its ardent need in the system. This programme will act as a breeding ground for cultural interaction and it will enhance the cultural diversity and promote cross-culture synergy.
JICA Flagged off its First Extensive Program in India to Support Urban Healthcare in 17 Cities of Tamil Nadu

On July 28, JICA flagged off its first extensive health program, Urban Healthcare Project in 17 Cities of Tamil Nadu, which included Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Salem, Tirunelveli, Erode, Vellore, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Nagercoil, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Pudukottai, Krishnagiri and Periyakulam. The objective of the Project is to improve the quality of healthcare services in urban areas through strengthening the capacity of key hospitals with the upgradation of facilities and equipment in all these cities. In addition, the Project aims to strengthen the capacity of human resources with the focus on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), thereby improving the health of people in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Toru Uemachi, Senior Representative, JICA India Office said that through this project assistance, JICA will play an instrumental role in providing better access to innovative healthcare services in urban areas and promote a healthy lifestyle in the state of Tamil Nadu. He further mentioned that in parallel, JICA has had a series of discussions with the GoTN on the possibility of technical cooperation closely connected to the Project. He said that using several assistance modalities effectively, JICA renders its continuous support and engagement by improving the quality of healthcare services in urban areas. JICA is also achieving the targets envisioned in line with state’s health plan “Vision Tamil Nadu 2023” which is to provide universal access to public health services. Thus, the substantive improvement will provide appropriate treatment towards critical medical problems and issues in addition to Maternal and Child Health (MCH), NCDs, and Communicable Diseases at all levels of the health system.

First SCADA System with Water-Controlled Valves for Equitable Water Distribution Commenced in Delhi

On August 29, the seminar under the technical cooperation project of JICA, named “The Assistance Related to Delhi Water Supply Improvement Project” was organized by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and JICA. The objectives of the seminar were to share the experiences and knowledge of water supply management and to inaugurate the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems in Pitampura Pilot Project area.

Esteemed guests included Ms. Nidhi Srivastava, Additional CEO, DJB; Mr. S.N.A Najmi, Member Finance, DJB; Mr. Yoichi Yamamoto, Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Tokyo Waterworks), Ms. Eriko Tamura, Director- Water Resource Group, Global Environment Department, JICA Head Office and Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, among others.

The seminar participants shared the experiences and knowledge of water supply management and to inaugurate the SCADA systems in Pitampura Pilot Project area. It is estimated that The National Capital Territory of Delhi has a high rate of Non-Revenue Water (NRW*) between 40 to 50% and the reduction of NRW was one of the major issues to be tackled for efficient usage of drinking water.

Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said that JICA has conducted the technical cooperation project for 4 years in order to improve the skills and management capacities of DJB officials and to implement the Pilot Project. It is the first SCADA system in Delhi to monitor and control the water distribution with water-controlled valves at 13 local control points, which would enable DJB to initiate equitable distribution and NRW management in Delhi. JICA has extended the support not only on the installation of SCADA system, but also on the provision of the Japanese expertise on operation method and management of equitable distribution using SCADA. Officials from Tokyo Metropolitan Government, whose NRW ratio is prominently low, were also invited as JICA Experts for presentations.
Two officers from JICA Peru office (Peruvian and Japanese) visited India for 1 & 2 weeks, respectively for ‘On the Job Training’ (OJT) in July 2017. The objective of the OJT was cross learning and take notes of JICA India Office’s practices / operations, including the projects formulation, projects administration and project monitoring system, team work of the National and Japanese staff in order to have better productivity in the office operations.

The OJT program comprises of the lectures and interactive sessions with the Chief Representative, Senior Representatives, National and Japanese Staff of various sectors, Public Relations and office administrative matters. Similarly, the demonstration of the project review and monitoring (including site visits) of on-going and completed projects, namely “Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project Phase 3”, “Yamuna Action Plan Project (III)”, “Agra Water Supply Project”, “Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project” and “Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (Phase 2)” was also conducted. JICA Peru officials also had a chance to exchange their valuable experience and learning feedback with JICA’s Senior Vice President Mr. Irigaki, who was coincidentally visiting India on a mission, and all the staff at the JICA India Office on the last day of the OJT.

As the key take-away, JICA Peru officers applauded good practices of India Office in terms of i) project monitoring mechanism for ensuring accountability with commitment through periodical reviews and Back-To-Office-Report followed by periodical follow-up, ii) application of the lessons learnt specially in new and other on-going projects, iii) Inclusive ownership & commitment in project formulation, iv) Intensive interactions with all the stakeholders concerned (Executing Agency, Consultants, contractors, Government officials for possessive commitment, iv) JICA’s lead and dedication in projects, monitoring discussions and get the project issues resolved by proactively taking up the matters with higher authorities by ensuring Indian side’s ownership / responsibility, and v) promoting PR as a strategic tool to articulate and re-recognize project purposes clearly.

As one of the key findings, JICA Peru Officers underscored the importance of the strong commitment for the timely project completion through intensive project review and monitoring together with regular periodical site visits in order to deepen understanding of the realistic assessment on the ground and getting the issues resolved at the earliest. JICA Peru officers were also impressed with the team work with absolute mutual trust between National and Japanese staff, respect and commitment amongst the office staff, resulting in a friendly office environment, keeping the motivation levels high in order to secure the highest productivity of JICA operations by one and all. In fact, it is the unique secret of JICA India Office, which results in strengthening the robust ties between India and Japan besides bringing up the disbursement ratio, highest commitment / disbursement and creating a shining example of Indo Japanese Cooperation on a global basis. JICA Peru officers promised to do their best to improve their operations in Peru and to deliver more positive impacts in the world based on the OJT in India.