JICA Extends Its Cooperation to Strengthen India-Japan Relationship

Project Update
JICA’s First Loan Project Towards New Andhra Pradesh to Increase Agricultural Productivity Together with the Farmers

Project Update
On December 13, 2017, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an agreement with the Government of India to provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan of 21,297 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 1,200 crores) to the Water Resources Department (WRD) and allied departments under the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) for “Andhra Pradesh Irrigation and Livelihood Improvement Project (Phase 2) (Tranche I)”. The agreement was signed between Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office and Mr. S. Selvakumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) at the Loan Agreement Signing Ceremony.

The Project will enhance the agricultural productivity, strengthening institutional and marketing capacities of farmers by rehabilitating existing irrigation systems, supporting integrated farming systems and strengthening value chain development, thereby contributing toward improvement of livelihoods of farmers and other rural communities in Andhra Pradesh. The Project will focus on rehabilitation of around 20 major and/or medium irrigation systems, and around 450 minor irrigation schemes across all districts of Andhra Pradesh.

A unique feature of the Project pertains to pilot activities for food value chain development of selected cash crops such as mango, tomato, chilli and coconuts as well as establishment of Agriculture Mechanisation & Training Centre (AMTC) for promotion of farm mechanization.
On November 11, the inauguration ceremony of four newly constructed Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) with total treatment capacity of 136 Million Liters per Day (MLD) was held. These STPs will treat the sewerage generated by more than 1 million people in Bengaluru.

The total capacity of JICA funded STPs will sum up to treating 5.3 million people’s sewerage, which consists of roughly a half of population in Bengaluru.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Mr. Siddaramaiah, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka.

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### JICA Announced Scholarships to Create Future of India with Japan for IIT Hyderabad Graduates

On November 6, 2017, JICA announced its new scholarships support scheme for the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) students to study in internationally renowned universities of Japan during the 6th Edition of the Academic Fair, organized under the aegis of the JICA-FRIENDSHIP Project at Hyderabad. These Scholarships will be offered to 30 graduating students of IIT-H to pursue masters or Ph.D. and will cover tuition fees and living cost in Japan. Eight Japanese Universities introduced features and advantages of their respective institutes to IIT-H students during the fair.

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### Key Insights Shared by JICA Experts at Railway Safety Seminar for Capacity Development of the Railway Sector in India

On November 13, 2017, a Railway Safety Seminar was held at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss and highlight the importance of the railway safety for effective and efficient railway operations in India. Various JICA Japanese experts presented their experiences and lessons learned from their activities on railway safety in Japan.

The seminar was attended by Dr. Fumino Okumura of Japan Transport Safety Board, Railtec, Senior officials from the Government of India Mr. Hori, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan and Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office. These Japanese experts shared their findings on themes related to railway safety issues.

At the seminar, Mr. Sakamoto, said, “India is a very special country and Japan collaborates with India in its development activities. JICA is extremely pleased that the Government of India has given JICA an opportunity to share knowledge, views and discuss for the safety of railways in India.”
Highlights of JICA’s Meeting with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India

On November 28 and 29, 2017, JICA’s Management and Officers-in-Charge (OIC) met Mr. S. Selvakumar, Joint Secretary, DEA, Ministry of Finance, GOI, Mr. Kenko Sone, Minister, Embassy of Japan and Executing Agencies (EAs) to monitor ongoing ODA loan projects and to discuss the implementation plan for the projects. The prevailing issues and future course of action were discussed between the OICs from JICA and EA of the project, in presence of DEA.

Mr. Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office presented a few points which would work towards effective implementation of the projects. He insisted that speedy and timely disbursement should be executed in all the projects, the quality infrastructure should be amongst the top priority and adherence to safety measure should be a mandate at the project sites.

A total of 30 key projects were discussed in a span of two days. The meeting was a productive one that promised acceleration of projects relating to diverse sectors in varied states.

Seminar Held on Promotion of Intra-Regional Connectivity in North-Eastern Regions of India

On December 5, 2017, a seminar on the promotion of Intra-Regional Connectivity in the North-Eastern Regions (NER) of India was organized by JICA in Delhi. JICA highlighted its commitment to develop key infrastructure such as road connectivity, electricity, water supply and sewage, to social and environmental sustainability such as afforestation and community empowerment in the North-Eastern Region.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative JICA India Office mentioned, “JICA is keen to support the sustainable development of NER. The development of NER is very important because it will uplift the standard of living of citizens in these regions, will lead to the balanced development of India and will act as a gateway between India and neighboring countries.

JICA Unveiled the Book ‘Breaking Ground’ - A Narrative on the Making of Delhi Metro, an Ethnography on the Lifeline of Delhi Commuters

On November 19, 2017, JICA presented the research report, “Breaking Ground - A Narrative on the Making of Delhi Metro” to articulate secrets of JICA’s “Shining Example” Delhi Metro Project. This report was published as a part of JICA ex-post evaluation exercise of the Delhi Metro Project with an intention to throw light on the processes underlining the development of successful metro project in India namely Delhi Metro.

The report is a guide to explore the trajectory of development of Delhi Metro, which has become an essential part of daily life in the present day of Delhi.
JICA Facilitated Delhi Metro Tour of the Hon’ble State Minister of Agriculture, GoJ and Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, GoJ

On November 4, 2017, Hon’ble State Minister of Agriculture Mr. Masaaki Taniai visited the yellow line of the Delhi Metro under the guidance of Chief Representative.

In addition, on December 28, 2017, JICA had the honour of receiving Hon’ble Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Mr. Keiichi Ishii, who was guided by Senior Representative Mr. Takayoshi Tange. Both of them appreciated the joint efforts of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and JICA for collaborating closely and constructively for benefiting the lives of the citizens of Delhi. JICA assisted Delhi Metro project has become a shining example of JICA cooperation in the whole world.

JICA’s Active Participation in ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit at New Delhi

From December 11 to 12, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations India Connectivity Summit (AICS) was held in New Delhi. The theme of the summit was ‘Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century’. It was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative JICA India Office mentioned, “We must ensure the quality of infrastructure to achieve sustainable development and to bring well-being and benefits to people. Quality infrastructure is easy to use and durable, as well as environmentally friendly and disaster resilient, and cost-effective in the long run”.

JICA India’s Chief Representative Delivered His Speech at IIT-Delhi

On December 13, 2017, JICA Chief Representative delivered his speech at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi to discuss the importance of “Quality Infrastructure for Quality Growth”.

Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, made a presentation about how quality infrastructure can create a sustainable environment in terms of safety assurance, resilience and reliability.

JICA also shared its experience in building a reliable mobility infrastructure like the Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) with its support through ODA loan provision and Technical Cooperation. JICA further explained how infrastructure plays a vital role in generating power efficiently and also in the reduction of power loss of which JICA’s transmission system project in Haryana is a good example.
JICA India’s Chief Makes Presentation in Chennai to Draw Interest Amongst the Japanese Business Society

On November 30, 2017, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India, made a presentation on the occasion of the monthly meeting of Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Chennai (JCCIC), called as “Sannoku-kai”, focusing upon the achievements of JICA’s partnership with Tamil Nadu, which has prospered since 1981.

JICA aims to mitigate the business risks that occur in the state and will encourage business development by Japanese companies. Since JICA recognises the huge potential and gigantic development needs in Tamil Nadu.

JICA has extended 438,780 million Japanese Yen (approximately INR 26,000 crore) to Tamil Nadu through ODA loans since 1981 for its comprehensive development.

The initiatives facilitated through these ODA loans include the Chennai Metro, Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Program, power transmission systems, provision for safe water supply and sewerage facilities, water supply enhancement, fluorosis mitigation in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts, enhancement of operations of the Chennai port and biodiversity conservation, among others.

Mr. Sakamoto reiterated that JICA aims to provide better access to services in urban areas and promote a healthy lifestyle in Tamil Nadu.

A High-Level Delegation of the Government from Hyogo Prefecture, Japan Visited the JICA India Office During their “Mission to Gujarat in India”

On October 30, JICA hosted a high-level delegation of the Government of Japan from the Hyogo Prefecture at New Delhi. The delegation was led by Mr. Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture and comprised of 45 members from related assemblies, Japanese enterprises, and local government entities. Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office gave them a brief on JICA’s activities and function in India which brought to their attention India’s growth potential and its huge market. The delegation shared that many companies in Hyogo prefecture will surely express strong interest in India as a critical partner for expanding their future operations, which could lead to the development of both India and Japan.

The delegation was visiting India for a special assignment “Mission to Gujarat in India” to explore business opportunities to enhance economic and social ties with Gujarat and the stakeholders in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

The delegation successfully visited Ahmedabad (HSR, Metro Sites) so that they could deepen their understanding of JICA’s role under the guidance of Ms. Momoko Furuhashi, Representative, JICA India and representatives from Japan International Consultants for Transportation Co., Ltd.
JICA India Facilitated Knowledgeable Cross Learning Program for “Agriculture & Irrigation Development” and “Enhancement of Project Monitoring” in India

From November 12-18, a Cross Learning Program for “Agriculture & Irrigation Development” and “Enhancement of Project Monitoring” was organized by JICA in New Delhi. JICA officers from the seven JICA overseas offices namely in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bhutan and India participated in this learning program. The objective of the learning program was to share experiences, build sectoral knowledge and understanding of agriculture & irrigation sector, and enhance the capacities to monitor on-going projects.

The participants visited sites at Hamirpur and Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh for the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Project (HPCDP). On arriving back in Delhi, the participants discussed and exchanged ideas on the issues, lessons learned, best practices, available resources, etc. related to agriculture & irrigation sector projects in each office.

JICA Congratulates Mr. M.P. Singh on Receiving Honours and Accolades for His Service to Humanity from His Distinguished Alumni

We are pleased to share that Mr. M.P. Singh, Chief Development Specialist, JICA India Office, who is an integral part of JICA for more than two decades, has been honoured with International Living Legend Felicitation Distinguished Alumni Honours and Accolades by Harcourt Butler Technical University (HBTU) Alumni for his meritorious services rendered for upliftment of the society through socio-economic development.

On November 25, 2017, the HBTU, which is alma mater of Mr. Singh, held “International Alumni Living Legends Felicitation Distinguished Alumni Honours and Accolades of Service to Humanity” ceremony to appreciate and recognise the commendable service Mr. Singh performed towards protection of environment, conservation of rivers, development of infrastructure and livelihoods improvement at large.

The award commended Mr. Singh’s journey from his humble beginnings to his achievement of admirable success in recognition of his association with the Government of India and Japan. The accolade also recognised his career for influencing the policies and their effective implementation on-ground to have visible impact on society as a whole.

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