JICA Extends Its Cooperation to Strengthen India-Japan Relationship

**Events/Workshops**

1. JICA Shared Insights on Solid Waste Management at the 8th Regional 3R Forum, Indore

2. JICA Shared Best Practices to Enhance Forest Ecosystems at the 10th Annual Forestry Workshop

3. The First National Level Workshop for Agriculture Projects Supported by JICA in India

4. Promoting Excellence in Healthcare Sector in Tamil Nadu through JICA's Cooperation

5. JICA India Chief Highlighted Japanese Contribution at the North-East Development Conclave

6. JICA India Chief Addressed “India- Japan Ties” at the Ahmedabad Management Association


8. Safe Water Distribution started in Nagaur, Rajasthan with JICA’s Support

9. JICA Facilitated Delhi Metro Tour for the Japanese Parliament Delegation

10. JICA Congratulates Mr. Vineet Sarin for Receiving ‘Star Alumni Award’ from his Alma Mater for his Contribution towards ‘Environment & Social Sector - Development Banking’

JICA Shared Insights on Solid Waste Management at the 8th Regional 3R Forum, Indore

On April 12, 2018, the 8th Regional 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Forum in Asia and the Pacific Mission Zero Waste, was organized at the Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The forum was organized by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and supported by the Ministry of Environment of Japan (MOEJ). The forum was inaugurated by Sumitra Mahajan, Lok Sabha Speaker; Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister, Independent Charge, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA); Birgitte Bryld, Senior Officer, United Nations; Maya Singh, Member of Parliament, Urban Development and Housing.

Mr. Tadahiko Ito, State Minister of Environment, Japan and Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India.

Mr. Takema Sakamoto made a presentation on JICA’s Approach for Solid Waste Management at the forum. He stated that the three key messages based on JICA’s experience, which can be followed in India, are Diagnostics and Analytics, Awareness Improvement and Public Participation, and Private Sector Involvement.

Diagnostics and Analytics include Identification of challenges in solid waste management, Awareness Improvement and Public Participation include involvement of civil society for social innovation and promotion of environmental education, whereas Private Sector Involvement include the creation of a better business environment for efficiency and sustainability and comprehensive approach e.g. development of technology. JICA’s view for assistance in the context lays down a process of 3 stages -Improvement of public hygiene, Reduction of environmental burden and prevention of pollution and Establishment of material-cycle society with 3R initiative. Mr. Sakamoto’s key messages made such an impact that they were mentioned in the forum’s chair summary.

Reiterating Japan’s support to India, Mr. Sakamoto, used the platform to promote the famous Japanese children’s book, Mottainai Grandma, which is about behavioral change and was released in Hindi and English in New Delhi in January obtaining JICA’s support.
On April 11 and 12, 2018, the 10th Annual Workshop for JICA-assisted Forestry and Natural Resource Management Projects, organized by the Forest Department, Government of Uttarakhand (GoUK) with support from JICA was held in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand.

Mr. Trivendra Singh Rawat, Hon’ble Chief Minister (CM), GoUK inaugurated the workshop. The workshop provided a platform for discussion on challenges and opportunities pertaining to sustainable forest management and livelihood development. This will be realised through a new approach on enhancement of the forest productivity & innovative approaches on afforestation/reforestation.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “JICA has been the largest donor in the forest sector in India. We aim to enhance the ecosystem for increased forest cover, effective soil and moisture conservation, biodiversity, disaster management, gender equality and livelihood development for communities on forest fringes and others. Knowledge exchanged at the seminar would help enhance sustainability in the ecosystem and improve the environment of India.”

The First National Level Workshop for Agriculture Projects Supported by JICA in India

On May 7 and 8, 2018, the first two-day national level workshop titled “Challenges and Opportunities in Crop Diversification” was held in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh (HP). The workshop was organized by the Project Management Unit of JICA cooperated “Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project (HPCDPP)” as the first national level workshop for the exchange of experiences and knowledge.

Mr. Jai Ram Thakur, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Government of HP and Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India among others, delivered their opening remarks at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sakamoto said, “JICA strongly suggests not to focus only on ‘the introduction of new technologies,’ ‘tangible facilities’ development’ or ‘crop diversification as just the methodology. In order to materialize real increase of farmers’ income, one of the core issues of agricultural development in India, JICA requests all participants to consider the interventions that are effective and how it’s advantages can be replicated in other projects.”

Promoting Excellence in Healthcare Sector in Tamil Nadu through JICA’s Cooperation

On May 3, 2018, JICA in collaboration with Health and Family Welfare (H&FW), Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) organised a seminar to celebrate the first-year anniversary of the new Out Patient Department (OPD) at the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children (ICH) in Chennai. The objective of the seminar was to share knowledge and experience of implementing healthcare programs in Japan and India.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Toru Uemachi, Senior Representative, JICA India, said, “JICA has been proud to proactively and comprehensively support healthcare initiatives in Tamil Nadu. Since the OPD opened around 10,000 patients visit the OPD, every day. JICA is also devoting enormous efforts with already existing Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan project, which is Tamil Nadu Urban Health Project (TNUHP), to scale-up access to the quality healthcare for all in a close collaboration with H&FW, GoTN. We do hope that TNUHP shall be implemented effectively based on the quality outcome that ICH had achieved and we do believe that Tamil Nadu state is going to be a shining model of healthcare infrastructure in India.”
JICA India Chief Highlighted Japanese Contribution and showed the way forward at the North-East Development Conclave

On May 4, 2018, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India, addressed the North-East Development Conclave, held in New Delhi. JICA highlighted their commitment to developing Intra-Regional Connectivity in the North-Eastern Regions (NER) with state-of-the-art infrastructure.

At the event, Mr. Sakamoto said, “JICA is keen to support the sustainable development of NER. The development of NER uplifts the living standard of the people and acts as a gateway between India and neighbouring countries.” He added that some challenges need to be addressed for moving forward, such as good preparation with high-priority, demonstration of implementation capacity, stable security situation, etc.

JICA’s cooperation for NER includes projects for road connectivity, electricity, forestry, water supply and sewerage.

JICA India Chief Addressed “India- Japan Ties” in Ahmedabad

On April 13, 2018, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India, addressed at the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA), as the guest speaker, talking about India- Japan Relationship and JICA’s activities. The seminar was exclusively organized for Mr. Sakamoto so that he could engage with the citizens of Ahmedabad and express sincere partnership between India and Japan.

Mr. Mukesh Patel, President, Indo-Japan Friendship Association, Gujarat shed light on JICA’s impetus on India-Japan ties. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sakamoto said, “Gujarat is the hotspot for Japanese investment and JICA has been supporting the state’s development since 1981. JICA’s projects in India are not only improving infrastructure but are also indirectly helping in bringing about an attitude shift amongst the people, i.e., people are learning to be in a queue while waiting for the metro, punctuality due to the timely arrival of metro trains etc. This way JICA will reach every Indian’s heart through its cooperation and contribution towards social and economic development.”


On April 25, 2018, the first workshop and the opening ceremony of JICA supported “Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Gap Resolution of Water Demand/Supply by Plastic Underground Rainwater Storage System”, was held at the Tamil Nadu Public Works Department’s (PWD) Tharamani Campus in Chennai.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Yoshiomi Yoshino, Senior Representative, JICA India Office, said, “JICA realizes the need to tackle water management issues in Chennai, and plans to bring innovative solutions for them. We are supporting Totetsu’s (Japanese private company) initiatives in collaboration with the Government of Tamil Nadu in pursuit of feasible solutions to diversify water sources in a water scarce city like Chennai. Totetsu’s ‘Universal Rainwater Storage’ (UN System), installed as a pilot, is a cutting-edge rainwater storage technology. This initiative, if replicated in other areas, has the potential to plug water shortages in many other rain-rich but water scarce cities, making rainwater harvesting a popular and cost-effective source of water supply.”
Safe Water Distribution started in Nagaur, Rajasthan with JICA’s Support

On May 2, 2018, the newly constructed water distribution system was inaugurated in Deedwana town, Nagaur District, Rajasthan. Ms. Vasundhara Raje, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan, inaugurated the ceremony. The ceremony was attended by other high-ranking Government Officials and JICA Representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Takema Sakamoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “JICA recognizes the critical need for supplying safe drinking water to the people, especially in a vastly water scarce state as Rajasthan. Fluorine-contaminated underground water has been a very serious issue for a long period in this project area, and JICA strives to mitigate this situation through the Project.”

JICA Facilitated Delhi Metro Tour for the Japanese Parliament Delegation

On April 10, 2018, JICA facilitated another tour to the Delhi Metro, for Mr. Takuya Hirai, Member of the House of Representative, who was accompanied by four Members of the House of Representative- Mr. Seiji Kihara, Mr. Yoshiaki Wada, Mr. Soichiro Okuno, Ms. Yuriko Yamakawa, two Members of House of Councilors- Mr. Hisatake Sugi and Ms. Wakako Yata and Mr. Akihiko Tanaka, Former JICA President and President of GRIPS (National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies).

On May 2, 2018, JICA facilitated the Delhi Metro tour for Mr. Kishida Fumio, Chairperson, Policy Research Council, Liberal Democratic Party Member, House of Representatives.

On May 4, 2018, JICA organized a visit for Mr. Masatoshi Akimoto, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to the Delhi Metro and on May 5, 2018 Mr. Akimoto visited the Ahmedabad station of the JICA funded High-Speed Train. He also visited the construction site of the JICA funded Ahmedabad Metro.

They all praised the remarkable achievements of the Delhi Metro as a “shining example”, with its safe, stable, comfortable and clean operations.

JICA Congratulates Mr. Vineet Sarin for Receiving ‘Distinguished Alumni Award’ from his Alma Mater for his Contribution towards the Environment & Social Sector

On April 29, 2018, Mr. Vineet Sahai Sarin, Additional Chief Development Specialist, JICA India, was honoured with the ‘Distinguished Alumni Award’, in honour and recognition of his significant contribution and exemplary work in the ‘Environment & Social Sector (Development Banking), by the alumni of his Alma Mater, St. Joseph’s College, Nainital (Uttarakhand), which is run by the Congregation of Irish Christian Brothers, a pontifical institute, founded in Ireland in 1802.

His Excellency Mr. Brian McElduff, Ambassador of Ireland to India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and presented the award to Mr. Sarin along with other awardees. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sarin said, “I dedicate this award to JICA and wish to express my deep gratitude to JICA for having provided me with the opportunity to be in charge of the ‘Forests & Natural Resource Management sector’ for more than two decades. “