'New' JICA: Merger of JICA and JBIC Yen-Loan Division

2008 is going to be another landmark year for JICA. It will take on the Yen Loan operations from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) on 1st October 2008. The staff members of JBIC's ODA operation wing will also join in the new JICA organization.

JBIC is well known for its support to economic infrastructure development projects in India. The Delhi Metro Rail is famous among the Delhiites as a symbol of Japanese economic cooperation. Goa Water Supply and Sewerage and Maharashtra Transmission System are among the few projects for which it has signed a Loan Agreement with the Government of India in 2007. Its annual loan commitment reached Rs.83.8 billion in FY2006.

This merger is based on a decision made by the Government of Japan in 2006, as part of the institutional reform of government-owned financial institutions. But it also helps in streamlining the Official Development Assistance (ODA) operations.

First, it integrates the existing two country operation plans so that the Japanese ODA projects could be identified and carried out under a single corporate strategy and plan of operations.

Second, it strengthens the linkage between Japanese technical cooperation and financial assistance. The impact created by pilot projects supported by its technical cooperation wing could be scaled up using the funds provided by its financial assistance wing. Also, sustainability of loan-financed projects is more likely to be achieved with the institutional capacity enhanced concurrently by technical cooperation.

Merger preparation is underway in India, too, from hunting for a new office site to mutual learning of each programmes among staff members. Joint effort has already been made in the Programme Identification Mission organized in November 2007 to come up with a single country operation plan. Also, a series of events including dissemination seminars would be organized in 2008 to familiarize the new JICA to people in India.
Message from Resident Representative

In recent years, India has been achieving rapid economic growth—a change most visible in the crowded shopping malls and change in consumption patterns.

In this rapidly changing scenario, what is expected of JICA? The Eleventh Five Year Plan of the Indian Government clearly shows the direction which JICA should take in the future. For more than 40 years, JICA has worked in close collaboration with the Indian Government for bridging several divides and to reduce poverty—particularly in the rural areas.

In the past decades, technical experts from JICA have transferred Japanese technical know-how in the diverse fields like rice cultivation, vaccine processing, sericulture, diarrhea diseases treatment, manufacturing business skills etc.

JICA has been engaging two approaches in technical cooperation: the top-down approach that expands organization/institution capacity and the bottom-up approach that empowers people. JICA supports capacity building initiatives to empower people to solve their own problems and to sustain their development. From the person to the person, from the Japanese people to the Indian people, JICA will continue to wholeheartedly execute technical cooperation to transfer the technologies and the experiences of Japan that India needs.

The Yen Loan division of JBIC (Japan Bank of International Cooperation) will be integrated into JICA in October, 2008. JICA will, therefore, make further effort in order to support the Government of India to attain the goals of the Eleventh Five Year Plan as an integrated aid agency that offers three schemes (Technical Cooperation, Yen Loan and Grant Aid Assistance).

I wish JICA will play an important role to bridge between the people of India and people of Japan through creating better tomorrow for all.

Tomoyuki Fujii
Resident Representative
India Office
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

A Brief Note on JICA

JICA is an independent administrative institution established by Government of Japan, to contribute to economic and social advancement in developing countries and help expedite Japan's international cooperation. Through its wide network of about 100 overseas offices worldwide and 18 branch-offices in Japan, JICA promotes projects that meet local needs, through technical cooperation and grant-aid projects, under Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). In fiscal year 2007, its annual budget was Yen 155.6 billion ($ 1.5 billion).

With the addition of the Yen-loan portfolio in October 2008, JICA would become one of the world's largest bilateral development agencies with an annual budget of approximately $8.5 billion and will be able to offer not only the technical cooperation which it currently extends, but also grant and loan assistance, all "under one roof."

Last year, JICA India Office celebrated its 40th Anniversary of partnership with the Government of India.
Agriculture & Rural Development

Poverty Alleviation

Conclusion of Bivoltine Sericulture Project after 16 Years of Cooperation

In August 2007, the Project for Strengthening Extension System for Bivoltine Sericulture (PEBS) came to an end, leaving a huge impact on the sericulture farmers in the southern states. The first phase of its implementation started in 1991 covering the States of Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh. The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles and the State Sericulture Departments. At the end of the cooperation period, bivoltine silk production in these states has increased to 847 tonnes. During the 11th Five-Year Plan period, the Government of India aims at boosting the production to 5,000 tonne per annum in the whole country.

Reeling unit for bivoltine silk

High-value, hybrid silk cocoons at a wholesale market in Karnataka
Milestones Achieved for Sericulture Project

- Introduction of bivoltine variety to India and improvement of mulberry farming.
- Establishment of a series of bivoltine sericulture technology including mass production of quality seed.
- Establishment of the extension model for bivoltine sericulture covering more than 3,700 farmers.
- Capacity development of stakeholders including the central and state government officials, farmers and reekers through strengthening of training systems.
- Substantial increase of farmers’ incomes by 2 to 10 times.
- Improvement of reeling technology by introducing multi-end reeling machines; and
- Significant social impacts such as creation of local industry and employment for landless farmers.

This project has created a practical system in identifying the critical input like package of practices, support mechanism, developing human resources and extension system to sustain bivoltine programme at field level. JICA has published several extension manuals/booklets and video demonstration on mulberry cultivation, silkworm seed production, silkworm rearing, silk reeling technology, and Rotary Mountage Technology, which were extensively used in sericulture extension activities. These materials were prepared in local languages namely, Kannada, Telugu and Tamil in order to reach to a larger number of beneficiaries.

Based on the successful result of the project, the Government of India is planning to improve the quality of domestic bivoltine raw silk, in order to effectively compete against Chinese silk imports.

Progress of the Study on Diversified Agriculture and Enhanced Farm Income in Himachal Pradesh

The state of Himachal Pradesh is located in the northern part of India at the foot of the Himalayas. Since the lands under cultivation are distributed in the mountainous and hilly terrain areas, most of the farm households have only the short segments of land. In order to enhance the income as well as the living conditions of those marginal farmers, it is essential to increase the productivity of existing cultivated area by adopting cash crops such as vegetables and by making the best use of climatic and temperature differences in the hilly areas.

To this end, JICA, together with the state government, has initiated the development study to formulate a Master Plan on rural development through diversified agriculture for enhanced farm income in the state; and to transfer relevant skills and technologies to the Indian counterpart personnel. The study period is scheduled from February 2007 till February 2009.

Commencement Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Water Management Improvement Project

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been undertaking creation and modernization of irrigation systems under supports from donor agencies including JIC and the World Bank. Along with those upgrades of irrigation infrastructure, improvement of water management has also given priority in order to enhance water use efficiency and reduce conflicts equitably.

In 2006, the Government of India requested the Japanese government for JICA Technical Cooperation Programme in order to find a solution to the above problems. Upon the request, the Preparatory Study Team visited Hyderabad in December 2007 to work out the framework of the technical cooperation concerning ‘Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Water Management Improvement Project’.

This project is expected to start from the first quarter of the fiscal year 2008.
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Himachal Hilly Terrain Areas

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Environment Conservation

Since 2005, JICA has extended a technical cooperation to Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA) for its better urban lake management as well as its better design and operation of Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs).

Mr. Toshihiro Arai, who arrived in Hyderabad as JICA long-term expert in September 2007, has assisted HUDA implement activities including capacity building of HUDA engineers and organization of the 2nd stakeholders workshop on 28th January 2008. The workshop was held with the purpose of seeking participation and inputs from the various stakeholders residing in the catchment area of the Lake. A large number of stakeholders participated and provided inputs for better management and restoring the lost glory of the Hussain Sagar Lake.

Project for Strengthening Capacity on Restoration and Management of Hussain Sagar Lake

Due to fast urbanization and industrialization, the Hussain Sagar Lake, which was used as drinking water source until 1930s has gradually become a receptacle of untreated sewage and industrial effluents. As a result the lake has become highly polluted.

The JICA Expert, Mr. Arai, provides explanation at the Technical Session of the Stakeholder Workshop for Improvement of Hussainsagar Lake Catchment Area.
Capacity Building Project for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Sewerage Works

The capacity building for operation and maintenance of sewerage works in India is being implemented from April 2007 to March 2010. The project is an extension of project which was earlier implemented from October 2004 to October 2006.

Mr. Junji Wakabayashi, JICA long-term expert to National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD), Ministry of Environment and Forests was deputed from the Japan Sewerage Works Agency.

The project is intended to undertake activities for drafting a plan for human resource development as well as organizing pilot training programmes in the field. Targets trainees are: (i) technical operators and junior engineers; and (ii) assistant and executive engineers responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants.

Project for Conservation and Wise-use of Natural Resources of Chilika Lagoon through Community Participation

The Project is now commencing pilot project activities in collaboration with the Chilika Development Authorities (CDA) for livelihood improvement in villages surrounding the Lake.

To begin with, a training workshop has taken place for local NGOs, who play the key role to work with the local communities. Numbers of workshops are held in the villages to determine the various income generating activities to be introduced through the series of discussion by the villager themselves.

The Project has also started the research activities focusing on biological and ecological surveys including collection of the fish landing data in order to establish the scientific fishery resources management for conservation and wise-use of natural resources of Chilika lagoon.
Support For Economic Development

The Dedicated Freight Corridor Project: Submission of Final Report

JICA has completed the Final Feasibility Study Report for the Development of Dedicated Multi-modal, High-Axle-Load Freight Corridor with Computerized Train Control System. The report was handed over to the Ministry of Railways on 19th October 2007.

The Feasibility Study had been conducted by JICA in response to a request from Government of India. This project is one of the Eight Fold Initiatives for Strengthening Japan-India Global Partnership agreed by the Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, former Prime Minister of Japan, on 29th April 2005.

The project envisages two dedicated freight corridors - one connecting JNPT port to Rewari on the outskirts of Delhi and the other linking Ludhiana to Sonnagar in Bilar. These would be linked with "feeder lines" from ports, mines and industrial zones. The study has recommended the implementation of this ambitious project in three phases, starting with the Rewari-Vadodara section (918km) along the Western Corridor and the Mughal Sarai - Khurja (710km) along the Eastern Corridor.

In order to ensure that the project is economically and environmentally sustainable the study has recommended the use of electric locomotives; minimizing land acquisition by aligning the corridor along existing railway lines; by-passing major cities, towns as well as environmentally sensitive areas like forests and wildlife sanctuaries.

Government of India has created a separate agency for this project the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), which is expected to take on the project implementation after obtaining necessary resources and approvals.

Operation & Maintenance of Expressways

India has a road network of nearly 3.4 million km, which is the leading mode of freight as well as passenger transportation. However, the efficiency of Indian roads is constrained by a number of factors, including the quality and coverage of road operation & maintenance.

Since Japan has considerable experience in developing high standard Expressways and Highways, Government of India has sought JICA's technical assistance in the field of Sustainable Development of Expressways in India.

JICA has now deputed Mr. Mamoru Tanaka to the Ministry of Shipping Road Transportation and Highways (MoRT&H) for two years from 8th June 2007. Mr. Tanaka is presently assisting MoRT&H in its efforts to prepare Guidelines and Standards for sustainable Expressway Development.

Electric Traction System

Well Type Double Stack Container Wagon

An artist's impression of the double-stack freight train
Partnership with NGOs

JICA Partnership Programme (JPP) activity in India

JICA Partnership Programme (JPP) is JICA's initiative to support Japanese NGOs, universities, local governments that promote sustainable livelihoods of deprived communities in India. JPP supports collaborative projects between Japanese organizations and Indian NGOs, working at the grassroots level. NGO-JICA Japan Desk has been set up in JICA India Office to support the collective effort of both Japanese and Indian NGOs. For more details, visit our website.

URL: http://www.jicaandiaoffice.org/welcome_e.htm


Miyazaki International Volunteer Centre (MIVC), a Japanese NGO based in the southern island in Japan, along with Dr. Graham's Homes (GH) in Kalimpong is working for the better livelihoods of local farmers situated in the Himalayan foothills of north-east India through technical assistance in horticulture and food processing. Already local farmers started selling Statice in Calcutta where it was more appreciated than the conventional flowers. With the increased production of other nutritious vegetables and rice, the project also hopes to improve the nutrition level of people in Kalimpong.

2. Hospet Project (Bellar, Karnataka): Ecologically sustainable rural development through community participation with a focus to women's empowerment (October 2006-October 2009)

This collaborative project between Live with Friends on Earth (LFE)*, Tokyo, Japan and Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (MYRADA), Bangalore, Karnataka spread across 26 villages in the south-west part of Hospet. In a highly degraded environment with serious soil erosion, the project aims at fulfilling efficient and sustainable watershed development and water resource management by villagers, especially by women through Watershed Development Associations (WDAs).

Society for Mutual Aid, Networking, Environment, Education, Development (SOMNEED), a Japanese NGO based in central Japan, and its Indian counterpart SOMNEED India in Visakhapatnam have been working in the area over the years. The objective is to enable community-based organizations (CBOs) to plan, manage and implement natural resource management and mobilize necessary resources for village development activities. The project is working closely with the members of CBOs to help them realize the significance of existing natural endowments in the village.

4 Kushinagar Project (Uttar Pradesh): Education and Human Resource Development in Health and Hygiene for Village people of North India (September 2007-August 2010)

India Welfare Village Society (IWVS) and Ananda Mission Charitable Trust (AMCT) have been working together for over a decade to support a hospital they built in Kushinagar in 1998. This new project targets pregnant women, infants and their mothers in ten villages to improve their awareness of health and sanitation and to prevent infectious diseases among infants and young mothers.

Three JPP Projects Concluded in 2007

- Improvement of Extension System for Sustainable Integrated Agriculture and Agricultural Extension Workers’ Training at Grass Roots Level for Small Scale Farmers in North India (July 2004-June 2007) by Asian Rural Institute and College of Continuing & Non-formal Education, Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Deemed University (Allahabad, UP)

- Improvement of Sanitation and Raising Community Consciousness in Public Primary Schools in India (June 2005-June 2007) by Terra People ACT Kanagawa (TPAK) and MAMTA (Chamoli, Uttarakhand)

- Creation of New Type of Producer-Consumer Relationship and Common Property Resources through the Linkage of Urban-Rural Women Self Help Groups (July 2004-June 2007) by SOMNEED and SOMNEED India (Visakhapatnam, AP)
Since the resumption in April 2006, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) programme in India has never stopped its pace of expansion. In January 2008, the number of Japanese volunteers posted to the country has reached double-digit figures for the first time.

In line with the agreement with the Government of India, the Japanese language instructors and Judo coaches are the two areas in which the JOCV members are received in India and they have been posted in the various institutions across the country.

As Japanese companies open up branch offices and factories in India, people see more opportunities in learning Japanese language. The native language instructors are desperately needed and currently six JOCVs have been facilitating the learning process of the students in Delhi, Hyderabad, Santiniketan (West Bengal), Pune and Madurai (Tamil Nadu). Some of their students have already reached the level high enough to pass a Japanese Proficiency Test.

Judo has already been recognized as an international sports and the population of Judo-ka (Judo players) has been significantly increasing. The demand for knowledge and experience on the state-of-the-art leiko (practice) methodology is strong and JICA has been assigning two young Judo instructors in Kolkata and Patiala (Punjab). Practicing together, they have been successfully motivating the young local Judo-ka.

Two more JOCVs have just joined in the JOCV programme in India in January 2008 to replace their predecessors after the post-arrival orientation.

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Former JAAI President Receives Award from Emperor of Japan

Dr. M.M. Singh, the founder, former president and distinguished member of JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) was conferred the ‘Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette’ by His Majesty Akihito the Emperor of Japan. Dr. Singh received the medal and citation at a ceremony held on 11th May 2007, at the Japanese Ambassador's residence, in New Delhi. The ceremony was followed by a Reception which was attended by about a hundred guests.

Training Programmes

About 150 personnel participated in JICA's Training programmes in fields like administration, healthcare, environment and infrastructure. Trainees from government institutions all over India attended training courses in Japan. The duration of the courses varied from two weeks to nine months.

Youth Invitation Programme

35 young officials from the Health and Tourism Sectors of the central and state governments in India participated in the Youth Invitation Programme held for about 3 weeks in November, 2007. The trainees nominated from the Health Sector were Staff Nurses, Auxiliary Nurses Midwives and officials in charge of maternal and child health and the trainees nominated from the Tourism Sector were officials in-charge of tourism and tour guides. A pre-departure orientation programme was held at Hotel Samrat, New Delhi prior to their visit to Japan. The programme in Japan included lectures, home-stay cultural exchange programmes etc.

Fact Survey Mission for Japanese Development Programme in India

Looking at the merger in a coming year, JICA head office has organized a programme identification mission in India in November 2007, in close consultation with JBIC. The mission members, headed by Mr. Seiji Kato, Director General of the Regional Department II, visited the key officials of the Government of India and made a thorough investigation on the development needs stipulated in the 11th Five-Year Plan. Based upon their findings, JICA and JBIC will jointly develop the country operations plan of new-in-the-field of infrastructure development, poverty alleviation, global warming and increasing employment towards faster, more inclusive growth. JICA will implement the programs in the above fields, based on Japan’s significant experience in economic development.

List of Contributors: Mr. Koji Yamada, Mr. Shekar Devasagayar, Mr. Subroto Talukdar, Mr. Toru Kobayakawa, Ms. Yu Sasaki and Mr. R. Dinakar (Editor)

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