On October 27, 2009, JICA signed a Japanese ODA loan agreement with the Government of India to provide up to 2,606 million Yen for Phase I of the “Dedicated Freight Corridor Project”. JICA’s Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) scheme has been adopted for the Project, and the application of Japanese technology will be vigorously promoted.

920 km Track along the Western Corridor

Under the Project, freight rail lines will be constructed along the Western Corridor between Delhi and Mumbai and the Eastern Corridor between Ludhiana, Delhi and Sonnagar. Approximately 920 kilometers track will be constructed between Vadodara and Rewari along the Western Corridor, connecting major cities in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana. Electric locomotives capable of high-speed, high-capacity transportation will also be introduced in this sector. By meeting the high rate of growth expected in freight transportation and optimizing distribution networks, the Project will make a far-reaching contribution towards India’s economic development. The loan will be allocated to engineering services to draw up designs of the Project and prepare bid documents.

DMIC Initiative

The Project is an important part of the “Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) initiative”, which is a Japanese-Indian collaborative project for comprehensive infrastructure development to create India’s largest industrial belt zone. It will link the industrial parks and harbors of the six states between Delhi and Mumbai in order to promote foreign export and direct investment, particularly related to Japan. Under the DMIC initiative, plans are also being implemented to create industrial parks and logistics bases with well-developed infrastructures 150 kilometers in area on either side of the Western Corridor.
Message from Chief Representative

It is a great honor for me to come back to India, a rapidly changing country, after 20 years. I was in JICA India Office (erstwhile Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund) from 1988 to 1991. At the time, India was facing a financial crisis caused by the Gulf War and political ferment. Given the situation, JICA came forward to extend financial support to the Government of India in order that India overcome the crisis. Looking back now, I realize that the financial crisis also prompted economic reforms, which has resulted in the present strong economy of India.

In India today, improvement of economic infrastructure such as railways, roads, ports and power is still necessary for development of the manufacturing sector, requiring vigorous foreign direct investment. In addition, poverty alleviation, rural development and global warming are also important issues. In order to resolve these issues, I believe JICA could extend strong support through various cooperation schemes, such as Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loans, which are long-term as well as concessional.

India has been the biggest recipient of Japanese ODA Loan in the world for several years. JICA is assisting in creating a portfolio of the best mix of development projects in various sectors such as environment improvement, poverty alleviation and economic cooperation. We are also keen to utilize technical cooperation effectively for India’s further development. Even though India has advanced technologies in many fields, I am sure that introduction of Japanese technologies, techniques and know-how would be useful. I am also interested to see India becoming an emerging donor country. It would be worthwhile to consider donor collaboration between India and Japan.

Since India is an important partner for Japan, JICA wishes to seek better ways of utilizing Japanese ODA in cooperation with the Government of India, not only for economic growth but also for the global challenges India faces.

Major Assistance Schemes of JICA

- **Technical Cooperation**: Dispatch of experts and volunteers, acceptance of trainees from Indian counterparts, implementation of surveys, etc.
- **ODA Loans**: Financial assistance providing concessionary loans
- **Grant Aid**: Financial assistance without obligation for repayment
NEW PROJECTS in India

Four Japanese ODA Loan Projects Signed
JICA signed Japanese ODA loan agreements (L/A) with Government of India (GoI) on March 31, 2009 to finance four projects totaling JPY 137,028 million (eqvt. to INR 6800 crore) under second batch of FY2008 package. To ensure that projects supported by these ODA loans produce long-term benefits, a variety of aid programs are to be adopted, including Technical Cooperation scheme. Three of them provide for construction and renovation of the waterworks in various regional cities, including work in the impoverished northeastern state of Assam.

For Safe and Reliable Water
The aim of the Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Phase 2) is to provide a safe and stable water supply service that will meet the rapidly increasing demand for water by constructing water supply facilities that use water from the Cauvery River. The emphasis of this project is also on Fluorosis mitigation in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri, the two districts in Tamil Nadu, with the most severe water shortage and contamination of groundwater by fluoride within the state. Establishing a water tariff system which is affordable even for the poor and a community-based fee collection system are also important components of the project.

Grant Agreement with UNICEF for Polio Eradication
On 5th August 2009, JICA India Office signed a grant agreement with UNICEF for Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) Project. (Former) Chief Representative Mr. Hidetoshi Irigaki and UNICEF Representative, India Country Office, Ms. Karin Hulshof signed the agreement at the Embassy of Japan in Delhi.

First Grant Aid extended by JICA
It was the first Grant Aid extended by JICA in India since JICA was entrusted with responsibility for Japan’s Grant Aid in October 2008. Since 1996, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has provided grant aid for UNICEF to help implement the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) project in India. Together with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria, India is one of four countries in which wild polio virus still survives. It is expected that the aid will contribute to administering oral poliomyelitis vaccine to children below five years in West Bengal and Assam, thus preventing poliomyelitis among them.

Forestry Technical Cooperation Project Commenced in Uttarakhand
In February 2009, the Record of Discussions was signed between JICA and GoI, for “Capacity Building of State Forest Training Institutions and State Forest Service Colleges (SFSC)”, a project under Japanese Technical Cooperation. In March 2009, JICA long-term experts arrived in Dehradun and launched the project in association with Directorate of Forest Education, Uttarakhand. The purpose of the project is to enhance the capacities of the frontline staff (Foresters and Forest Guards) of state governments. In order to do this, the experts will 1) improve training courses on forestry, Training of Trainers and other refresher courses being conducted by State Forest Service College (“SFSC”), and 2) establish a monitoring and feedback system for training courses in SFSC. The project is scheduled to be completed by January 2014.
HOT Programme for COOL Earth

Is improvement in energy efficiency a noble effort to mitigate climate change? Yes, it is a very good way to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At the same time it reduces the energy bill by a good amount. The payback period is usually 6 months to 2 years, which means such investments have good business returns. From November 2008, JICA, through SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India), started a financing scheme of JPY 30 billion (approximately INR 1500 Cr.) to be given at concessional rates. Awareness campaigns have been carried out at major industrial clusters all over India such as Rajkot, Coimbatore, Chennai, Faridabad and Pune. The project is getting good response and as of December 2009, 1,200 sub-projects totaling approximately JPY 11.2 billion (INR 562 Cr.) have been sanctioned. For more information, please visit the project website (http://jica.org.in).

Assistance for Improving Quality of Urban Services

JICA has started implementation of the pilot program of Service Level Benchmarks (SLBs) of urban services. In India, the quality of service delivery of urban infrastructure is far behind the desired level and such infrastructure is rarely utilized to full capacity. In view of this, the Ministry of Urban Development has initiated SLBs for four categories: water supply, sewerage, storm water drainage and solid waste management. Based on this initiative, JICA selected 8 cities, including Amritsar, Delhi, Bangalore and Trivandrum, and will coordinate and support implementation of the SLB framework. It is hoped that these initiatives would help to improve service levels leading to operational improvement and financial sustainability, and be replicated successfully in other cities.

Delhi-Fukuoka Environment Workshop

Commemorating the Friendship Agreement between Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan and Government of NCT Delhi, “Delhi-Fukuoka Environment Workshop” was held on 27th August 2009. JICA co-organized the workshop in an attempt to maximize the impact of its ongoing loan projects such as Yamuna Action Plan and the study on improvement of water supply system in Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Ashok Walia, Minister of Urban Development, Delhi, Mr. Rakesh Mehta, Chief Secretary, Delhi and Mr. Shunta Tanaka, Director General, International Bureau, Fukuoka, and had more than 80 participants from various organizations. The main topics were Water Conservation and Solid Waste Management, on which presentations were made by both the Fukuoka and Delhi sides followed by heated discussions and a Q&A session. Further collaboration between the two governments is anticipated in the coming years.

Forest Education for Children in UP

OISCA, an international Japanese NGO, organized a ceremony on 4th September 2009, for launching the Children’s Forest Program (CFP) under the “Uttar Pradesh Participatory Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation Project”, being assisted by JICA since 2008. CFP is an experimental environment learning program targeting school students and faculty. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Chief Project Director, Chief Representative of JICA, and many other dignitaries at the Nehru International School, Noida. The primary school students sang a Hindi song and enacted a skit on environment. There was an exhibition of slogans and paintings/art work made out of waste. Through CFP activities which will be conducted in major districts in UP, it is expected that a mini forest will be grown and that children will be educated about the importance of forests and the environment.

Focus on Intermodal Transfer Functions

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and JICA convened a workshop on “Improving Intermodal Transfer Functions of Metro Stations”. Integration of the various modes of transport would be largely responsible for improvement of the ridership in the Metro system. Accordingly, JICA conducted a project study to enhance effectiveness of the Delhi Metro. In order to share the results of the study and obtain feedback, a workshop was organized on 12th Aug 2009 in Delhi. The workshop was attended by an august gathering of around 80 people from various organizations, such as Ministry of Urban Development, Japanese universities and railway companies, and Institute of Urban Transport. The workshop would be helpful for the effective integration of different modes of transport, resulting in enhanced ridership, reduced automobile pollution and ultimately, environmental protection in Delhi.
Year 2009 has been busy but exciting for JICA and its NGO partners. Four new JPPs have been launched, in addition to four ongoing JPPs. The following are short descriptions of the new projects.

**Regional Horticulture Promotion Project (Kalimpong, West Bengal)** started in April 2009 by Miyazaki International Volunteer Center and its partner NGO, Dr. Graham’s Home. During the previous project (2005-2007), the income level of targeted households increased by 50% due to cultivation of new products, such as flowers (statice), Chinese cabbage, tomatoes, Japanese rice, ocarina, etc. The current project was launched to further improve regional horticulture and the livelihood of farmers. The goals are to strengthen functioning of the existing local horticultural comprehensive training centers and to improve production of horticultural products. The project also aims to nurture active young leaders among farmers. The young leaders and farmers are expected to develop the ability to understand product needs of consumers and to strategically engage in agricultural activity.

**Adolescent Girls Self-Sufficiency Support Project: Establishing a Gender Resource Center and Raising Peer Educators (Dehradun, Uttarakhand)** is a three-year project which started in June 2009. Terra People ACT Kanagawa (TPAK) and its local partner NGO, Mamta Samajik Sanstha, aim to improve the quality of life for women and to promote women’s empowerment. Gender resource centers will be established to provide vocational training. The trainings are for income-generating activities that use microfinancing. Leaders among the adolescent girls will be selected and nurtured to promote sustainable women’s empowerment. The vocational trainings are tailored to the beneficiaries’ needs, and include sewing, beauty, aesthetics, horticulture, dairy, poultry and organic agriculture courses. In three years, the Dehradun Project is expected to change rural women’s lives as well as the gender mindset among their families, neighbors and villages.

**Regional Development Project through Self-Help and Leadership Training (Kovalam, Tamil Nadu)** was launched in June 2009 by the Institute of Buddhism and Economics, Komazawa University and a local NGO, Coastal and Rural Development Trust. The project aims to improve the sanitation and livelihoods in Kovalam village by promoting eco-san toilets or waterless bio toilets and training village residents in sales of organic fertilizers. The project also aims to nurture young leaders for the betterment of the community.

**Practical Farmers’ Education Project for Improvement of the Quality of Life among Marginal and Small-Scale Farmers (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh)** started in July 2009 and is expected to strengthen rural farmers’ cooperative activities and enhance the farmers’ quality of life. Asian Sustainable Holistic Approach (ASHA) and its local partner, College of Continuing and Non-Formal Education, Allahabad Agricultural Institute-Deemed University, aim to nurture rural leaders and facilitate capacity development of rural organizations through practical education in organizational management, organic farming, income-generating activities, and development of a supply chain.
FOCUS ON THE PROJECT
Attappady Wasteland Comprehensive

People at the Center

The project’s implementation body, Attappady Hills Area Development Society, popularly known as AHADS, is synonymous with the transformation of Attappady Block, both in terms of improved environment and human well-being. The project, which started implementation in 2000, has generated a massive people’s movement for demand-driven development. AHADS has assisted local people, including a large tribal population, to overcome environmental degradation and poverty to a considerable extent. In fact, the project has shifted development discourse from the traditional contractor-centered, inefficient administration to a people-centric, transparent and accountable one. The best part is it is done for the people and by the people.

The project’s objectives are to restore the ecological balance of the area, which was largely covered by wasteland at the beginning of the project, to promote sustainable livelihood options in harmony with resource base and to develop a replicable model of participatory eco-restoration.

AHADS has followed the true spirit of people’s participation and taken up a rigorous exercise of involving real end-users from the planning stage of the project. This, indeed, was a time consuming process.

Grassroots organizations were established based on the activities to be taken up – management of micro watershed, joint forest management and tribal development. Technical and financial resources required for implementation of specific activities are provided by AHADS, but the actual work is undertaken by each organization, and that has kept out contractors and vested interest groups who are notorious for corrupt practices. The result was transparent and accountable administration.

Transformation

Anybody who has known Attappady earlier would be amazed at the transformation the area has gone through in the last decade. Activities like afforestation and soil and water conservation have rejuvenated streams that were
Environmental Conservation Project

once dried out and increased ground water availability. The real transformation that took place in Attappady, however, is not in the greenery and landscape. The real transformation is in the impact on the people. The project has generated employment opportunities for many, and that too, with just wages. This has resulted in better income for people, which in turn has eliminated child labor and starvation deaths that were in evidence before the project took off. The school drop out rate has also declined.

Benefits to the Tribals
Besides these changes, the real benefits went to the tribals and women of Attappady. Recognizing the need to equip tribals with literacy skills, AHADS started environmental literacy classes as part of the project. It was felt that literacy was essential for the implementation and sustainability of the project. The effort is notable as unlike rest of Kerala, the tribals of Attappady had very low literacy rate. And it was clear from past development programs in the area that illiteracy was one of the biggest obstacles to overall development. The classes are organized in tribal hamlets and held each night. The tribal language is in the medium of instruction and an educated woman from the hamlet is the instructor. The class not only teaches people to read and write but develops an understanding of the surrounding natural environment. Besides environmental literacy, tribals, especially women, are capacitated through numerous awareness programs and trainings. This is particularly evident in formation of Thaikulasangam, a voluntary group formed by tribal women to fight the brewing of illicit liquor in Attappady. Brewing of illicit liquor was a common practice among the men of Attappady and the women bore the impact. So they united and decided to act as social corrective force by fighting alcoholism and stopping the brewing of illicit liquor.

The Way Forward
Together with the people, the project and works of AHADS have brought about noticeable changes to Attappady. Achievements may have been great, but the real challenge lies ahead as the project comes to an end in 2010. The positive impact of the project has to be sustained. The people of Attappady must be able to carry out the maintenance works on their own without technical or financial support from AHADS. To this end, AHADS has been devising a number of ideas and viable arrangements so that grassroots organizations who have been the implementers of the project can find the sources of funding. But more importantly, people must keep up the spirit of betterment and belief in themselves that they can change their lives.

2009 JICA Presidential Award
AHADS was selected for the 2009 JICA Presidential Award. The award recognizes AHADS’ contribution in the field of development. Given the dedication and commitment of AHADS in making a difference in Attappady, the award is well deserved. AHADS is the first institution to receive such appreciation in India.
Ms. Tomomi Matsubara was dispatched to India as JOCV in September 2007. In accordance with the agreement between the Judo Federation of India and JICA India Office, she has contributed to the promotion of judo in dojos (places of practice) in Patiala, Punjab and Delhi. Before she completed her assignment, we visited her dojo and interviewed her on her experience.

**What is the big difference you observed in Judo between the two countries?**

*It is the style itself.* In Japan, a good judo has its own “kata” (established technical forms) and instructors teach and guide the junior judokas (Judo players) based on their knowledge of “kata”. I found the Judo in India to be different from the one developed in Japan. **Here, each Indian judoka has his/her own judo style** and I have been asked questions that were unique and difficult to answer from my own experience. My experience as a coach has been greatly enhanced. This could not have been achieved if I had stayed in Japan.

**How do you view the potential of Judokas in India?**

*I see a huge gap between the states* with regard to the level of skills of Indian Judo players. In states which have given birth to very competitive Judokas, players practice almost every day. On the other hand, players in some states do intensive practice only a few days before the tournaments or just show up without any prior practice. This fact puzzled me a lot in the beginning. However, Indian Judokas are generally endowed with superior physical strengths and skills. There is no doubt that they have great potential. However, **practice makes perfect in any sport and Judo is no exception. I have tried to emphasize this** but I’m not sure if the players have got my message. I hope that the Judo instructors succeeding me will emphasize this and work together with the Judokas in India.

**Why is it difficult to increase the number of female Judokas in India?**

*It is a big challenge.* First, there are very few female Judo coaches. It is true that many of the head coaches in Japan are male, but Judo in India is more male-oriented. I have heard that many parents are concerned about their daughters learning Judo from male coaches. Under these circumstances, girls are not able to practice freely even if they want to. I have had some chances to interact with the female Judo coaches in the state Judo camps and found that they were all warmhearted, mentally strong and full of motherly love. I hope the number of such female coaches will increase in the future.

**What was memorable about your two years in India?**

During the two years I worked as judo instructor in India, I met many Judokas. I tried to interact with them in a different way from the existing coaches, taking advantage of my youthfulness as JOCV member and my experience in the tough Judo competitions. **I always tried to understand the needs of the young Judokas and share with them the joy of winning and sorrow of losing, as I do with the frontline Judokas.** Indian players always call their instructors “Sir” or “Ma’am.” But from the beginning of my assignment in Patiala, they have called me “Coach,” with respect and affection. It did not matter which states or social groups they were from. This made me feel comfortable. After working for two years, I feel grateful to the Indian Judokas and hope that they will rise up in the international arena and compete for medals in the Olympics in the future.