On July 26, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of India signed a Japanese ODA loan agreement (L/A) for the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 2) for a total of 1616 million yen (eqvt. to INR 89 crore), and a Grant Agreement (G/A) for the Project for Strengthening of Electronic Media Production Centre (EMPC) at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for a total of 787 million yen (eqvt. to INR 43 crore).

**Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project (Phase 2)**

A dedicated freight railway line will be constructed from Dadri to Rewari and from Vadodara to Mumbai, a total of 552 kilometers, along with the Western Corridor between Delhi and Mumbai (approximately 1,500km). The dedicated freight railway line will be constructed with fully automated signals and communication system, and locomotives capable of offering high-speed, high-capacity transportation system. By absorbing a rapid growth in freight volume and optimizing distribution networks, this project will make a far-reaching contribution to India’s economic development. The loan will be sent to the engineering service consultants for review of basic design and tendering assistance.

**Grant Aid for the Project for Strengthening of EMPC in IGNOU**

Japan has been a significant and key partner of IGNOU since its inception in 1985. The previous three Grants to IGNOU in 1988, 1993 and 1994 respectively, ensured high quality of programme production by supplying superior facilities and equipment.

IGNOU has played a vital role in setting standards for distance education in India, and has enabled people all over the country to access good quality higher education through distance learning. With over two million students across the country, IGNOU has recently been facing challenges in meeting the increased demand for audio/video programme production. The equipment to be provided under the Grant Aid would enable IGNOU to enhance the quality and effectiveness of programme production through high definition technology. The Grant would also help and support IGNOU, further contributing to alleviating regional disparities in accessing higher education.
New JICA PROJECTS

Six Japanese ODA Loan Projects and

### Six Japanese ODA Loan Projects for FY 2009 Signed

JICA signed Japanese ODA loan agreements (L/A) with Government of India (GoI) on March 31, 2010 to finance six projects totaling JPY 215,611 million (equivalent to INR 11,892 crore) under first and second batch of FY 2009 package. JICA will provide financial assistance for:

1. Cooperation related to environment, climate change, and energy issues,
2. Promoting economic growth by strengthening Japan-India economic relations, and
3. Poverty reduction and social sector development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount (mil Yen)</th>
<th>Interest Rate %</th>
<th>Loan Period (Year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project Phase-2 (V)</td>
<td>33,640</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolkata East West Metro Project (II)</td>
<td>23,402</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennai Metro Project (II)</td>
<td>59,851</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 1) (II)</td>
<td>90,262</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rengali Irrigation Project (III)</td>
<td>3,072</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikkim State Biodiversity Conservation and Forestry Management Project</td>
<td>5,384</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Focus on the New ODA Loan Project for FY 2009

**Sikkim State Biodiversity Conservation and Forestry Management Project**

One of the biodiversity hotspots that is in critical danger of being destroyed is located in the eastern Himalayan state of Sikkim in India. Through this project, JICA will provide assistance for biodiversity conservation, including environmental conservation. This will include activities such as baseline survey of the region, regional development and livelihood improvement of the people in Sikkim, strengthening management skills for protected areas (including strengthening local community organizations), and carrying out a study to facilitate the designation of the Kanchenjunga National Park as a World Heritage site.

### Features of the Project

Japanese academic experts will examine the possibility of applying rigorous impact evaluation methodology to forestry projects, which is a first for Japanese ODA forestry projects. In addition, technical cooperation is under consideration to help formulate an ecotourism policy for Sikkim that will serve as the foundation for economic development without compromising environmental conservation.
One technical cooperation project signed

Collaboration with IIT Hyderabad

In October 2008, Prime Ministers of India and Japan agreed to collaborate for the establishment of Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H). In order to materialize this commitment, the IIT-H Consortium of Japan was established in August 2009 with the initiative of the government to bring partners of academia and industry together. Leading Japanese academic institutions have also joined together to set up Advisory Committee for Collaboration with IIT-H.

A substantial part of this collaboration will be taken up by JICA using various ODA schemes. The ODA loan is expected to be utilized for the construction of permanent campus, while the technical cooperation and Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) will be the major vehicle for Human Resource Development and R&D.

With the aim of further strengthening ties, year 2010 has witnessed many visitors from Japan. Prof. Anzai, the Executive Adviser for Academic Affairs at Keio University and Adviser to the Advisory Committee for Collaboration with IIT-H was followed by Prof. Matsumoto, Chair of the Advisory Committee and Managing Director, Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo. Prof. Fujino of the University of Tokyo and Prof. Ise of Osaka University, both Members of the Advisory Committee, also visited IIT-H and delivered special lectures.

In the meantime, Prof. Desai, Director IIT-H reciprocated visits by Japanese scholars by joining in Tokyo at the ICT meeting in July as well as the meeting of the Consortium in September.

Frequent visits by renowned scholars from both sides have surely consolidated the foundation of this symbolic academic cooperation between India and Japan.

SATREPS/DISANET Launched

As the first tangible outcome of the collaboration, a joint research project for “Information Network for Natural Disaster Mitigation and Recovery”, popularly called DISANET was formally launched on 18 July with the presence of Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan of Andhra Pradesh.

What is SATREPS?

SATREPS is a unique collaboration programme between JICA and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

The main objective of DISANET is to strengthen research collaboration between India and Japan in the field of natural disaster prevention and information communication technology. The Project is designed to establish infrastructure for continuous data collection on earthquake and weather conditions using a global information network based on the Japanese experiences of large-scale earthquakes and typhoons.

The researchers of two countries will work in four different groups according to the research subjects, namely: i) Earthquake Disaster Risk Mitigation, ii) Weather Monitoring Platform, iii) Sustainable Communication Infrastructure and iv) ICT Platform and Resource Development for Emergency and Disaster Mitigation.

This interdisciplinary project will bring together various researchers from India and Japan, with IIT-H and Keio University as nodal institutes. Two premier institutes in Earth Sciences namely, National Geophysical Research Institute of India and Earthquake Research Institute of the University of Tokyo will be essential partners of the project.

For further details on IIT-H / Japan collaboration, visit IIT-H website at http://www.iith.ac.in/other_links/iith_japan_collab.html
Background and Partnership

One of the unique features of India’s recent economic growth has been the rapid development of the service sector. Though the service sector makes larger contributions to India’s GDP, there is a growing realisation that a substantial manufacturing base is essential to absorb the workforce moving out of agriculture, and to ensure sustainable growth of the economy.

In response to a request from the Government of India, JICA is participating in a unique initiative of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC), “Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing (VLFM)” Programme. This programme has brought together the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) (Kanpur and Madras) as well as the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, to work towards producing leaders and visionaries for India’s manufacturing sector.

Japan’s support to this programme is a result of a Joint Statement made in December 2006, by the then Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India.

**The VLFM Programme**

The VLFM Programme aims to create Visionary Leaders to transform Indian manufacturing by imparting the management concepts of Japanese manufacturing to senior and middle level managers.

The programme urges managers to look beyond the obvious, to see the invisible and to unearth the latent needs of the customer. In order to meet this goal, emphasis is placed on “Big-M” or integrated manufacturing practices beyond production.

Skills that can help to convert ideas into revenues or profits cannot be acquired by reading books. Hence, the 30% of the Programme consists of lectures and 70% focuses on skill building.

JICA Expert, Prof. Shoji Shiba, a world-renowned authority in Breakthrough Management, Prof. Emeritus, Tsukuba University and former Adjunct Professor to MIT, USA is the Chief Advisor of the programme and guides its implementation.
Creation of innovative BOP Product, Chotukool

‘Seeing the invisible and understanding the latent’ is the essence of leadership, says Mr. G Sunderraman, Vice President – Corporate Development, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. He is also a member (since inception) of the VLFM programme and currently serves as a module guide. He led the development of Chotukool using skills learned in the VLFM programme.

80% of the population of India does not use refrigerator because they cannot afford them. Is it possible to make this ‘essential luxury’ affordable and accessible to the people at the BOP*?

Observation and interview skills learned from VLFM programme were used to gain latent needs and almost invisible insights of the BOP consumers in their natural habitat. Based on these insights, Chotukool, a 43l. solid state cooler that uses no compressor or refrigerants, has been created.

Mr. Sunderraman also emphasises that Chotukool is NOT a refrigerator. Thus, low cost market development is carried out in collaboration with women’s micro enterprises.

For the full story please visit the following website; http://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/topics/index.html

The programme consists of four courses conducted by the mentioned organization/s, to meet the needs of the Indian manufacturing sector.

Opportunity A: Senior Managers (by CII)
Opportunity B: Middle Managers (jointly by IITs & IIM)
Opportunity C: CEO (by CII)
Opportunity D: Small & Medium Enterprises (by CII)

Achievements so Far

Creation of Leaders

The programme started in August 2007 and had created more than 300 Visionary Leaders by the end of March 2010.

On July 3rd 2010, the convocation for Opportunity B was held at IIT Kanpur and the first rank holder received a Gold Medal from Dr. Mamohan Singh, Prime Minister of India.

The graduates of Opportunity B, a one year residential course, have been joining the manufacturing industry at a salary around 50% higher than they were getting before the VLFM Programme.

Success Stories

Newly graduated Visionary Leaders have achieved successes in developing path breaking products, Business Models, Business Flows and Manufacturing Flows. The output is documented and the third issue of “Success Stories” was released at the 3rd Annual Session of VLFM on July 26, 2010.

Unique approach for creating Indian Keiretsu

Opportunity D has evolved into a course for developing a win-win relationship between the Customer (Tier-1) and the Suppliers (Tier-2 and 3). Demand control and shop floor improvement on both sides has resulted in increase of productivity.

Way Forward

The programme has been extended up to March 2013. By the end of the programme, a sustainable system for creation of visionary leaders is expected to be achieved.

What is BOP?

BOP means “Bottom of the Economic Pyramid”, i.e., people in the developing world with less than 3,000 USD power-purchasing-parity. This number is estimated to be about 4 billion, which is about 72% the world’s population and expected to be the future “volume zone”.
New Safety Control Method for Delhi Metro Project

The construction of Delhi Metro, with financial support from JICA, is ongoing. While accelerating construction work, a new monitoring method called “On Site Visualization (OSV)”, newly developed in Japan, has been introduced at selected construction sites to avoid accidents and improve safety, at the request of the project executing agency, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

The core concept of the OSV is that the sensors used have a newly added function of emitting measured information as LED colors. Therefore, as changes in displacement, strain, inclination, etc. occur, they are processed instantaneously and emitted as LED colors, different colors for different indicators.

OSV Seminar in Delhi

OSV Seminar was held in June 2010, to share achievements in safety control using OSV monitoring under Delhi Metro Project with participants from Bangalore Metro, Kolkata Metro, and Chennai Metro. The discussion was a fruitful one and participants showed keen interest in introducing OSV monitoring at construction sites of their own projects.

International Technical Seminar Organized by JAAI

An international technical seminar on “Drinking Water and Sanitation” was organized by JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) in association with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on 6th Feb, 2010 at Gulmohur Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. About 90 persons, including JAAI members and officials from the Japanese embassy, JICA and others working in this field attended the seminar.

Three eminent speakers (Dr. Dipankar Chakraborti, Mr. Brijesh Sikka and Mr. D. K. Khare) shared their knowledge and experiences on various aspects of drinking water and sanitation. The seminar was summed up by Dr. (Mrs.) Malti Goel. She reiterated the importance of clean drinking water and sanitation for public health and emphasized that a holistic approach needs to be adopted. This requires identification of root causes and appropriate problem solving methods. Public awareness and people’s cooperation must be the key components of the solution.

What’s JAAI?

JAAI is an association of ex-participants, who underwent training in Japan under various Technical Cooperation Programmes of JICA.
What is JPP?

JICA Partnership Programme (JPP) aims at promoting and encouraging cooperation activities for local people in developing countries through Japanese development partners such as NGOs, universities, local governments, and public interest corporations as a part of official development assistance (ODA).

PARTNERSHIPS with NGOs

The fourth quarter of year 2009 was busy but exciting for JICA and its NGO partners with the launch of three new JPPs. The following are short descriptions of the new projects.

Improvement of Rural Nutrition and Child and Mother Care in North India (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh)

The project started in January 2010 and is expected to improve maternal health in rural areas of Allahabad. ASHA (Asian Sustainable Holistic Approach) and its local partner, Makino School of Continuing and Non-Formal Education, Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Science, aim to train village health volunteers (VHVs) who can be facilitators in village health seminars and advisors to young mothers in their own villages. The trained VHVs lead women’s empowerment and self-reliant health activities in remote rural areas.

Establishment of a Health Camp and Mobile Centre for Health, Hygiene and Gender Improvement among women in Northern India (Chamoli, Uttarakhand)

The project was started in March 2010 by TPAK (Terra People ACT Kanagawa) and its local partner NGO, Mamta Samajik Sanstha, to enhance life skills of adolescents and young married women in the scattered villages of Chamoli district. A van, equipped with life skill kits, games, flash cards and books, acts as a Mobile Centre. The two year project nurtures future neighborhood leaders and provides health camps where Japanese medical experts work with local staff already empowered through previous JPP programmes.

Enforcement of Micro-Credit for the Residents BPL (Below Poverty Line) of Suburban Vishakapatnam (Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)

This project was launched in March 2010 by SOMNEED (Society for Mutual aid, Networking, Environment, Education & Development) and its local partner SOMNEED India. The project aims at providing micro-credit opportunities for the residents of Vambay Colony and other suburban areas in Vishakapatnam, in particular for those below the poverty line, as well as developing their capacity for dealing with micro-credit and micro-finance.
This time we bring you the voices of our three JOCVs in Madhya Pradesh (MP)—Ms. Kana Shimoda (Midwife) and Mr. Yuta Kono (Health Educator), both in Damoh district and Mr. Yuta Yamauchi (Health Extension Educator) in Tikamgarh district have been posted in MP since September 2009. We asked them about their experiences.

**Yuta Yamauchi**

Tell us about your present activities

Yamauchi: At present, I am working under the reproductive health project of JICA. I am making a site map of all the hospitals in Tikamgarh district using GIS (Geographic Information System). I am also making a layout map of the District hospital. This can be sent to CHCs (Community Health Centres) and can be used by both staff and visitors to the hospital. It can also be used for data comparison in future.

What was your image of India before coming here and how has it changed after being posted here?

I had an image of India as a developing country but looking at various ongoing projects within India, which are progressing very fast, it doesn’t seem so. Even major organizations like Unicef and JICA have an advisory role. The ownership is with India. Regarding the society, I think India is still very conservative. Sometimes people ask about my caste and family name as well. As I am probably the first foreigner in Tikamgarh district, I am conspicuous. About Tikamgarh in particular, it’s a historical town, an old Bundelkhand city and very Indian in its true sense.

**Kana Shimoda**

Tell us about your present activities

Shimoda: I am mainly involved in two activities. One is follow-up of ANM training. I assist in the practical aspect of the training conducted mainly by Indian trainers. My second activity is going to the field, surveying CHC and SHC (Sub Health Centres) in Damoh district and advising the nurses on delivery methods.

What was your image of India before coming here and how has it changed after being posted here?

Before I came to India, I didn’t have a very good image of Indians. But after arriving in India, I found that people here very kind and honest. I can see the culture of mutual help between people even though the gap between rich and poor of India is so big. But India’s environmental pollution is a cause of concern for me.

**Yuta Kono**

Tell us about your present activities

Kono: I have 7 CHCs under my field area. I visit them routinely and conduct checks of medical supplies and equipment, based on the check-list I have prepared. Another activity I am concentrating on now is to make a facility map of hospitals in Damoh district using GIS software which will make it easy to analyze the present medical situation in Damoh district.

What was your image of India before coming here and how has it changed after being posted here?

For me, India is a country with ‘Unity in Diversity’. Though I had an image of India as a poor country, I realized it totally depends on which part of India you are living in. The gap between rich and poor which is more conspicuous in big cities like Delhi bothers me but I feel that in small cities like Damoh this gap is relatively narrower.

Though I like Indian food, one thing I just cannot understand about Indian food is, ‘Lassi with salt’ and ‘cucumber with masala’ which is sold on the roadside.

In July, one more JOCV, Ms. Tomoko Tanaka, midwife for Tikamgarh, joined the three volunteers in MP. We wish all the four JOCVs the best of luck for their assignment.