On June 16, 2011, the President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Ms. Sadako Ogata signed Japanese ODA Loan agreements with Mr. Alok Prasad, Ambassador of India to Japan to provide soft loans up to 132,646 million yen (approximately Rs. 7,361 crore) for six development projects spread across India.

The loans cover six projects in the areas of power, transportation, forestation and energy to support India’s efforts in improving the infrastructure necessary to support rapid growth of the economy, and to accelerate the spread of new and renewable energy and energy conservation projects using Japanese experience.

The signing of these loan agreements is the culmination of hard work put in by both, Indian and Japanese government. It further demonstrates the resolve of JICA to contribute towards India’s high and balanced growth. I hope this signing will send a positive message that our level of assistance towards India will remain stable despite our country being hit by earthquake and tsunami recently.

### Project title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Amount (million yen)</th>
<th>Annual interest rate (%)</th>
<th>Repayment/Deferment period (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh Rural High Voltage Distribution System Project</td>
<td>18,590</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh Transmission System Modernization Project</td>
<td>18,475</td>
<td>0.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Energy Saving Project (phase 2)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>New and Renewable Energy Development Project</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore Metro Rail Project (II)</td>
<td>19,832</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (phase 2)</td>
<td>15,749</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>132,646</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Child Empowerment**

In January 2011, JICA Partnership Programme (JPP) was started in Mumbai. The project plans to develop musical instruments for cultivating slum children’s Self-reliance at Dharavi area in Mumbai. The project aims at reconstruction of the emotional education program such as music and dance that have been operated by Musical Notes of Lights (Sur-deep in Hindi), and is trying to promote children’s mental as well as physical development.

Sur-deep is an NGO in Kyoto city, Japan. Since its establishment in 1994, it has been conducting various activities for the handicapped and the aged through music. As a welfare, Sur-deep offered concert leaflets in Braille for visually handicapped people. It gave on-site musical concerts for handicapped people, old age homes and hospitals as cultural activity. In the field of education, it gave welfare lectures at companies. Since 2004, it has been supporting educational classes for slum children at the ‘Monsoon and Sunshine Class’ in Mumbai, India, with the help of Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP).

http://hikari-no-onpu.com/home/

**Mumbai – Financial Capital of India**

Although Mumbai is not the capital of India, it is the largest city in the country. Delhi is the center of power and politics whereas Mumbai is the center of commerce. According to the Census of India 2011, Mumbai’s population is around 12.5 million. It is estimated that 54% of the population in Mumbai lives in slums. Dharavi is one of the largest slum in Mumbai and is the model of 81st Academy Awards Oscar Winner movie “Slumdog Millionaire” (2009). In the slum areas of Mumbai, more than 6 million people are living and have various health problems due to poor sanitary conditions. Many children cannot go to school and tend to become beggars or commit minor offenses to support themselves. Above all, the children who suffer from leprosy or those whose parents are lepers are under difficult situation, not only poor but also burdened by the historically discriminated disease.

**Leprosy – a Challenge**

Leprosy is a chronic disease caused by the bacteria and is primarily a granulomatous disease of the peripheral nerves and mucosa of the upper respiratory tract; skin lesions are the primary external sign.

Elimination of leprosy as a public health problem is defined as a prevalence rate of less than one case per 10,000 persons. The target was achieved on time and the widespread use of MDT, which was introduced in 1980s, reduced the disease burden dramatically.

In 2005, India declared that leprosy is no more in the country. However, more than 130,000 people are the patients of leprosy and there number is increasing every year.

Leprosy, in fact, is much less contagious than once was believed to be, there are still many misconceptions about leprosy. It carries stigma and discrimination as it is perceived to be a hereditary disease, a curse, or a punishment from the Gods. Eradication of social stigma and discrimination is the most significant challenge in contemporary situation.

JICA’s challenge

JICA’s cooperation through ODA had been started as a donation of medical equipment such as electron microscope in 1966 and surgical equipment in 1967.

Under the Colombo Plan Leprosy Research Project, as agreed on between Indian and Japanese governments, a total of seven Japanese medical experts were assigned to carry out various studies on leprosy during 1973-1976.
Monsoon and Sunshine Class For Children’s Smile

In Mumbai, Sur-deep supports about 50 children who come for Monsoon and Sunshine Classes which is located on the premises of Acworth Municipal Hospital for Leprosy. These classes were started by sister Seraphin, a Catholic, many years back. With the partnership of BLP, Sur-deep provides technical support through the funds of JPP. To develop the emotional expressiveness of the children, basic skills of music and dancing are taught by Sur-deep. Their social abilities are promoted through musical instruments for non-verbal communication skills. At the same time, children’s physical improvements are achieved through these activities. The teaching techniques are transferred to local teachers.

In order to realize this vision, Ms. Yuri Nishimura, representative of Sur-deep, tries to educate the leprosy children and other slum children living nearby as well as local teachers who are involved in these classes with the partnership of local counterpart, BLP.

At the time of launch of JPP by Sur-deep, JICA India office visited their site and assessed the challenges faced by children who live at the bottom of the heap. The members of Sur-deep are liked by children.

Schooling for the leprosy and slum children is a priority. Children stop coming for classes suddenly as they have to spend a lot of time for survival.

For Children’s sake, Sur-deep needs sustainable and stable funding and support for the activities. Sur-deep looks for Indian and/or Japanese sponsors. Concurrently, the Children need the platform where they can showcase their talent in music and dance learnt through JPP.

Indian entrepreneurs, local donors and Japanese residents in India can provide opportunities for these children.

JICA India office seeks the involvement of many stakeholders to take this project forward for better future for each other.

Please get involved!

Challenge facing Sur-deep

Sur-deep’s vision—to make children who live at the bottom of the social pyramid smile.

Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP)

A registered non-profit voluntary organization in India working towards achieving the goal of “World Without Leprosy”. BLP was established in 1976 and has served the people for more than 35 years. Since 2003, BLP and Sur-deep (Hikari no Ompu in Japanese) are in partnership. BLP has been providing informal education support to Slum children including those who are affected by leprosy in collaboration with a Monsoon and Sunshine class at Acworth Municipal Hospital for Leprosy, Wadala, Mumbai.

Ms. Yuri Nishimura, representative of Sur-deep

I implement my project through JPP as the activities that remain in children’s mind as unforgettable and joyful memories – even if it is just a minute in a day!
Development of Hyderabad Outer Ring Road with Intelligent Transport System (ITS)

Hyderabad has emerged as a major centre for IT, ITES, Biotechnology, Research, Sports, Tourism and high-level academic and professional Institutions. With increasing population, the city witnesses traffic snarls, congestion and high pollution levels. In order to mitigate traffic congestion and to cater to the population needs, the city has embarked upon an ambitious project for development of an Outer Ring Road (ORR) around the Hyderabad Metropolitan Area. The 158 km fully access control corridor would have an 8 lane divided carriageway, with service roads on either sides. For the first time in India, state-of-the-art ITS technologies involving Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) & Touch and Go system using prepaid smart card, along with highway traffic management system providing real time information to road users through variable messages signs and other means for enhancing safety and convenience are being provided.

Through ODA loan scheme, JICA is funding ¥83.9 billion for construction of ORR, ITS and improvement of Radial Roads. Further, for ITS planning & design, development of O&M manuals, training and capacity building, a JICA grant funded Technical Assistance through Japanese expert team from East Nippon Expressway Co., Ltd. and Almec, Japan has been provided. A new technical cooperation study to prepare a comprehensive ITS Master Plan for the entire Hyderabad city is soon being initiated. The project would demonstrate ITS usage in congested urban areas for efficient traffic operation and management. With number of other ODA funded projects, Hyderabad has become one of the most important cities for Japanese cooperation, establishing strong bonds between the Indian and Japanese people.

We at JICA India Office would like to express our sincere gratitude for the many messages received from its various stake holders in the wake of March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. In the time of a disaster of such an unprecedented scale, it was very encouraging and reassuring to know that we had sympathy and support from Indian partners.

We would like to reiterate our heartfelt gratitude and ask for your continuous collaboration with JICA.