In the recent years, India has been achieving rapid economic growth. The improvement of economic infrastructure such as railways, metro, roads, ports and power can accelerate this economic growth. JICA is an aid donor agency of the Japanese government, responsible for providing concessional loans (ODA loans), grant aid and technical cooperation.

India has been the largest recipient of the Japanese ODA loans in the world for the last several years. JICA has supported many projects in India, the most significant of which is the Delhi Metro Project.

Delhi Metro Phase-II successfully got completed after the inauguration of Kirti Nagar-Ashok Park Metro Line on August 27, 2011. We hope that this 3.32 kms long stretch will not only increase the ridership of the Delhi Metro but would be a big convenience to the public. This line will also help in decongesting the busy Rajiv Chowk and Kashmere Gate interchange stations.

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

In order to mitigate severe traffic congestion and pollution caused by more than 4 million automobiles in Delhi, the capital city of India, JICA came forward to assist Delhi Metro with a vision to give Delhi a smart, modern and eco-friendly way to travel.

The construction of Delhi Metro was started in October, 1998, under the first phase (65 kms) and got completed in 2005, while the second phase (125 kms) has been recently completed on 27th August, 2011. Today, Delhi Metro has emerged as one of the world’s most sophisticated, effective and successful rail-based urban mass transport systems having total length of 190 kms being equivalent to Tokyo Metro (192 kms).

Delhi Metro is considered as a glowing example for all public sector infrastructure projects in India because of finishing the projects within the stipulated time and budget. It is world’s first railway project registered with United Nations under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project.

Delhi Metro has been earning operational profits from the day one of its operations. It is among very few Metros worldwide which does not depend on the government for subsidies.
Bahraich Arsenic Mitigation Project (Uttar Pradesh, India)

(Phase I-2008-2010 & Phase II-2011-2013)

About the Project Area
District Bahraich is situated in northern part of Uttar Pradesh (UP) bordering Nepal. Bahraich is the most extensively arsenic contaminated district of UP. Out of 10 Blocks tested for arsenic levels in Bahraich district, Tejwapur Block is reported to be most widely contaminated. Similarly our project area inhabited by roughly 7000 people (34 habitations of 2 villages, Newada & Chetra, in Tejwapur Block) were found to be most widely and severely contaminated (according to Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam data).

Village meeting

Despite the alarming situation and nature of the problem in these project areas, people were completely ignorant about the arsenic contamination of the drinking water and its severe health effects. People had not heard about arsenic before.

Most appropriate intervention
University of Miyazaki, Japan and Kanpur based environmental NGO, Eco Friends, launched Arsenic Mitigation Project in Bahraich in June 2008 under JPP. The daunting task of educating the ignorant masses and mitigating the threat of arsenic contamination was met under the

A great learning experience with JICA supported project

I joined Bahraich Arsenic Mitigation Project (BAMP) Office, a JICA Partnership Programme (JPP) as an Office Accountant which is my first experience to work with an NGO. I got preliminary idea about JICA during my interview and later I became aware how Japanese were supporting our people who were the ignorant victims of arsenic contamination. I feel more strongly to work with the project since I met Ms. Enoki Miki, JICA India Office and Ms. Maruyama Chieko, JICA Kyushu during their official visit to BAMP.

I feel proud to be a staff of the BAMP which involved me in human welfare activities in my country. It’s a great learning experience and skill development opportunity for me which will definitely be useful in serving the nation. All kudos to JICA Kyushu for their valuable support.
able and experienced guidance of Prof. Hiroshi Yokota and his colleagues. The vast experience of university professors towards arsenic mitigation in Bangladesh came in very handy.

**Highlights of the activities**
The project organized training workshops for the staff, conducted household surveys, screened every water source, marked the tube wells red and green as unsafe and safe, held workshops for doctors and medical examination camps, conducted awareness programs and constructed Safe Water Devices (SWD). Arsenic Mitigation Committees were formed at the habitation level and Users Committees were formed for each SWD. The first phase of the project was over in May 2010. The second phase of the project aims at “Execution of Arsenic Mitigation Project for establishment of government initiative system in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh”. The project intends to achieve this goal through active government collaboration and involvement in Arsenic Mitigation Project.

I have been working with Bahraich Arsenic Mitigation Project (BAMP) since 2008 as a Field Worker. I was very excited at the prospect of working with foreigners (Japanese). I can never forget my first visit to the project area with Prof. Yokota, Prof. Ueno and Mr. Rakesh. Punctuality, hard work, sharing of ideas and good manners of the Japanese really impressed me during my job, especially Mr. Yasunori Yano, Sub-Project Manager of the Project.

I was very shy and spent most of my time at home. The responsibilities which came with the job and regular interaction with the people gave me strength and confidence. I received lot of love from villagers while carrying out project assignments.

The most significant experience was Bangladesh study tour. For the first time, I met severe Arsenicosis patients and learnt about the great work done by Asia Arsenic Network in Bangladesh. This was a great learning experience for me which would not have been possible without being a part of BAMP.

Sharmila Rai, Field Worker
What was the reason to choose India?
I planned to visit India twice but my plan to travel here did not materialize due to some or the other reasons. I was very glad when I got an opportunity to stay in India as a JOCV by JICA.

What was the image you had of India in Japan?
I felt that India is a country with interesting places, hot climate and delicious curry.

What troubled you most in India?
Although living in India was a great experience but the pollution was a cause of concern for me.

What were the good things that happened in these two years?
I feel that people in India are very frank and kind. This kindness is very different from the kindness of Japanese. I could know many things about India and could make many friends here.

What are your impressions of these two years in India?
India has an image of being a spiritual and religious country. But now I feel that India is not that simple country. There's much more to it, which you won't understand until you live here. My stay in India changed my perception and I have experienced a wonderful time during my stay here.