JICA President Award to Delhi Metro
Written by M P Singh, Additional Chief Development Specialist

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has selected Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as recipient of “JICA President Award” to honor their outstanding results for JICA’s activities.

DMRC, responsible for bringing Delhi Metro, started construction in 1997. The first phase having 65 kms system got completed in two years and nine months ahead of schedule in 2005 with financial assistance of JPY 163 billion from JICA. Phase 2 with JICA assistance of JPY 212 billion started in 2006 and has also been completed not only within the estimated cost but well within the scheduled time period by adding another 125 kms in 2011.

The same is viewed as a miraculous milestone achievement, especially in the infrastructure sector in India. The project has sent very strong signals that with dedicated commitment, hard work and sincerity, the country can make remarkable progress. The project has left a very strong showcasing effect not only in India but globally, which is evident from the fact that this project and its team got several highest awards within the country and abroad.

The project has virtually changed the construction culture within the country. Delhi metro has become darling of Delhites and it is now a life line for India’s capital city of Delhi and its suburbs. It has created a sense of belongingness, travelling etiquette and cleanliness. It has also opened new vistas where the ladies, especially from the conservative societies are also moving freely without fear.

In recognition of its outstanding contribution to the development of human resources, society and the economy in the Republic of India and to the enhancement of friendly relations and mutual understanding between the Republic of India and Japan, the Delhi Metro was conferred with the prestigious JICA President Award for the year 2012.

The JICA President Award is given either to an individual or an organization that is associated with JICA and whose contribution in the field of development is recognized to be of immense significance in development of the society.

Mr. Mangu Singh, Managing Director of Delhi Metro said that this honor will go a long way in strengthening the bilateral ties between India and Japan and will encourage us to cooperate with each other in many such projects in the days to come.

It is an enormous achievement not only for constructing the Metro but also for bringing about change in the construction environment in the country.

Shinya Ejima, Chief Representative of JICA India Office

Chief Representative Shinya Ejima of JICA India presenting JICA President Award to Mr. Mangu Singh, Managing Director, DMRC

The contents of the newsletter include:

2 New ODA Loan Projects Signed
3 CBD/COP-11
4 Interview with Mr. Takashi Sakakibara
The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Japanese ODA loan agreement with the Government of India to provide a loan totalling 127,313 million yen for Delhi Water Supply Improvement Project, Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Project and Rajasthan Rural Water Supply Improvement and Fluorosis Mitigation Project.

### Assistance for Stable Water Supply in the National Capital Territory of Delhi

Under the Delhi Water Supply Improvement project, the water supply facilities including service network to customers will be improved in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Project will contribute to achieving the equitable and continuous water distribution in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, thereby upgrading citizen’s living standard.

### Assistance for Stable Power in the Southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu

Under the Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Project, transmission lines and sub stations will be constructed throughout the State of Tamil Nadu in Southern India, including Chennai area, to stabilize the power system, reduce transmission losses, and ensure a stable supply of power. This would promote economic growth in the State.

### Assistance for Stable Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation in Rajasthan

Under Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project, water supply facilities will be constructed and fluorosis mitigation measures will be implemented to people in Nagaur District. The project will provide safe and adequate drinking water supply to people suffering from acute scarcity of potable water and ground water which is heavily contaminated with fluoride.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Amount (million yen)</th>
<th>Annual interest rate (%)</th>
<th>Repayment (years)</th>
<th>Grace Period (years)</th>
<th>Procurement</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>Consulting services</td>
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<td>Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Project</td>
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<td>Rajasthan Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project (Nagaur)</td>
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Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Hyderabad, India, from October 8 to October 19, 2012.

At the meeting, participants discussed a wide range of topics, including progress on the Aichi Biodiversity targets approved a year before the previous COP 10 meeting in Nagoya, Japan, strategies for resource mobilization, status of the Nagoya Protocol, marine and coastal biodiversity.

In the inaugural remarks to the High Level Segment that began on October 16, the Japanese Minister of the Environment, Hiroyuki Nagahama, called for action to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity targets.

JICA participated in discussions in a variety of forms as Japan’s bilateral assistance agency, bringing Japan’s experience and a perspective of working on projects in the field.

At a side event on October 10 organized by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and Bird Life International, Shinya Ejima, JICA India Chief Representative, delivered the inaugural address, and Masaaki Yoneda, JICA Senior Advisor, gave a presentation on the BBEC (Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation) program in Malaysia as an example of the importance of a collaborative approach in biodiversity conservation.

On October 15, a seminar organized by JICA was held with the title "Attempt at Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Costa Rica and Cooperation by JICA." Three representatives from Costa Rica, including the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Telecommunications, attended the seminar, where they discussed measures on how to tie biodiversity and environmental conservation to national development. Many participants, including those from the host country, India, came to the venue for the question and answer session, where questions were asked such as on how to encourage knowledge use and on the likelihood of Costa Rica providing cooperation to India.

During COP 11, JICA had put up a display booth at HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad to explain about JICA’s activities in India. JICA India Office displayed photo-panels and also explained to visitors about JICA assisted projects and activities in the forestry sector in India. A short introductory documentary film about JICA’s assistance to the forestry sector in India was also screened at the booth. Many visitors like government officials, NGOs, media, general public and school children visited the JICA booth.

Through participating in COP, there was a renewed awareness of the magnitude of expectations that the international community and developing countries have from JICA. Going forward, JICA will effectively and strategically develop its cooperation on the biodiversity front, keeping in mind the agenda items in COP.
Mr. Takashi Sakakibara was deputed to India in September 2011. He has been engaged as a JICA Expert for Sewerage in Central Public Health Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Government of India. Mr. Sakakibara was interviewed about his experiences on his assignment.

Interviewed by Anamika Taneja, PR Coordinator

Could you introduce your background and elaborate activities in your organization?

I have been engaged with the sewerage sector for last 27 years. I joined Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (erstwhile Ministry of Construction) in 1985 and was in charge of research and development institute in Tsukuba City. My main research topic was storm water management. My profile also included planning, maintenance, and management of sewerage. I am glad to get many opportunities to present my research work at international conferences and to work for the 3rd World Water Forum held in Shiga, Kyoto and Osaka in March 2003. I have contributed in many committees for planning, designing and policy making by government as a member or sometimes as a chairman.

As an expert, the activities in CPHEEO involves improvement of Public Health Engineering (PHE) Training course, providing technical expertise based on my experience in Japan and other overseas countries. The dominant trainees are engineers and operators working for PHE department in State Governments and Urban Local Bodies. The field of training comprises of water supply, sewerage/sanitation, Solid Waste Management and Storm Water Drainage. The mission of JICA's cooperation is to increase the number of participants in the training courses as PHE courses are very important for Capacity Building.

How is your experience of working with CPHEEO?

CPHEEO is the technical wing of MoUD and is responsible for water supply, sewerage and sanitation, solid waste management and storm water drainage. Most important mission of CPHEEO is to establish and maintain the Technical Manuals. It is often said that the "Manual is Bible"; that means Manual is regarded as a unique national technical standard. Regarding the sewerage and sanitation, "Manual on Sewerage and Sewage Treatment" was formulated and published in 1993. This Manual is now being revised in order to incorporate new technologies and institutional schemes during these twenty years. The revision has been supported by JICA and I have been engaged in this revision as an observer member of expert committee. During the discussion of expert committee, I have learned not only the cursory results or numbers in the Manual but also the background and reasons of these results and numbers. Also I am able to compare the status of India with that of Japan.

How do you see the opportunities and challenges of Sewerage Sector?

According to the survey conducted by MoUD and MoEF (Ministry of Environment and Forests), Sewerage Coverage Ratio is almost 30% in urban areas. Even in Delhi, it is 55%. Thus, it is most important to spread awareness about sewerage and sanitation to protect water pollution of rivers, lakes and groundwater. Simultaneously, the concept of Water Recycle and Reuse is one important key issue in many urban areas. I am preparing some documents for the prototype on policy for this matter with the staff in JICA India Office.

On the other hand, it is often pointed out that the operation and maintenance of the sewerage and sanitation is unsatisfactory. It is due to lack of finance, electric power supply capacity, abilities of staff for proper operation and maintenance. JICA has tried to tackle this problem with various kind of assistance such as capacity building like institutional training and public awareness through establishment of exhibition facilities. But the activities are area-restricted and not spread to other areas. It is important to consider how to disseminate the good examples of a particular project to other people and areas.

Can you share any memorable moments during your stay in India?

The most memorable moments are site visits and having discussions with the local people. While on my site visits, I came to know that JICA is highly respected by many people. They wish to have JICA's assistance through training courses and ODA. I feel proud to work as a JICA expert.

In addition to this, I cannot forget the historical glory of India. I like visiting historical places and sufi-temples during my leisure time.