JICA President Dr. Tanaka Meets with Indian Finance Minister and Affirms **Plans to Strengthen Cooperative Relationship** with One of JICA’s Largest Partner Nations

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka met with key government figures, scholars and Japanese business executives during his three-day visit to promote stronger ties between Japan and India, two of the world’s economic and population power houses.

He also gave a keynote address at the seminar in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and also visited the Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant, a Japanese ODA loan project.

India, with the world’s second largest population and Asia’s third-largest economy, is one of the largest partners in Japan’s development cooperation. JICA President Dr. Akihiko Tanaka visited India for the time since he was appointed in April 2012. Tanaka, while in India, spent his time in New Delhi and Chennai.

On June 17, Tanaka held talks in New Delhi with the Finance Minister, Mr. Palaniappan Chidambaram. They agreed to expeditiously and steadily carry out JICA cooperation projects, including the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project, which aims to build up the industrial zones and related infrastructure across six states. They also agreed upon the need for cooperation from Indian agencies to strengthen their

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Tanaka told Chidambaram that JICA would like to strengthen its cooperation, including Technical Cooperation and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, in a broader range of fields, and Chidambaram agreed. So far, JICA mainly has cooperated on infrastructure projects through its loan assistance in the country.

Selvi J. Jayalalithaa, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, met with Tanaka on June 19 in Chennai, the state capital. They agreed to advance projects related to further encouraging investment in the state, into which Japanese companies have already expanded. In Tamil Nadu, JICA has assisted policy and infrastructure improvement for foreign direct investment, Chennai Metro state-wide power transmission development and afforestation and water supply.

In the seminar held at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi on June 18, Tanaka gave a keynote address on JICA’s cooperation and future Japan-India relations. He stressed the role of India and JICA’s cooperation for prosperity of the Indian Ocean region including South-East Asia, South Asia and Africa. After the address, there was a lively exchange of opinions between Tanaka and participating scholars, as well as a question and answer session.

During his stay, Tanaka held a news conference with members of the Japanese media and had a couple of interviews with the Indian media both in New Delhi and in Chennai.

While in India Tanaka also took the opportunity to exchange opinions with Japanese business people based in the two cities.

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka speaks at Jawaharlal Nehru University

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka visits the Toshiba Factory in Chennai

JICA is primarily responsible for implementing Japan’s Official Development Assistance, which comprises low-interest and long-term loans, Technical Cooperation and Grant-Aid. Our presence in India is growing rapidly. More than 60 percent of our total assistance to India has been provided in the past 10 years.

Infrastructure sector is the main focus of our major cooperation, especially transportation projects. Some of the major transportation projects being implemented by JICA are the Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore Metro, the Dedicated Freight Corridor and Hyderabad Outer Ring Road. Other key sectors of our involvement are power, water and sanitation and forestry and environment conservation.

Shinya Ejima,
Chief Representative of JICA India
Inauguration of Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project

Written by Subroto Talukdar, Lead Development Specialist

The Rs. 1928 crore Hogenakkal Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation project, aiming to benefit the water-starved districts of Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri, was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa through video conferencing from the state Secretariat in the presence of JICA Officials, Mr. Tomohide Ichiguchi, Senior Representative, JICA India Office.

JICA has funded a significant part of the project that envisages utilising water from River Cauvery to supply drinking water to these two big districts whose groundwater is largely affected by fluoride, making the water unfit for human consumption. Supplying safe surface water to the two project districts by drawing water from Hogenakkal in Cauvery River, 45 km from Dharmapuri, is urgently needed to solve the problem of water shortage and contamination of drinking water by fluoride. Approximately 3 million people will be benefitted by the end of this project.

“Delhi Metro Lauded JICA’s Partnership

Written by Anamika Taneja, PR Coordinator

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC) responsible for bringing World Standard Metro within India’s Capital City of Delhi and adjoining areas of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, lauded JICA’s long term commitment and partnership. Delhi Metro Award was presented to Mr. M P Singh, Additional Chief Development Specialist, JICA India Office for his sincere commitment and dedication, during the celebration of 19th Foundation Day on May 3, 2013. Mr. M P Singh, who has been associated with the Delhi Metro since the beginning of the construction stage of phase I that started in February, 2001, was conferred with a special award towards recognition of his meritorious and distinguished services extended to Delhi Metro during the last more than a decade. DMRC applauded JICA’s and Mr. Singh’s constant endeavor of proactive guidance of the expeditious project implementation for getting maximized effectiveness of the project by incorporating value-added measures such as HIV/AIDS awareness among migrant construction workers, On-site Visualization (Real-time monitoring) of safety measures in deeper excavations, measures for physically and socially challenged and knowledge transfer based on international best practices through Japanese experts for Delhi Metro. These were found extremely useful to DMRC in realizing the present Delhi Metro of the world standard.

“The DMRC values and recognizes the contribution made by JICA and Mr. M.P. Singh in making the Metro a reality in Delhi.”

Anuj Dayal
Executive Director (Corporate Communications), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation

The first phase of Delhi Metro covering an area of 65 kms system got completed in 2005, two years and nine months ahead of schedule. Similarly, the second phase has also been completed not only within the estimated cost but well within the scheduled time period by adding another 125 kms in 2011. This has been viewed as a miraculous milestone achievement especially in the infrastructure sector in India. Delhi Metro is a shining example of the Indo-Japanese cooperation.
Q Can you introduce your background and elaborate activities under this project?

A: I have been engaged with the Expressways sector since last 17 years. I joined NEXCO-East (erstwhile Japan Expressway Public Corporation) in 1996 and was in charge of developing and building nation-wide expressways in Japan. My profile included planning, designing, building, and operating the facilities of expressway, especially Intelligent Transport System (ITS). I feel that I am very lucky to have taken part in the big ITS project, e.g. Vehicle Information and Communication system (VICs), electronic Toll Collection system (eTC) and Traffic Control Center system.

As a Technical Cooperation expert, I provide technical expertise about not only ITS but also Information and Communication technology (ICT) for public transport and traffic management to my counterparts in India based on my Japanese experience.

Q How is your experience of working with MoUD?

A: In India ITS is at an early stage, it is hard to set the priority. Therefore, JICA carried out the actual condition survey regarding ITS in Indian cities last year. The objective of the study is to conduct a thorough fact-finding on ITS being implemented/planned and related traffic/transport issues. It is intended to identify, based on the fact-findings, the major issues and challenges of ITS and make appropriate recommendations for effective introduction to the various Indian cities, and successful and sustainable implementation. The beginning of my job has started explaining this survey. (*Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore, Chennai, Indore, Mumbai, and Pune).

Q How do you see the opportunities and challenges of urban transport sector?

A: There are so many stakeholders of ITS fields in India, it is hard to implement the ITS. Thus, it is necessary to strengthen the inter-ministerial organisation framework and cross-sectorial collaborative structure involving government, academia and industry are critical for promotion of ITS in India.

Some successful models for ITS technology are also needed like the one’s in Mass Transit Systems of Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System in Delhi and BRTS in Ahmedabad. JICA has been assisting the big ITS project in Hyderabad. I hope the success of Hyderabad project will serve as a good example of ITS Models in India.

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

A: In February 2013, I organized Conference on “Urban Transport for Strategic Urban Development in Indian Cities” at Ahmedabad. More than 150 participants attended the Conference. I am glad that I had an opportunity to address the Conference regarding the JICA’s Survey in Indian Cities. I have never directed such a big conference, it was very hard but it was a very good experience for me.