Message from Chief Representative

‘JICA’s vision “Inclusive and Dynamic Development” represents an approach that is not limited to sharing the fruits of progress as it also encourages all to recognize development issues which they face and to participate in addressing these challenges.’

The year 2010 was a rather positive one for Kenya. This is in comparison to the previous two years that saw hampered economic growth attributed to a number of factors such as the post elections violence. A significant number of achievements were noted key among them the ratification of the protocol to establish the East African Community (EAC) Common Market and the passing of the new Constitution.

The common market protocol ratified on 1st July, 2010, is likely to have a significant impact on deepening Kenya’s integration with the rest of East Africa in the immediate term. Kenyan businesses are well-positioned to take advantage of the free movement of labour and capital.

On the other hand, the passing of the new Constitution and its subsequent promulgation in August 2010, provides the government of Kenya the legitimacy to undertake the long overdue and much desired economic reforms that are expected to move the economy to the next level. This will be critical as we approach the sunset period for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and more specifically focus on the equally important and home-grown Vision 2030 with specific focus on its economic and social pillars.

Kenya’s economic growth in 2010 is estimated at about 5% and the future outlook for the country’s economy appears even more promising for 2011. However, challenges remain with issues such as poverty, uneven distribution of wealth, climate change and corruption posing a threat to the country. Implementation of the new Constitution also stands out as a major test.

In order to help Kenya to tackle these challenges, “Inclusive Growth”, which means linking economic growth to closing the poverty gap, decreasing the level of unemployment and involving the vulnerable members of society is most crucial. All people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender or age, should be allowed to recognize the development issues they themselves face, participate in addressing them, and enjoy the fruits of such endeavours. JICA aims to provide effective backing for such self-initiated efforts and to promote development that will result in a self-reinforcing cycle of poverty reduction and economic growth.

The Year Under Review

During the year 2010, JICA made additional engagements complementing the already existing ones, aimed at deepening and up-scaling some of the critical activities expected to underpin the success of the ongoing and newly launched projects.

JICA’s vision “Inclusive and Dynamic Development” represents an approach that is not limited to sharing the fruits of progress, and it encourages all to recognize development issues which they face and to participate in addressing these challenges. Our theme for this report “Fostering Community Participation in Development” is derived from this vision. This report gives you an insight of JICA’s activities in Kenya in 2010.

-Masaaki Kato, Chief Representative, JICA Kenya
Economic Infrastructure and Private Sector Development

- JICA and GOK sign Grant Agreement for the Project for Construction of Nairobi Western Ring Roads.
- Start of the Preparatory Survey on the Project for Dualling of Nairobi-Dagoreti Corner Road C60/C61.
- Start of the Second Phase of the Trade Training Program for SME Exporters.

Agriculture

- JICA and GOK sign Loan Agreement towards the implementation of the Mwea Irrigation Development Project.
- Final workshop for SIDEMAN project held in Embu Agricultural College, Embu.
- Japan Crown Prince visits Mwea Irrigation Project during his maiden visit to Africa.

Human Resource Development

- JKUAT holds 4 Regional Training Courses.
- First CCPO (Child Care and Protection Officers) Pilot Training.
- First SMASE Regional and Cluster INSET.
- 10th SMASE-WECSA Conference.
- AICAD 3rd Annual Members Forum.

Health

- Preparatory Survey of the Project for Reinforcement of Vaccine Storage in Kenya.
- Preparatory Mission of the Project for TB Control.
- Follow up Training for Blood Safety Project.
- Start of project for Strengthening Community Health Strategy.
- JICA and GOK sign Grant Agreement (G/A) for the Project for HIV/AIDS Control.

Environment and Water

- Ground-breaking for the Project for Construction of Evacuation Places and Routes under the Program for Community-Based Flood Disaster Management to Adapt to Climate Change in the Nyando River Basin.
- Final Seminar for the Preliminary Survey for Integrated Solid Waste Management in Nairobi City.
- Launch of the Project for Development of the National Water Masterplan.
- Policy Level Workshop for the Third Country Regional Training Course on Mitigating Climate Change in Africa Through Social Forestry.