



JICA Announces Full Operation for Post Ebola Support to Liberia



H.E. YOSHIMURA (center) speaks on behalf of the Japanese Government.



Foreign Minister NGAFUAN speaks on behalf of the Liberian Government.

On June 15-22 2015, JICA mission team comprising nine (9) members of JICA staff from Japan and Ghana, as well as Japanese consultants and contractors was dispatched to Liberia to announce resuming operations including the project for Reconstruction of Somalia Drive and the project for Rehabilitation of Monrovia Power System in Monrovia which was suspended since August 2014 due to the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia. The disclosure was made on the 17th of June 2015 at the announcement ceremony held at JICA Liberia Field Office in Monrovia.

Speaking on behalf of the Japanese Government, H. E. Kaoru YOSHIMURA (Japanese Ambassador to Ghana) said he was very delighted to see the commencement of JICA's projects in Liberia after shut down due to the outbreak of EVD. "The commencement of JICA projects in Liberia marks the beginning of more future economic cooperation between Japan and the Republic of Liberia. The Government of Liberia has demonstrated great commitment to ensuring the wellbeing of Liberians and Japan will continue to support endeavors of Liberia to advance its development agenda" he added.

Also making speech at the ceremony, the Chief Representative of JICA Ghana, Mr. Koji MAKINO congratulated the Government and people of Liberia for their efforts to win the battle against the deadly virus and extended sincere condolence to those who sacrificed and lost their lives during the crisis. He mentioned "The projects have important and core roles in the country recovery efforts in post Ebola context. Now Japanese contractors are back on the field, and we will be ready to resume the projects. With continuous support from our counterparts and community members, I believe that these longer term projects will be successfully completed, and then contribute to recovery and prosperity of Liberia." Mr. MAKINO indicated that as part of JICA commitment to post Ebola Liberia, JICA has just allocated approximately seven (7) million US Dollars-support to Ebola affected countries, and will be sending a mission at the end of June to support implementation of Liberia's post Ebola health investment plan.

Foreign Minister Augustine Kpehe NGAFUAN, speaking on behalf of the Liberia Government, stated "today is a great day for Liberia and Liberians because we are kicking off a project which will have tremendous impact in the lives of the Liberian people". The minister assured that Liberians will do everything to give maximum support and cooperation to the project urging the citizens to fully cooperate to enhance the smooth operation of the project. While thanking Japan for the initiative, Minister NGAFUAN added that Liberia and Japan have entered into a new phase of the relationship and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will do all in its reach to work with Japan in order to explore new areas of cooperation in the mutual interest of the two countries.

After the ceremony, Hon. Claude E. LANGLEY, Deputy Minister for Technical Services at Public Works, took the mission team and the press on a guided tour to the Somalia Drive project sites.

By Sam F. Conneh, JICA Liberia Field Office

About JICA

JICA is the governmental agency responsible for undertaking the Japanese bilateral assistance of technical cooperation, concessionary loans (ODA loans), and grant aid. JICA has about 100 overseas offices all over the world.



Mission Team poses with H.E. YOSHIMURA and Hon. NGAFUAN at the ceremony.



Hon. Claude E. LANGLEY and Mr. Moses (Dai Nippon Representative) brief the press at Somalia Drive project site.



Japanese consultants take picture with Mr. MAKINO and Min. LANGLEY at the project site.