Partial Handing-Over Ceremony
of
“the Project for Rehabilitation of Baluchaung No.2 Hydropower Plant in Myanmar”
-JICA’s President turning on the historic hydropower plant to the brighter future for Myanmar-

On 9th February 2015, at the Baluchaung No. 2 Hydropower Plant in Kayah State, the officials of both Japan and Myanmar celebrated the completion of the first phase of Japan’s funded project to rehabilitate Baluchaung No.2 Hydropower Plant. Those present at the ceremony include H.E. U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Electric Power, H.E. U Khin Maung Oo, Chief Minister for Kayah State, senior officials of Hydropower Generation Enterprise of Ministry of Electric Power and other concerned government officials from Myanmar side, and Dr. Akihiko TANAKA, President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and representatives of the Embassy of Japan, JICA and other concerned officials from Japanese side.

Baluchaung No.2 Hydropower Plant, locally known as Lawpita project named after its located village in Kayah State, was originally built with Japanese repatriation based on the historic post-war agreement of the two governments in 1954. The facilities were renovated and refurbished in late 1980s by Japanese ODA loan. Even today, after more than half a century since its first operation in 1960, it still generates electricity of 168MW, which accounts for around 10 percent of national power generation output, and has been achieving the highest operating rate among the hydropower stations in Myanmar.

Today, around 70 percent of Myanmar people still have little or no access to electricity, and even those who have access are chronically suffering from frequent power outage due mainly to the deterioration of power generation facilities, shortage of fuel gas, limited output of hydropower stations in the hot summer season. Under such circumstances, as Baluchaung No.2 Hydropower Plant has been one of the most reliable energy sources for Myanmar for the
past decades, Japan decided in 2013 to provide its grant aid of around US$67 million through JICA to rehabilitate and renew the hydropower generation and transmission facilities in Lawpita. After celebrating the completion of the first phase of installation works, the Project is now moving on to the second phase which will be completed in early 2016.

Upon turning on the key to run the completed units for electricity generation, JICA’s President Dr. Tanaka said, “Assistance to infrastructure development of Myanmar, including the electric power, is one of important pillars of Japan’s assistance,” and “we are fully committed to “people-centered development” to improve the livelihood of Myanmar’s people on the ground.” In view of the progress being made at this historic and symbolic site of Japan-Myanmar 60 year-old friendship, JICA renews and reaffirms its commitment to bringing the maximum benefits to Myanmar people in the years to come.