Introducing JICA's new
Chief Representative

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Sri Lanka, warmly welcomed Mr. Kiyoshi Amada, the new Chief Representative to Sri Lanka, recently. He is a former Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) Chief Representative in Bangladesh and a Senior Advisor to the Director General, South Asia Department of JICA. Mr. Amada brings not only his familiarity with South Asian culture but a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new post in Sri Lanka.

He expressed his delight at being in Sri Lanka and said, "Sri Lanka’s economy is set to grow rapidly, but as a middle-income country it now has to face a new set of challenges." The challenges, he opined are problems of urbanization such as transport, sewage and solid waste management; tackling non-communicable diseases; and the transformation from labor-intensive industries to knowledge-based or high-quality product industries. "It is important that these development issues are understood and to charter JICA’s assistance to best meet the current development needs," says Mr. Amada. He also pointed out that in terms of economic and social development indicators, Sri Lanka is ahead among South Asian countries and it can be a good lesson to other countries in this region.

Mr. Amada has taken up the appointment as the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) celebrates its 60th anniversary. Sri Lanka was one of the early recipients of the Japanese assistance programmes that commenced with Japan joining the Colombo Plan in 1954. The first landmark projects in Sri Lanka were launched in 1978, and were the Telecommunications Network Expansion Project and the Inginimitiya Dam project. "I was very happy to learn from Sri Lankan Government officials of the enormous and significant contribution Japan has made to the country's development," he said. Mr. Amada also said that he always has in mind the words of Lord Buddha, quoted by the former President JR Jayewardene in support of Japan in 1951 - “hatred ceases not by hatred but by love.” Mr. Jayewardene’s reference was made in a speech at the Conference for the Conclusion and Signature of the Treaty of Peace with Japan in San Francisco, USA on 6 Sep. 1951.

Mr. Amada admits with a smile that he has fallen under the spell of mother Lanka, first on hearing the lyrics and rhythm of the national anthem “Sri Lanka Matha.” He remains interested in the cultural diversity, the beauty of the fauna and flora and the culinary delights that the island offers. Sweet pineapples and prawn curry are his favourites, although he says at times it can be a bit too spicy for him. He enjoys kite flying with his daughters on Galle Face Green and is keen to understand the popular game of cricket. Very enthusiastic about the JICA programme in Sri Lanka, he says "I look forward to working with the Japanese and Sri Lankan staff of JICA to support Sri Lanka to overcome its current challenges.”
**PROJECT NEWS**

A New Hi-Tech Bridge for Kelani River

*44th JICA Loan Package-Approx. Rs.45 Billion*

JICA's 44th loan package to Sri Lanka will fund the construction of a hi-tech environmentally friendly new bridge over the Kelani River, ensuring a smooth flow of traffic to and from the Colombo City. The concessionary loan agreement for JPY 35,020 million (approx. Rs. 45 Billion) comes under the Special Terms for Economic Partnership, with 0.1% p.a. interest and a 40-year repayment period.

The 6-lane bridge across the Kelani River at Peliyagoda will extend southwards from Colombo-Katunayake Expressway, and then branch towards Port Access Road and Baseline Road. "JICA is proud to be the partner of the Government of Sri Lanka in constructing the Gateway to Colombo with this new Kelani Bridge," Mr. Kiyoshi Amada, the Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office said.

Japanese technology will be used to construct this landmark bridge as an extradosed bridge, with cable stays connected to towers on either side. This design enables longer spans eliminating the need for piers on the riverbed and will minimize any impact on the water flow or the ecological balance of the river.

The buildings of the Atomic Energy Agency, and National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority located in the vicinity will be relocated to make way for the new Bridge and interchange. Both organisations have been allocated new land, and replacement buildings will be constructed under the Project with JICA financing.

Over 400 low-income households located in the site earmarked for the Project will receive new houses with all amenities at Urban Development Authority housing complexes nearby. The resettlement is conducted by Road Development Authority, in accordance with the National Involuntary Resettlement Policy and JICA's environmental and social safeguard process, to ensure inclusive development in these large-scale projects.

The project is implemented by the Road Development Authority, under the guidance of Ministry of Highways, Ports and Shipping.

**JICA IN THE MEDIA**

| Japanese assistance to build 37 new bridges around the country |
| Divaina |
| 14-Jan-14 |
| JICA Volunteers to focus on education and skills development |
| The Island |
| 29-Jan-14 |
| New six–lane BRIDGE over Kelani River |
| Daily Mirror |
| 8-Feb-14 |
| Drinking water for 60,000 families through the Kalu Ganga Water project in the year 2015 |
| Ada |
| 26-Feb-14 |
| From E01 to E02 and beyond: JICA continues assistance for transportation in Sri Lanka |
| The Island |
| 6-Mar-14 |
| Distribution of 86 fully equipped high-tech ambulances to hospitals... |
| The Island |
| 14-Mar-14 |
| Rs.625 million by JICA to develop two roads in the Kegalle district |
| Dinamina |
| 21-Mar-14 |
| To construct Gateway to Colombo – JICA pumps in Rs.45 billion loan |
| The Nation |
| 30-Mar-14 |
Connected Expressways Heralds a New Era for Travel in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has taken a giant step towards progressive development of the road network with the launching of the Sri Lanka’s Southern Expressway (E01) and then the Outer Circular Expressway (E02).

JICA has financed 66 km of the Southern Expressway, and has also provided financing for both the Kottawa-Kaduwela (11km) and Kaduwela-Kadawatha (8.9km) sections of the Colombo Outer Circular Expressway. Once the 3rd section from Kaduwela to Kerawalapitiya is completed, the Outer Circular Expressway will link the Southern Expressway and the Colombo Katunayake Expressway. It will also act as a North-South artery for Colombo bypassing the inner city area, thereby easing traffic congestion in the commercial capital.

To construct the first section, JICA provided a concessionary long-term loan to the value of JPY 21,917 million (approx. LKR 28 billion). This section includes the 3.3km long Mahawewa viaduct – currently the longest in Sri Lanka. Savings from this contract are being utilized to construct an additional interchange at Pore-Athurugiriya to provide closer access to the administrative service points in Battaramulla. The Road Development Authority of the Ministry of Highways, Ports and Shipping is implementing the Outer Circular Expressway project.

The second section from Kaduwela to Kadawatha includes the interchanges at Kaduwela and Kadawatha, and a 6-lane expressway bridge over the Kelani river in Kaduwela. JICA has provided concessionary long-term loans to the value of JPY 37,406 million (approx. LKR 48 billion), under Special Terms for Economic Partnership for this second section. This is due to be completed in 2015.
Strengthening Dairy Farming in Sri Lanka

The Project on Small Scale Dairy Farming Improvement through Genetic and Feeding Management Improvement in Sri Lanka (GFMII) is a “Technical Cooperation” of JICA. The aim was to improve milk production through genetic and feeding management, leading to better income levels for farmers. These were carried out in areas specified by the Government of Sri Lanka -- Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Matale in the Central Province; Polonnaruwa, in the North Central Province and Kurunegala in the North Western Province. In addition, the project initiated the holding of a “Farm Day” and a number of such days were conducted in the selected districts as well as in areas outside the target districts. These gatherings became central points for the dissemination of new knowledge and techniques to farmers engaged in dairy farming.

One of the distinctive outcomes of the project was the development of a sustainable progeny testing method for Sri Lanka. The project also saw the establishment of appropriate Artificial Insemination (AI) techniques for progeny testing and the improvement of feeding and dairy management techniques of farmers. The development of the progeny testing methods was carried out at the National Livestock Development Board’s farms in Andigama and Dayagama. In addition, technical manuals for progeny testing, AI techniques, risk management and dairy farm management were developed. AI centres in Kundasale and Polonnaruwa were also renovated.

As part of this project, 12 counterpart Sri Lankan personnel were given the opportunity for training in Japan on AI, Progeny Testing, and Feeding Management from 2009 to 2014. Another 24 trainees were also sent on a study tour to Kerala Livestock Development Board Ltd of India to study Progeny Testing in 2011.

March 2014 marked the successful completion of this five-year project that supported the Government of Sri Lanka’s target of achieving a self-sufficient status in milk production by the year 2016. On average, approximately 50 percent of farmers in the programme achieved an increase in milk production by applying the improved technical methods.

The application of lessons learnt and the techniques introduced during this Technical Cooperation project will make it possible for Sri Lanka to achieve self-sufficiency in milk production.
Sri Lanka applied successfully the Japanese 5S method of management in hospitals to streamline the hospital care system. The 5S System – Seiri (Sort), Seiton (Systematize), Seiso (Shine), Seiketsu (Standardize), and Shitsuke (Self-discipline) - is a Japanese-originated management system to improve workplace efficiency.

Sri Lanka’s initiative to improve the quality of healthcare is now a remarkable success story and has brought it to the attention of health care workers in other countries. A team of Cambodian doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals visited Sri Lanka from 2nd to 8th February 2014 to learn more about the system. An experienced panel of Sri Lankan resource persons shared their hands on experience on the application of 5S practices such as the importance of a strong leadership, step-by-step implementation and tackling issues like staff motivation. Participants also visited some of the hospitals practicing 5S and witnessed first hand, the benefits of its application in Sri Lankan hospitals. To date, about 30 Cambodian healthcare professionals have benefitted from the training program offered to them by Sri Lanka.

Following this visit, Dr. S. Sridharan, the current Director of the Directorate of Healthcare Quality and Safety in the Ministry of Health visited Cambodia to observe and monitor the pilot 5S activities that have commenced there. He provided valuable feedback and recommendations to further improve the Cambodian 5S programme.

JICA will continue to support the Health Ministry’s efforts to share the 5S successful experience of Sri Lanka with other developing countries through similar tailor made technical exchange programs. The Third Country Group Training Program will be implemented from 2014 to 2016.
New Technology to Reduce Generation of Solid Waste

JICA welcomed the opportunity to support the Solid Waste Management Program of the Government of Sri Lanka, by introducing the Takakura Method of Composting to various stakeholders. **Mr. Koji Takakura**, the inventor of the Method was himself in Sri Lanka at the invitation of JICA, to make the presentation at a seminar.

About 100 participants representing various stakeholders including local authorities participated in the seminar organised by the National Solid Waste Management Support Center (NSWMSC), in collaboration with the JICA Volunteer Program.

The Takakura Composting Method is an organic waste composting method that is fast, easy and cheap. In addition to compost production, the project brings extra benefits such as the reduction in waste generation by facilitating the segregation of other dry waste, and improving the sanitary conditions in households and communities.

This method has been successful not only in Japan, but also in Surabaya City in Indonesia, where the generation of waste was reduced by 30 percent through the use of this new technology.

Solid waste management is seen by JICA as a very important component of environmental protection, and over the last few decades, has intervened on various occasions to support Government initiatives in this field. NSWMSC itself was established based on recommendations made by a JICA Development Study on Solid Waste management in 2003. This was followed by a four year Technical Cooperation Project in 2007, which was implemented with the aim of improving solid waste management in local authorities.

The project entailed the dispatch of JICA experts, provision of equipment, and training of local counterparts. Under this Program, a number of Japanese volunteers in the field of solid waste management and environmental education have worked attached to local authorities through the NSWMSC, and institutions coming under the Central Environmental Authority.

These volunteers have complemented programs conducted by relevant host institutions at grass-root level. Currently, there are five JICA volunteers supporting solid waste management activities in Sri Lanka. Some of the activities conducted by these volunteers include creating community awareness on source separation, conducting environmental education programs at school level, and adding value to various other related programmes.

One of the volunteers attached to the Dehiwala–Mount Lavinia Municipal Council is currently in the process of introducing and popularizing the Takakura Method of Composting in relevant municipal areas.
VOLUNTEERS

JICA Volunteers Creatively Enhance Pre School Education

A large number of Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) preschool teachers have worked conscientiously to improve the quality of education in preschools in the country. They have introduced fun and creativity to learning and have strengthened childcare development and preschool management techniques in Sri Lanka.

The importance of laying a sound foundation in preschools for developing children’s cognitive abilities is stressed throughout the work the volunteers do daily. “Creating a happy environment for children is the most important task when it comes to child development,” says one volunteer. Many of the volunteers do not limit their activities to be within the school walls and hours. They go the extra mile and visit children’s homes to talk to parents, and help them to create a home environment conducive to child development.

In February this year, a JICA volunteer preschool teacher assigned to the Early Childhood Education Development Authority in the North Western Province, conducted four workshops for approximately four hundred preschool teachers working in the Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts. The aim was to introduce modern teaching methodologies, approaches, and tools for the purpose of improving the skills and capacity of local teachers. The workshops organised in collaboration with the Provincial Ministry of Education in the Northern Province were extremely practical. They have stimulated Sri Lankan teachers and given them an impetus to improve the overall quality of preschool education.

JOCV’s most significant achievement in the preschool sector was the successful role it played in the establishment of the Wayamba Preschool Teacher Training College, and it’s affiliated model preschool Sakura, during the 1990s. This was an initiative of the National Youth Services Council and the North Western Provincial Council, which was supported by JOCV.

Under this program, for over a period of ten years, several volunteers undertook training preschool teachers, developing teaching materials, conducting surveys to assess the standard of preschools and evaluating the practice of childcare in the region. The technical inputs provided by volunteers have made a significant contribution to make these two model institutions that Sri Lanka can be rightfully proud of. They can also be readily replicated in other parts of the country.
JICA Upgrades Kotikawatte Mulleriyawa Water Supply Scheme

More than 150,000 residents in the Kotikawatte and Mulleriyawa area will benefit from the improvements to their water supply scheme carried out under JICA’s Greater Colombo Water Rehabilitation Project. The Pump House at Ambathale water treatment plant was upgraded and a new water tower with a 1500 m³ capacity was constructed at Gohathuwa. Additionally, new transmission pipelines and distribution pipelines were laid in the Kotikawatta and Mulleriyawa areas.

His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared the newly constructed Gohathuwa Water Tower open on 27th February 2014. Mr Hideki Ishizuka, Minister Embassy of Japan, Mr. Harumi Ao, the then Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office, Ministers, Members of Parliament and senior Government Officials’ were also present at the occasion.

JICA has allocated Yen million 3025 (Rs. Million 3,630) for the Greater Colombo Water Rehabilitation project under the JICA Loan No SL-P90.
PROJECT NEWS

State-of-the-Art Ambulances Speed Up Patient Care

JICA handed over 86 brand new Hi-tech ambulances with intensive care facilities to the Government of Sri Lanka on 11 March 2014, for distribution among the most needy 84 health institutions. The ambulances were procured under the JICA Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan for the 'Project for Improvement of Basic Social Services Targeting Emerging Regions.' The largest number of these ambulances will be allocated to the Northern province. The others will be for the, North Central, North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central, Uva and Eastern Provinces.

These ambulances will ply between basic level healthcare facilities and the advanced level healthcare institutions transferring patients who need intensive and special attention care in rural areas. JICA sincerely hopes that the use of these ambulances will save lives, benefit the needy in rural areas and contribute to narrowing the gaps in the health care system.

The Project will also provide funds to improve the facilities and equipment of four Secondary Base Hospitals at Theldeniya, Warakapola, Kaluwanchikudy and Galgamuwa and improve production facilities of the State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Corporation.

Safe Water for Chronic Kidney Disease affected Regions of Anuradhapura

Approximately 61,000 residents of Medawachchiya and Rambewa Divisional Secretariat Divisions stand to benefit from the JICA supported Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project. There is a high prevalence of chronic kidney disease in this area. Research is ongoing to determine the cause, but many believe a probable cause may be the consumption of unsafe ground water.

The project, funded under a JICA Yen Loan Facility of 5,166 million Yen (Approximately 6,437 million Rupees) will treat water extracted from the Mahakandarawa Reservoir and establish a piped water supply scheme for distributing to the residents.

In the interim period, the urgent demand for safe water is being met by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board supplying water in 11 bowser procured under the project. This service to the most needy segments in the area is expected to reduce the risk of the disease spreading.

The Project would be implemented by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board.
Safer Roads for Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka recently has marked its robust economic development with an average growth of 8% per year. Provision of infrastructure, especially transportation plays a vital role in sustaining and achieving this firm economic growth. Thus the Government of Sri Lanka, together with its development partners, is focused on strengthening the vital infrastructure development sector.

Lately, heavy rainfalls within short time spans, occurring more frequently than before have caused landslides and related sediment disasters. These may be due to climate change. However, many roads become impassable during such disasters. The transportation network is affected, and this in turn has a detrimental impact on the economy of the country.

From December 2010 to February 2011, flood and sediment disasters affected over 1.2 million people and total length of 18,237km in Uva, Eastern and Central Province had to be closed due to flash flood and sediment disasters.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is working to reduce the risks of sediment disasters along the major national roads through two projects. They are the JICA ODA Loan Project Landslide Disaster Protection of the National Road Network and the Technical Cooperation for Landslide Mitigation Project. These two projects aim to protect the existing infrastructure by formulating guidelines for sediment disasters that will lead to a strengthening of the country’s disaster management capacity. Measures proposed by JICA will be refined to be in line with the development policies of the Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Ports and Highways, Road Development Authority, Ministry of Disaster Management and National Building Research Organization.

Japan, an island nation like Sri Lanka, will also provide valuable inputs based on their experience in disaster management. This also includes technical cooperation experience of working in similar projects in other countries. Further, the project will also involve the locals, as successful disaster mitigation is only possible with community participation and timely implementation of the guidelines.

JICA Team examines the damage caused by a landslide
The latest batch of nine Japanese Overseas Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteers arrived in Sri Lanka on 9th January 2014. These volunteers will work in various parts of the country and some of them are assigned to former war affected areas of Mannar and Vavuniya. This is the first time that JICA will be dispatching volunteers to these two districts in the Northern Province.

Two volunteers will work attached to the Zonal Education office in Mannar. One of the volunteers, a pre-school teacher in the field of early childhood education said “I am excited to be here and will do my very best to improve the learning environment for children in Sri Lanka.” Another volunteer in the field of air-conditioning and refrigeration is assigned to the Vocational Training Authority – District Training Center in Vavuniya.

The other volunteers include a Japanese language teacher who is assigned to work for the University of Sabaragamuwa; a mathematics teacher who is assigned to the Akkaraipattu Zonal Education Office; a ceramics specialist who is working for the University of Visual and Performing Arts; a Western music teacher who is assigned to the Ministry of Education; a volunteer who is supporting awareness programmes of the Solid Waste Management Support Center, and a physiotherapist who is assigned to the District Social Service Office in Batticaloa.

The main objective of the JICA’s Volunteer Programme is to contribute towards the socio economic development of the country through the use of volunteers’ professional skills and experience. All volunteers initially follow intensive courses in spoken and written Sinhala and Tamil and orientation programmes to familiarize them to life in Sri Lanka. This grasp of local languages, practical approach to problem solving, creative means of communication contributes much to the teaching and training they conduct at grass root level.

The volunteers’ ability to positively influence their local colleagues stems from their work ethics, strong sense of discipline and the high emphasis they place on teamwork. They not only transfer technical skills, but also share knowledge on cultural aspects. More importantly, they build strong and long lasting friendships with local people that often outlast their stay in Sri Lanka. This new batch will bring the total number of volunteers currently working in Sri Lanka to 49. Since the inception of JICA’s Sri Lanka Volunteer Dispatch Program in 1981, a total of 928 volunteers have worked in the country.
ODA 60TH ANNIVERSARY

60 Years of Distinctive Japanese Official Development Assistance

This year 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of Japan’s overseas development assistance that commenced in 1954. Japan joined the Colombo Plan in 1954, and this opened the doors for Japan itself to take on the role as a development partner, providing assistance initially to the Asia-Pacific region.

By 1989, Japan held the position as the number one donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA). Today, it still commands respect as one of the world’s largest bilateral aid donors.

Japan and Sri Lanka have partnered to develop the country through financial and technical cooperation programmes. Amid these there have been several outright Japanese grants bearing “gifts” of lasting value to the people of Sri Lanka. These “gifts” embodied the ideals of love, compassion and coexistence. Noteworthy are the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Sri Lanka Rupavahni Cooperation and the assistance extended by Japan when the Indian Ocean Tsunami devastated Sri Lanka in 2004. Over the six decades there have been a multitude of ways Japan has provided Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) through JICA for construction of expressways, power stations and roads to develop Sri Lanka. They are lasting monuments.

Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Commencement</th>
<th>Type of Assistance</th>
<th>Volume of ODA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Technical Cooperation</td>
<td>72 Billion JPY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Grant Assistance</td>
<td>155 Billion JPY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Loan Assistance</td>
<td>924 Billion JPY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Volunteer Programme</td>
<td>928 Volunteers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Us

Editor for JICA News from Sri Lanka
Kiyoshi Amada,
Chief Representative,
JICA Sri Lanka.

JICA Sri Lanka Office
10th & 13th Floors, DHPL Building,
No. 42, Nawam Mawatha,
Colombo 02, Sri Lanka.

Tel: (+94) 011–2300470
Fax: (+94) 011–2303692
Email: sl_osr_rep@jica.go.jp
Website: www.jica.go.jp/srilanka/english/index.html

https://www.facebook.com/jicasrilanka
http://www.youtube.com/user/jicasrilankaOffice