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Title: JICA assistance to develop urban transport system for Colombo metropolitan region

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ministry of Transport have commenced a technical cooperation project, to conduct a comprehensive study and formulate an urban transport master plan for the Colombo metropolitan region.

The study will focus on identifying the optimum methods of resolving traffic congestion and transport difficulties faced by the public in Colombo city and suburbs. It will review present conditions, on-going developments and future plans, to identify short and mid term measures to improve the existing transport system, and in the long term to establish possibly a new mode of transport as the core system to fulfil the growing public and corporate mobility needs.

The study will consist of a number of surveys to obtain accurate and current data of public requirements as well as traffic conditions. Ministry of Transport together with JICA conducted a trial survey in early 2012 in preparation for the main surveys. “We thank the public who contributed to the preparatory survey with their valuable input, and request public support also for the main surveys to ensure the core transport system is determined in line with the actual requirements of the public”, said Mr. K. D. Dhammika Perera, Secretary of the Ministry of Transport.

The study is conducted under JICA's technical cooperation assistance and is provided on the basis of a grant. Feasibility analysis for the identified core transport system would be also included in the study.

“Depending on the results of the study, we would positively consider financing the implementation of the core transport system under concessionary Official Development Assistance loan terms” said Mr. Harumi Ao, Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office.

The Record of Discussion for conducting the study was signed by Mr. K. D. Dhammika Perera, Secretary, Ministry of Transport in the presence of Hon. Kumar Welgama, Minister of Transport and Mr. Harumi Ao, Chief Representative of JICA – Sri Lanka, on May 16, 2012.

JICA's on-going support to development of the transport sector in Sri Lanka include financial and technical assistance for improvement of the road network including rural, provincial and national roads, construction of Southern Expressway and Colombo Outer Circular Expressway, and most recently the expansion and development of Phase II of Bandaranaike International Airport.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the executing agency of Japan’s Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA). JICA, the world biggest bilateral aid agency, works in over 150 countries and regions. In accordance with its vision of “Inclusive and Dynamic Development,” JICA supports the resolution of development issues in developing countries. In Sri Lanka, Japan has been providing financial and technical assistance since 1954 and is one of the largest donors to the country. On behalf of the people and the Government of Japan, JICA contributes to improve the lives of people in Sri Lanka.

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