Rs. 1.2 Billion Grant from JICA for developing Intelligent Transport System on Southern Expressway

The Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement for 940 million Japanese Yen (over 1.2 billion Rupees) for installing Intelligent Transport System (ITS) related equipment and operations on the expressway network will be signed by His Excellency Mr. Nobuhito Hobo - the Ambassador of Japan in Sri Lanka, Dr. P. B. Jayasundera, Secretary to the Treasury and Mr Harumi Ao, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on 18th March 2013.

Under the Project, traffic, road condition and weather information collection and dissemination system would be established from Kottawa to Pinnaduwa covering part of the Outer Circular Expressway and Southern Expressway. It includes equipment such as traffic counters and rain gauges for data collection, traffic monitoring and control center for data monitoring and management, and Variable Message Signboards (VMS) at roadside and access roads for information dissemination.

Once the system is established, the Expressway Operation, Management and Maintenance Unit (EOM&M) of the Road Development Authority will be able to collect traffic volume and precipitation data from the equipment installed, existing CCTV cameras and patrol vehicles, and other sources such as Police and expressway users; Compile and analyse the data at the traffic control center and determine any countermeasures; and disseminate the relevant information to expressway users through VMS as well as internet, mobile services (SMS) and mass media.
“This grant project will enhance the efficiency and safety of expressway users by providing them advance information about road and traffic conditions. We hope later the system would be expanded to the entire expressway network in Sri Lanka”, says Mr. Harumi Ao, Chief Representative of JICA – Sri Lanka Office.

JICA is one of the largest donors to the road sector in Sri Lanka. JICA financed 67km of the Southern Expressway, and currently finances Phase I and Phase II of the Outer Circular Expressway. The 43rd Official Development Assistance package to Sri Lanka signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and JICA on 14th of March 2013 includes 2 projects on the road sector, one to reconstruct 37 bridges on the national highway network, and the other to support rehabilitation of landslide affected roads.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the executing agency of Japan’s Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA). JICA, the world’s 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 lives of the people in Sri Lanka.