Title: Japan’s Vice Minister of Transport hands over Colombo Urban Transport Master Plan Study Report to Minister of Transport of Sri Lanka

Hon. Manabu Sakai, Parliamentary Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan held discussions with Hon. Kumara Welgama, Minister of Transport together with Mr. Dhammika Perera, Secretary, Ministry of Transport, H. E. Nobuhito Hobo, Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka, Mr. Kiyoshi Amada, Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office and other officials of the ministries of transport of both countries today in Colombo.

Ministry of Transport in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been conducting a detailed study to formulate the urban transport master plan for Colombo metropolitan area. This 2-year study commenced in August 2012 with the objective of identifying the optimum methods of resolving traffic congestion and transport difficulties faced by the public in Colombo city and suburbs. After reviewing present conditions, on-going developments and future plans, measures to improve the existing transport systems and also to establish new modes of urban transport to fulfill the growing public and corporate mobility needs were identified and presented in the interim report in December 2013.

Vice Minister Sakai handed over the final report of the study to Minister Welgama which comprised of further detailed analysis and recommendations to the interim report of December 2013.

The study identified optimum transport solutions for each major transport corridor to Colombo, as well as measures for improving connectivity and access in the inner city area. Some of the identified measures for the immediate term include the monorail system for Malabe corridor and North Colombo, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and railway modernization for Galle Road and Kandy Road corridors, Bus Priority lanes for Negombo, Horana and Low Level Road corridors, elevated port access road from Kelani bridge to Colombo Port to facilitate cargo movement, and Multi-Modal Transport Hub (MmTH) in Fort together with several multi-modal transit centers at the suburbs to enable inter-modal transfer and connectivity.

Ministry of Transport has already commenced further implementation steps into several of the key measures identified from the Master Plan study. Vice Minister Sakai expressed Japan and JICA’s continuous support to develop public transport in Colombo towards equitable socio-economic development, and wished that the key projects could be realized soon.

Attachments:
- 2 Photos -
1. Vice Minister Sakai hands over the study report to Minister Welgama

2. Mr. Dhammika Perera, Secretary, Ministry of Transport explains the identified transport solutions to Minister Welgama and Vice Minister Sakai.

**Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** is the executing agency of Japan’s Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA). JICA, the world’s largest 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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