Date: September 14, 2015  
Contact: Namal Ralapanawe (Email: ralapanawenamal.SL@jica.go.jp, Ext: 3125)

**Title: E02 expands outreach & service with JICA assistance**

The Kaduwela to Kadawatha section of **Colombo Outer Circular Expressway (E02)** is to be declared open on September 17, 2015 by Hon. Minister of University Education & Highways – Mr. Lakshman Kiriella. H.E. Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka, and Mr. Hiroyuki Abe, Senior Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office will grace the occasion representing Japan’s close and continuous cooperation in economic development of Sri Lanka. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) - the implementing agency for Official Development Assistance from the Government of Japan provided financing for both the Kottawa- Kaduwela (OCH 1) and Kaduwela-Kadawatha (OCH 2) sections of the E02 toll expressway.

OCH 1 was opened to the public in March 2014 with a major interchange at Kottawa and a smaller interchange at Kaduwela east (Kotalawala). In order to provide better access to the expressway network to the expanding administrative capital, an additional interchange was constructed subsequently in Athurugiriya. This will also be opened at the same time.

The Outer Circular Expressway extends the Southern Expressway northwards from Kottawa Interchange. Similar to the Southern Expressway -66km of which was financed by JICA- Outer Circular Expressway will also allow vehicle speed up to 100km/h. Once the 3rd section from Kaduwela to Kerawalapitiya is completed, the Outer Circular Expressway will link Southern Expressway and Colombo Katunayake Expressway. It will then act as a North-South artery for Colombo bypassing the inner city area, thereby easing traffic congestion in the city. The Kadawatha Interchange of OCH 2 is also expected to be the commencing point for the planned Central Expressway. The Outer Circular Expressway project is implemented by the Road Development Authority under the Ministry of University Education & Highways.

To construct the section from Kaduwela to Kadawatha, JICA provided concessionary loans to the value of JPY 37,406 million under Special Terms for Economic Partnership with an interest rate of 0.2% and 40-year repayment period. This section includes 8.9km of 4-lane expressway, two interchanges (Kaduwela and Kadawatha) including toll plazas and facilities, and a 6-lane expressway bridge across Kelani River in Kaduwela. As it is located in close proximity to Biyagama EPZ and Sapugaskanda Industrial zone, it is also expected to improve freight transportation to and from these zones.

In order to enhance the expressway use and operation, JICA also provided grant assistance to establish Intelligent Transport System (ITS) facilities on the expressway network. The 940 million JPY worth grant included 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. These facilities are now operational between Kaduwela and Godagama.

In addition to financing nearly 50% share of the operational expressways in Sri Lanka, JICA is also financing the second new Kelani Bridge for easing congestion at Peliyagoda, the northern entry point to Colombo city. JICA’s recent assistance to transport sector in Sri Lanka include technical cooperation to formulate the urban transport master plan for Colombo metropolitan area and feasibility study for monorail system.
Attachments: 4 Photos with captions

Photo 1: Outer Circular Expressway – Phase II – final touches in progress

Photo 2: Outer Circular Expressway – Phase II consists of viaducts in the flood-prone areas
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. <END>