

JICA cohosts IDB-JICA Innovation Day with the Inter-American Development Bank

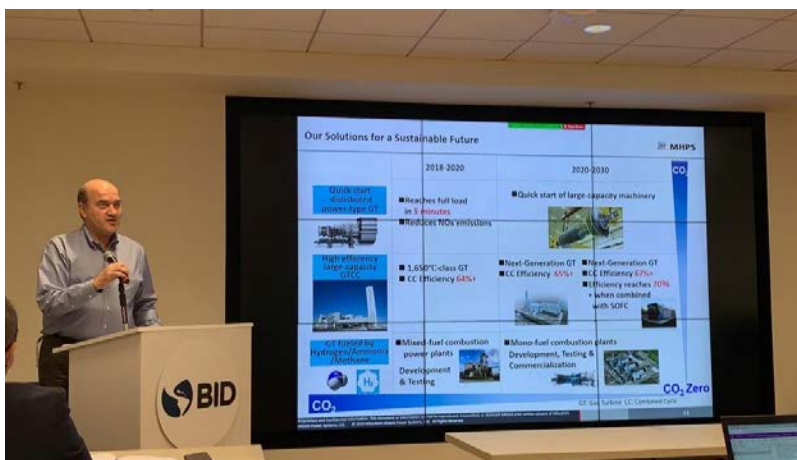


On September 10, 2019, JICA and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) held a JICA-IDB Joint Seminar called *IDB-JICA Innovation Day* at the IDB headquarters in Washington D.C. The Joint Seminar explored further partnership opportunities between the two organizations to foster more innovative, collaborative initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean to seek optimal solutions to address infrastructure bottlenecks that hinder regional economic development, particularly in the energy sector.

The event was a unique opportunity to share cutting-edge technologies, experiences and the practices of four Japanese companies (Challengy Ltd., Nippon Koei Ltd., Toshiba Energy Systems Ltd. and Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Ltd.) who are leaders of innovative energy-sector solutions at the global level. These companies presented their new technologies, including how they use AI and IoT for their operations and maintenance of power plants, resilient power systems and hydrogen generation systems.

JICA and IDB have joined forces through the Co-financing program for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CORE), which they created in 2012 to support energy investments to mitigate climate change impacts in Central America and the Caribbean. The current framework sets a target of JICA mobilizing 3 billion US dollars in Japanese ODA loans by April 2021. So far, JICA has signed 7 projects under the CORE program.

Central America and the Caribbean are highly vulnerable to natural disasters and the majority of countries in this region are facing tight financial conditions because of their dependence on fossil fuel imports for energy generation. South America, which has recently adopted more renewable energy solutions, is now challenging itself to make nearly 100% of its energy come from renewable sources. JICA will be working together with IDB, its biggest development partner in the region, to tackle energy sector challenges in each Latin American and Caribbean country.



Mr. Agustin provides closing remarks

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Japanese company presents on their innovative energy-sector solutions



Mr. Shimokawa kick-starts the discussion with opening remarks