



# Japan International Cooperation Agency Newsletter

APRIL - JUNE 2022

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# Project Updates basis signing of project agreements



## Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation with International Solar Alliance

**New Delhi, May 21, 2022:** On May 21, Memorandum of Cooperation between the Government of Japan, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) and International Solar Alliance (ISA) on Cooperation in Solar Energy Field was signed at ISA Secretariat (Haryana, India) by the following signatories:

**Mr. KAWAZU Kunihiko**, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of Japan to India, Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister, Embassy of Japan (on behalf of the Government of Japan)

**Mr. KURIHARA Toshihiko**, Chief Representative, JBIC New Delhi Representative Office

**Mr. SAITO Mitsunori**, Chief Representative, JICA India Office

**Mr. KAKU Yoshiro**, Chief Representative, NEDO New Delhi Office

**Dr. Ajay Mathur**, Director General, ISA

The objective of this Memorandum is to establish a framework for a cooperative, institutional relationship to encourage and promote concrete multilateral cooperation among the Government of Japan, JBIC, JICA NEDO and ISA in the field of renewable energy.

Cooperation under this MOC includes the following areas:

1. Solar technologies and associated technologies as a means of promoting renewable energy;
2. Energy efficiency, energy saving and energy storage technologies;
3. Technological innovations in the solar energy industry and promotion of cleantech ecosystem in the member countries of ISA; and
4. Other areas as may be decided upon by the Participants.

[Reference]

Outline of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

The initiative was launched by the Government of India together with the Government of France during the 21st Conference of the Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in November 2015. The objective was to develop a platform for cooperation among countries rich in solar-derived resources, aiming at the rapid and significant expansion of the scale of solar energy consumption in the international community.

“The Framework Agreement on the Establishment of International Solar Alliance (ISA)” has been signed by 106 countries including Japan as of May 21 this year, out of which 86 countries have ratified it. The Secretariat is located in Haryana, India.

# Events/Workshops

## 1

### JICA organizes Procurement and Disbursement Seminar under Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan 2022

**Varanasi, June 28th, 2022:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), organized the Procurement and Disbursement Seminar under Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan 2022 on June 23rd and June 24th at the Rudraksh International Cooperation & Convention Center (RICCC), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, which has been constructed by Japan's Grant Aid through JICA.

The seminar was inaugurated in the presence of **Mr. SAITO Mitsunori**, Chief Representative, JICA India Office; **Mr. MIYAMOTO Shingo**, Minister (Economic and Development) Embassy of Japan in India; **Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra**, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India; **Mr. Manoj Bisht**, Senior Accountant Officer, CAAA, DEA, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India; and **Mr. Deepak Agarwal**, Divisional Commissioner, Varanasi.

The seminar aimed at enhancing project executing agencies' understanding on various aspects of JICA's ODA Loans, including procedural matters, for smooth project implementation. The first day of the seminar included discussions around topics such as ODA Loan Outlook and Overview on Disbursement; and Disbursement Management, Procedure and Common Discrepancies. On day two of the seminar

discussions were held on the Specific Issues in Disbursement and Brief Recapitulation by Each Group; the Promotion of RICCC and its utilization; Public Relations in JICA India Office; presentation on ODA projects by JICA India, presentation on procurement procedures by JICA headquarters; and Efficient Project Management & Project Execution by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Speaking at the ceremony, **Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, said,** *"It is an immense pleasure to hold JICA's Procurement and Disbursement Seminar 2022 at the RICCC, an iconic symbol of close Japan-India relations while we celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence and the 70th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations. India continues to be JICA's largest partner in the world. But the critical thing is the smooth implementation of projects and the speedy delivery of development benefits to the people. Through accelerating project execution, JICA would like to contribute to India's efforts to create a solid economic and social foundation for future prosperity. Also the seminar would provide an excellent opportunity to deepen mutual understanding at the operational level between executing agencies and JICA."*

## 2

### New Delhi JICA supports India for Capacity Development on Railway Safety

**6th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting held in New Delhi May 25, 2022:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ministry of Railways (MOR), Government of India (GOI) held the 6th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting for Technical Cooperation (TC)

project of Capacity Development on Railway Safety to discuss activities and achievements so far. This TC project, commenced in December 2018, is being jointly implemented by Indian and Japanese side, and is expected to result in enhancing capacities of Indian Railways (IR), Dedicated Freight Corridor

# Events/Workshops

Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) and Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) with respect to safety of railway network in India. The Indian railway network is one of the largest in the world, therefore maintenance of safer and reliable operations is of utmost priority.

This was the final JCC of this Technical Cooperation, and the activities and achievements during the past 3 years and 5 months, starting from December 2018 until May 2022 have been summarized at this JCC. In 2019, before the Covid-19 outbreak, JICA invited officials from IR, DFCCIL and CRS to attend training programs in Japan, focusing on Track Maintenance, Rail Welding, Rolling Stock Maintenance and Accident Investigation. These training programs in Japan highlighted good practices of Japanese railway maintenance works and Japanese knowledge and experiences for Indian officials. During these training programs, Indian officials came forward in preparation of Safety Action Plans to improve the quality of maintenance work in their respective fields, and have been implementing Safety Action Plans after visiting Japan.

The JCC was Co-chaired by Mr. Ashutosh Gangal, General Manager, Northern Railway cum Project Director of the TC Project and Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative of JICA India, along with Dr. Makoto Ishida, Chief Advisor of the TC Project.

In addition to the JCC, JICA Experts visited Railway Design and Standard Organization (RDSO) of Indian Railways, last week, for the demonstration and training of Non-Destructive Test of Ultrasonic Rail Flaw Detection (URFD) method, arranged for Double-Probe technique which is originally developed by Railway Technical Research Institute in Japan. Using the equipment of the Double-Probe technique, characteristics of the rail flaws specific to rail welds were thoroughly discussed between Indian officials and JICA Experts from May 17th to May 20th, 2022.

With regard to activities related to Rail Welding, JICA Experts visited rail welding portion factory and training centre in Northern Railways during 2019, to identify the practices of rail welding in

India and discussed various issues to improve the quality of rail welds from railway safety point of view. Subsequently, again during 2019, Indian counterpart team was invited to Japan to visit rail welding centre and working site in track and take lectures from Japanese railway experts. Based on the result of the discussions between Indian and Japanese counterparts, Japanese side has decided to provide RDSO with URFD equipment (SM-20R) of the Double-Probe technique, commonly used in Japan to enhance capacity improvement of railway safety.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office said,** *“Each group of this TC project in the field of Track Maintenance, Rail Welding, Rolling Stock Maintenance and Accident Investigation have been proactively implementing their Action Plan by utilizing learning from training programs in Japan and support of Japanese experts. We are pleased to hear that this Technical Cooperation has contributed to enhance safe railway environment in India and action plans could be functionally implemented to promote safe operations and appropriate maintenance in Indian Railway. Although, we are completing our TC project, we hope Indian Railways would continue to pursue their effort for Railway Safety.”*

**Speaking on the occasion Dr. Makoto Ishida, Chief Advisor JICA expert team said,** *“The URFD method arranged for Double-Probe technique has a great impact and contribution on reducing rail weld failures in the history of development of rail welding technology in Japan. Currently, the Double-Probe method is very common among Japanese Railway operators. On the occasion of JICA Experts’ visit to India, JICA Experts conducted technical demonstrations, trainings and lectures on URFD method to Indian counterparts. JICA Experts and Indian officials discussed in detail the mechanism of URFD technique focusing on the difference between Japanese and Indian practice. As a result, I am happy to inform that Indian counterparts have shown their positive intent for utilizing the equipment in order to reviewing Japanese Double-Probe technique for customizing the same to Indian Railways practice.”*

# Special days

## 1 On World Day for Safety and Health at Work, JICA commits to make construction sites safer, appoints MASUDA Koji as Construction Safety Advisor

**New Delhi, 27 April 2022:** World Day for Safety and Health at Work is focused on Investment in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems. The purpose of this day is to garner international attention on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health including work-related injuries, diseases, and fatalities worldwide.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been striving to support and improve the safety and healthcare facilities in India including the workplaces of each project site. To enhance this further, Mr. MASUDA Koji has been appointed as the Advisor on Construction Safety stationed at JICA India office, who would be investigating Construction Safety of various Infrastructure projects.

His main role would be to conduct Site Construction Aspect Survey in order to provide project implementation agencies with advices to improve safety at sites. JICA is currently supporting tons of infrastructure construction projects by JICA ODA loans etc., such as Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project (Freight railway construction between Delhi and Mumbai, 1,500km), Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway project, Metro construction in the several major cities, Highways construction, and construction of Water and Sewerage facilities in the whole country. In the Survey, the implementation status of the project is investigated in terms of Construction Safety in order to know if the works are being carried out in conformity to the requirements, as JICA aims to provide High-Quality Infrastructures.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said,** “Construction safety is one of the most overlooked things during project execution. At construction sites, accidents

*have the potential to be life-threatening. With every new story about environmental disasters, earth-shattering explosions, and trapped laborers, construction sites become less and less appealing even as the population grows and demands new, updated structures increases. But All employers have a responsibility in protecting the health and safety of their staff, regardless of their occupation or industry. For construction workers, who are exposed to high risk environments, must have an opportunity of proper construction safety training in order for them to avoid and eliminate potential risk at construction sites. JICA would like to extend our support to project executing agencies to establish resilient occupational safety and health systems in our supported projects. I welcome Mr. MASUDA to take forward the important activities that JICA is currently undertaking. I hope his support will be fruitful to the projects in the long run.”*

**Speaking on his appointment, Mr. MASUDA Koji, Advisor on Construction Safety at JICA India Office, said,** “Construction Safety is of utmost importance to JICA. As an expert for the construction safety, I will investigate and evaluate if the works are being implemented in compliance with the safety law and regulations and suggest measures to be taken by the Executing Agency, the Contractor and the Consultant involved in the project to improve the safety situations, if necessary. In case of emergency, I will immediately take charge and assist project implementation agencies in order for them to sort out the countermeasures to prevent the works from the recurrence of the similar accidents. I am hopeful these actions will reduce the mis happenings at construction sites and create a safer environment for all.”

# Special days

## 2 On International Nurses Day, JICA reiterates commitment towards making the healthcare sector a safer area for nurses

**New Delhi, 11 May 2022:** International Nurses Day is celebrated every year on May 12- the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. Observed to mark the contributions that nurses make to society, the theme this year is Nurses: A Voice to Lead- Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) reinforced its commitment towards enabling gender equality across sectors by designing and implementing intervention research which has been recently conducted with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The research identified action-oriented solution(s) to support and improve the wellbeing of female frontline health workers (FFHW) while enhancing their efficiency on field. Through this study, JICA intended to generate critical insights for practitioners, policy makers and programme implementers on the need, options, and ways to ensure gender equity and justice in programme delivery in a post COVID-19 developmental paradigm.

The overall objective of the study was to equip stakeholders with an understanding of how an

unprecedented crisis like the pandemic has impacted Female Frontline Healthcare Workers (FFHCWs). It also aimed at finding ways to resolving the psychosocial issues resulting out of such situations, presently and in the future. Based on the findings of the research, JICA prepared and conducted structured training modules for FFHCWs, their family members and departmental supervisors to spread awareness on key issues. The modules focused on improving the knowledge and skills of the FHWs to address biased gender norms and stigma that has aggravated their work and performance during the pandemic.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said,** "Nurses have suffered tremendously throughout the pandemic. It is said that they have been unnecessarily exposed to the virus, faced attacks from the public, suffered from extreme workloads, and continue to undervalued. I believe further investment in the health workforce by governments will definitely make India's health systems more resilient and effective. There is no health without a health workforce!"



# Special days

## 3

### **On International Day for Biological Diversity, JICA reiterates its commitment to develop a way of support for biodiversity conservation in Tamil Nadu**

**New Delhi, 21 May 2022:** International Day for Biological Diversity, is celebrated every year on May 22 to increase the understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme for this year is 'Building a shared future for all life' as biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges.

Forests are an important renewable natural resource that plays a significant role in preserving an environment suitable for human life. Keeping that in mind, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan amounting to JPY 10,535 million JPY (approximately INR. 680 crores) for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for against Climate Change Response in March 2022.

This signed project will focus on: Ecosystem based Climate Change Measures; Human Wildlife Conflict Measures; Promoting Supply Chain Development of Forest Products; Livelihood Improvement Activities, and 5. Management Capacity Development. The Tamil Nadu Forest Department will implement the project from FY 2022 to FY 2030.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr SAITO Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, said, "JICA believes that biodiversity remains the solution to several long-term development issues. Biodiversity is the basis upon which we may rebuild better, from nature-based solutions to climate, health, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods. We believe that the conservation of biodiversity is a key to increase the value of nature and people's lives."**