

Japan to cooperate on “Smart City” initiative in Varanasi

Embassy of Japan in India
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On January 5th, 2017, Ambassador Hiramatsu called on H.E. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, the then Minister of Urban Development, and discussed Japan’s cooperation on “Smart City” initiatives - flagship initiatives for urban development by the Government of India. In the meeting, Ambassador Hiramatsu conveyed to H.E. Mr. Naidu that Japan has decided to cooperate on the “Smart City” initiative in the cities of Varanasi as well as Ahmedabad and Chennai.

http://www.in.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000215.html

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156166>

The following projects are some examples of Japan-India cooperation to transform Varanasi into a smart city.

International Cooperation and Convention Center in Varanasi

Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Modi welcomed the exchange of notes for the construction of a state-of-the-art Convention Center in Varanasi as a symbol of friendship between Japan and India and expressed their hope for its early completion, on the occasion of the Summit Meeting in Gujarat, in September, 2017.



(Images: JICA)



Ganga Action Plan Project (Varanasi)

This project aims to improve the water quality in River Ganga by augmenting waste water treatment system capacity with construction and rehabilitation of the sewerage system and community toilets in slums, thereby improving public health conditions for inhabitants and pilgrims.



140 MLD New Sewage Treatment Plant under construction in Dinapur, Varanasi



Existing Sewerage Treatment Plant to be rehabilitated



Community Toilet

(Photos: JICA)

Toyota Sanitation Program

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. (TKM) installed 124 toilet units in Varanasi, in 2015, in order to provide clean facilities for girl students, as a part of its corporate social responsibility program. Post construction, the toilets were maintained for one year through ABCD (A Behavioral Change Demonstration). The objective of this is to create a sustainable model to keep the facilities clean at all the times, through adopting hygienic practices by the users, and to facilitate in undertaking behavioral change program for target stakeholders. The toilets are currently being maintained by the schools themselves. Over 5200 school children benefit from this project (as of January 2018).

Units constructed : 124

Beneficiaries: 5200 children

ABCD training to children



Toilet blocks constructed by TKM

Toyota Water Purification Project

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. (TKM) installed 1 RO water purification unit in Varanasi, in 2015, in order to provide clean drinking water facilities for villagers of Basani Village, in Baragaon Block of Varanasi District. Post installation of the water unit, it was handed over to Basani Village Gram Panchayat and currently the Gram Panchayat is taking care of its operation and maintenance. Average of over 4500 villagers benefited from this project (as of January 2018).

No of Units : 01

Beneficiaries: 4500 villagers



Community water unit Installed by TKM

(Photos: TKM)

Project for Comprehensive Improvement of Environmental Sanitation in Varanasi

This technical cooperation project, which is currently under formulation, will strengthen the capacity for solid waste management, non revenue water reduction, sewerage and wastewater management, thereby improve environmental sanitation in the whole of Varanasi and its surrounding area.

(Photos: JICA)



Kyoto-Varanasi Partnership

On 30 August 2014, the “Confirmation of the intention regarding the Partner City Affiliation between City of Varanasi and City of Kyoto” was signed between Mr. Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto City, and Mrs. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, the then Ambassador of India to Japan, in the presence of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the said confirmation, both cities agreed to promote friendship between the citizens of the two cities, and to develop their relationship for exchange and cooperation in the fields of culture, art, academics, heritage conservation and city modernization. In November 2015, Kyoto City handed out the “Kyoto City Landscape Guideline”, which provides its knowledge and experience on landscape conservation, to the Mayor of Varanasi City.



(Photos: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan)

Participatory Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Approaches

SEEDS Asia has been promoting a model of community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) by establishing five 'Climate Schools (CS)' as focal points of DRR/climate change education, and five 'Citizen Forums (CF)' in each CS area in Varanasi, with support from Japan's grant assistance for Japanese NGO project.



Automatic weather station in 5 climate schools



Stretcher made of ordinary goods such as tarpaulin and ropes



Student newspaper on Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change 'Prahari'



Learning about DRR of cultural assets at Kiyomizu Temple, Kyoto, Japan

Automobile Skill Enhancement Center

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) set up an Automobile Skill Enhancement Center (ASEC) in the Industrial Training Institute in Varanasi, in March 2017. ASEC is equipped with a modern workshop to provide practical training in automobile services to students, and is contributing to the "Skill India Initiative".



(Photos: MSIL)

Various Supports for BHU



Kyoto University signed an MOU with Banaras Hindu University (BHU) to promote comprehensive exchanges, in August 2015. Based on this MOU, cooperation in the field of Environmental Research, such as invitation of BHU students and faculty to seminars and conferences organized by Kyoto University, support for Kyoto University Researchers' fieldwork in India, etc., is going on.

(Photo: Embassy of Japan)

BHU inaugurated a Japanese Language Degree course in July 2016. For this new-born course, Japan Foundation New Delhi (JFND) has been offering continuous support, including the following:

- JFND provided salary support for a native Japanese-language teacher,
- One of BHU language teachers completed JFND's teacher training course,
- JFND supported Japanese cultural program organized by the BHU Japanese language students and faculty.



(Photo: Japan Foundation)