

Remarks by Ambassador Hiramatsu at the Flagging off ceremony of
Majis Park- Durgabai Deshmukh South Campus section of Pink Line

Date: 14th March, 2018

Venue: Auditorium, Metro Bhawan, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State, Housing and Urban
Affairs,

H.E. Dr. Hash Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology, Earth
Sciences, and Environment, Forest and Climate change

H.E. Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi,

Mr. Mangu Singh, Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.,

Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Right at the outset, I would like to congratulate each one of you on the
successful completion of this segment of Delhi Metro line 7: the 21.56 km
section between Majlis Park and Durgabai Deshmukh South Campus stations,
as well as the 12 Metro stations that are located in this section.

On this occasion, I would also like to express my sincere respect for the
able leadership of H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State, and
H.E. Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, for providing
unmitigated support towards this project.

The Delhi National Capital Region is one of the first urban centres in India to
introduce the Metro system. Japan has supported construction of the Delhi

Metro technically as well as financially from the very beginning of the project, helping Delhi Metro to realize world-class services with regard to safety, reliability, punctuality, comfort and customer satisfaction. The introduction of state of the art Metro network in the Delhi National Capital Region is considered to have changed drastically the perception of urban lifestyle among citizens of Delhi and all over India. Japan's continuous involvement in the Delhi Metro Project symbolizes the important and friendly relationship between our two countries.

The Government of Japan is supporting the construction of about 116 km section out of a total of 159 km of the Delhi Metro Phase 3, through Japan's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) loan. The Government of Japan and the Government of India signed the Exchange of Notes on Japanese ODA Loan amounting to JPY 127.9 billion, approximately INR 9,220 crores, in March 2012, and JPY 148.9 billion, approximately INR 10,732 crores, in March 2014. We will continue to financially support the construction of important infrastructure projects as per the specific needs of the Indian citizens.

The Japanese principles of railway safety management and project management are being implemented in this section of Delhi Metro. Oriental Consultants, a premier consultancy firm that specializes in public transport systems management, is contributing in securing the safe operations of this section.

In addition, Japanese technologies and quality control are also being applied to this section. Mitsubishi Electric is supplying the propulsion system for the rolling stocks, and Mitsui & Co. has been roped in for rail procurement.

Japan has established a highly developed urban transportation network in large metropolitan areas, and manages these networks with supreme expertise. I firmly believe that Japan's vast know-how in the arena of public transportation can contribute meaningfully to the efficient running of Metro projects as well as conventional railway networks in India.

I believe that the development of urban transportation networks in India is helping to realize sustainable "walkable urbanism," with limited use of automobiles, thus achieving a sharp cut in vehicular emissions. Apart from being environmentally friendly, the highly developed urban transportation networks render infrastructure planning more efficient. This could lead to attracting of more investments from global companies, creating vibrant economic activities and further employment opportunities.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the people who have been working so hard to ensure that this section can be inaugurated today. I would like to conclude by reiterating the fact that Delhi Metro is a shining example of the long-lasting and cooperative relationship between India and Japan, working sincerely and with commitment.

Thank you very much.