

Remarks by Ambassador Hiramatsu at the Flagging off ceremony of Delhi Metro's Durgabai Deshmukh South Campus - Lajpat Nagar section of Pink Line

Date: July or August 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. Mr. Ananth Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs,

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

Mr. Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Dr. 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 offer my heartiest congratulations to each one of you on the successful completion of this segment of Delhi Metro's line 7.

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 extending their unmitigated support towards the realization of this project.

I am personally very excited to see this long-awaited section's opening, which encompasses some of New Delhi's most well-known shopping destinations, such as INA, Sarojini Nagar, South Extension and Lajpat Nagar. I believe that this newly-connected section will not only provide Delhiites with comfortable and time saving travel, but will also prove to be a catalyst for the introduction of environmentally-friendly transit-oriented urban development. This will bring about maximized access to residential, commercial, and leisure space within walking distance from the public transport system.

The Delhi National Capital Region is one of the first urban centers in India to introduce the Metro system, which offers world-class services with regard to safety, reliability, punctuality, comfort, and customer satisfaction.

Japan is proud of partnering in the construction of the Delhi Metro, technically and financially, from the very beginning of the project. The Japanese Government's support covers the construction of about 116 km section out of a total of 159 km of the Delhi Metro Phase 3, utilizing Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan, amounting to JPY 276.8 billion, approximately INR 17,000 crores. Japan's continuous involvement in the Delhi Metro Project emphatically denotes the important and friendly relationship existing between our two countries.

The Japanese principles of safety for project management are being implemented in Delhi Metro. Oriental Consultants, a premier consultancy firm that specializes in public transport construction management, is securing the safety of the construction sites. In addition, Japanese technologies and quality control are also being applied, with Mitsubishi Electric supplying the propulsion system for the rolling stocks, and Mitsui & Co. roped in for rail procurement.

I firmly believe that Japan's vast know-how in the arena of public transportation and urban development can contribute meaningfully to the efficient running of Metro projects as well as environmentally-friendly urban spaces in India. This could eventually attract more investments from global companies, creating a dynamic economic ecosystem and enhanced employment opportunities.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt 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 my remarks by reiterating the fact that Delhi Metro symbolizes the long-lasting and cooperative relationship between India and Japan, continuously working together with sincerity and commitment in the years to come.

Thank you very much.