

INDO-JAPAN WORKING GROUP ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

In pursuance of the Joint **Statement Towards Japan–India Strategic and Global Partnership** announced by the Prime Ministers of Japan and India in December, 2006, inter-alia, referring to the launching of working groups by the two countries in the field of urban development, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Japan on cooperation in the field of Urban Development was signed on 1.5.2007 at New Delhi. MoU was signed by Minister of Urban Development on behalf of Government of India and Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Japan on behalf of Government of Japan. As per the MoU, the Working Group will meet once a year and the first meeting will be held in Japan, and the second and subsequent meetings will be held alternately in India and Japan. The Working Group will be co-chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India and Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Japan. There will be separate Sub-Working Groups on Water Environment, Urban Development and Urban Transport. Each Sub-Working Group may deal with the subjects listed below:

- 1) **Sub-Working Group on Water Environment**
 - Urban Flood Management, Sewerage and Wastewater Management
- 2) **Sub-Working Group on Urban Development**
 - Urban Renewal and Disaster Mitigation (excluding issues dealt with the Sub-Working Group on Water Environment)
- 3) **Sub-Working Group on Urban Transport**
 - Urban Transport Planning, Development of Public Urban Transport, Intelligent Transport System

2. Specific details of the Working Group/Sub-Working Groups meetings such as agenda, date, duration will be determined through mutual consultation. The broad composition of the Working Group from the Indian side will be as already indicated in their Order dated 19th February, 2007 and from Japanese side it will be decided every year before the meeting of the Working Group. The attendees of the Working Group/Sub-Working Groups meetings will be determined according to the agenda by both the countries.

3. Accordingly, First Meeting of Indo-Japan Working Group on Urban Development was held at Tokyo from 18.6.2007 to 19.6.2007 and a field trip on 20.6.2007. A four member Indian delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development attended the meeting in which the following issues were discussed:

- Urban renewal
- Disaster prevention including measures against earthquakes and fires.
- Metropolitan Planning
- Mapping of urban utilities using GIS
- Unaccounted for Water Management
- Waster Water Treatment options
- Prevention of water bodies & flood management in urban areas
- City Specific Transportation Model
- Documentation & Regulatory Act for uniform safety standards of Guided Urban Transport System
- Software Controlled Intelligent Transport System
- PPP Models for Urban Transport.

4. The **Second meeting** of the said Working Group was held on 16.6.2008 at New Delhi. Mr. Taniguchi, Vice-Minister of Engineering Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructures, and Transport, Government of Japan led the Japanese delegation. Indian delegation was led by Secretary (Urban Development). Following issues were discussed in the Second meeting of the Working Group :

- Reuse of recycled water non-potable uses
- Water Training Institute
- Disaster Management and improvement of living environment
- Urban Governance and JNNURM
- Urban Planning in India
- Sustainable urban transport in big cities
- ITS in urban areas
- Modern city bus services.
- Capacity building in Public Transport Sector

5. Based on the discussions, following areas were identified by the Working Group for exploring further cooperation:

- Clean Development Mechanism Projects in the areas of sewage treatment / other urban sector projects
- Energy recovery
- Removal of nitrogen and phosphorus and surfactants and detergents
- Training of Indian professionals / policy makers under JS Programme.
- Cheaper membrane technology
- Pathogen removal (other than chlorination)
- Reduction of sludge volume and safe removal of sludge
- Best practices and emerging technologies in Water and Sanitation Sector

- Experience sharing in improving operational efficiency of water utilities
- Metropolitan Planning Urban renewal
- Urban Renewal
- Disaster management : Strategies and Technologies
- GIS based utility mapping
- Innovative approaches in the use of FAR for promoting the quality of built environment
- Comprehensive mobility planning and management using Intelligent Transport systems.
- ITS enabled Modern city bus service and traffic information management centres.
- Capacity building in Urban transport in areas such as ITS, Rail based transit systems, multi modal integration

6. A workshop on water environment was held under the auspices of the Indo-Japan joint working group on water environment which is a sub group of the Indo-Japan joint working group on Urban Development on 11th February, 2009 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The Japanese delegation was led by Mr. Yoshiaki Nanami, Director of International Policy Unit for Infrastructure, Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Tourism (MLIT) and the Indian delegation was led by Mr A.K.Mehta, Joint Secretary (UD), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD).

7 The Third Meeting of the Indo-Japan Working Group held on 11th June, 2009 at Tokyo which was attended by an Indian delegation led by Secretary (UD). A workshop on Urban Transport Systems is proposed to be held on 8-2-2010 under the aegis of the Indo Japan Working Group.
