

Achievement and future of FRIENDSHIP (the Project for Future Researchers at IITH to Enhance Network Development with Scholarship of Japan)

In August 2007, the prime ministers of Japan and India declared that the partnership between Japan and India was an essential pillar for the future architecture of the entire region. The cooperation between IITH and Japanese counterpart was commenced under this strong initiative based on the common understanding of the significance of the partnership. Through the cooperation, it is aimed that first-class university is established to symbolize the Japan-India partnership.

In 2009, the consortium composed of the Japanese government, JICA, universities, research institutions and private companies was formed as a venue to exchange opinions regarding the general framework of the cooperation to realize the effective "All Japan" support to IITH.

JICA has been extending the cooperation to IITH in integrated approach including facility development and strengthening of educational and research activities. For the facility development, ODA Loan project, "Campus Development Project of Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (Phase 1-2)", was signed in 2014. Several important facilities in the IITH campus are being constructed under this loan including 6 buildings designed through technical cooperation project named "Campus Design Project for IIT-H through Academic Exchange and Interdisciplinary Collaboration" to symbolize partnership between India and Japan.

For the educational and research activities, the technical cooperation project, "the Project for Future Researchers at IITH to Enhance Network Development with Scholarship of Japan

(FRIENDSHIP Project)", started in 2012.

The objective of the project is that educational and research activities of IITH are further developed through the world-class research network associated with human resource interaction between IITH and higher education institutions and industrial clusters of Japan.

During the period of the projects, the unwavering commitment of IITH has been shown and implemented towards being the symbolic university of the Japan-India partnership.

As a result, distinguished results have been achieved. In view of academic partnership, around 140 FRIENDSHIP scholarship students were dispatched to Japan, 22 MoUs were agreed between Japanese academic institutions, about 280 faculty members visited each country, 10 joint research were conducted and more than 70 research papers were published.

In addition, some larger-scale research funds, such as SATREPS (Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development), were obtained for joint research projects. Other than these, JICA-FSA (Friendship Scholars' Association) was established to extend supports to new scholarship students to Japan and share information among members, which bears an important part of Japan-India partnership.

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In view of industrial partnership, 13 MoUs were signed with Japanese companies, several joint research outcomes were exhibited at events and seminars, and internship programs and job fairs were held for FRIENDSHIP scholarship students. Through these activities, some students got a job at Japanese companies and contributed to strengthening the academic-industrial partnership between the two countries.

Based on these tangible achievements, JICA and IITH are now discussing to design the FRIENDSHIP Project Phase 2. In this phase, it is expected to establish Japan Desk as a regular unit of IITH, which would collect a wide range of

information regarding academic and industrial cooperation and perform as a hub for further partnership between Japan and India. This new hub should contribute to the continuous development of the human resource which would play important roles to strengthen the partnership sustainably.

Last but not least, we would like to express sincere gratitude to all counterparts at IITH and concerned parties in India and Japan for their great efforts so far and highly appreciate the continued support for deepening our partnership in future.



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