

Public Relations (RDA News)

Training in Japan for Capacity Development on Bridge Management (Country Focus Training)

A total of 20 RDA officials, 10 in 2023 and 10 in 2024 respectively, had the opportunity to participate in a training program in Japan provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Capacity Development on Bridge Management. They have successfully achieved the training objective including five (5) outputs and are expected to contribute further to the advanced bridge management for Sri Lanka.

There are approximately 4,300 bridges on national roads in Sri Lanka, which the RDA has been maintaining and managing. According to RDA's database, the percentage of bridges on national roads aged over 50 years accounted for 42% in 2010 to 60% in 2020 respectively and have been deteriorating over time. If deteriorated bridges are not attended, it will result in road closure, large-scale repair and reconstruction, and potentially bridge collapse causing social and economic losses, extraordinary maintenance costs, and danger for people's lives. As the road administrator, RDA is liable to maintain the bridges in sound conditions to avoid such social negative impacts.

From February 2015 to February 2018, RDA has received the assistance from JICA for Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development on Bridge Management (the Project) to implement effective bridge maintenance and management methods for Sri Lanka, improve institutional framework and budget preparation, and enhance technical knowledge and skills in bridge maintenance and management. A new organization, called Bridge Management and Assessment Unit (BM&AU), was established and 12 RDA engineers were trained under the Project on bridge inspection and diagnosis, bridge repair, preparation of various manuals, development of bridge management system (BMS), and use of bridge inspection vehicle. This has enabled the RDA to collect reliable bridge conditions data, develop the bridge inspection and repair plans based on the said conditions data and to prepare the accurate budget request to MoF.

The training program in 2023 and 2024 in Japan aimed to acquire advance knowledge and skills in bridge inspection and repair methods after the Project. The training participants had various lectures, on-site trainings and study tours, inclusive for an extradosed bridge (Golden Gate Kalyani Bridge) and a steel box girder bridge that are new in Sri Lanka. Training curriculums involve bridge management elemental techniques, advanced inspection technique for bridges under water and using an aerial drone and a tablet system, non-destructive tests for bridge repair design, diagnosis and repair of bridge scour, bridge repair methods and materials, bridge monitoring techniques, and human resources development scheme for bridge engineers under industry-government-academia collaboration.

The trained RDA officials are expected to contribute to efficient and effective bridge maintenance and management in Sri Lanka to secure a reliable road network and ensure the safety of road users and third parties within limited financial resources.

RDA is looking to further develop its bridge maintenance and management initiatives and kindly requests the stakeholders to understand the importance of bridge management and to continue supporting these initiatives if necessary.





