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Ministry of Finance  
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[www.erd.gov.bd](http://www.erd.gov.bd)

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Fatima Yasmin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division and H.E. Ito Naoki, Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh have had a virtual meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. They exchanged views on the future economic cooperation under Japanese Overseas Development Assistance or Yen Loan Program.

ERD has recently requested Japanese Government to include six projects to their 42nd Yen Loan package for the Japanese financial year 2021 (April 2020 – March 2021). These projects are: 1) Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Line 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche), 2) Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Line 6 (5<sup>th</sup> Tranche), 3) Matarbari Coal Fired Power Project (6<sup>th</sup> Tranche), 4) Matarbari Coal Fired Power Project, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase, 5) Southern Chattogram Regional Development Project and 6) Health Sector Development Policy Loan. Among those, Southern Chattogram Regional Development Project and Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal-Fired Power Projects will serve to promote the Initiative of The Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B). The BIG-B initiative is to accelerate industrial agglomeration along the Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar belt area and beyond, encompassing developing economic infrastructure, improving investment environment and fostering connectivity. Due to the adverse impacts on the human life and livelihood caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, ERD also requested for budget support loan to deal with the raging COVID-19.

The extent of cooperation and strong partnership between the two countries have further deepened after the visits of the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Sheikh Hasina to Japan and the then Prime Minister of Japan, H. E. Mr. Shinzo Abe to Bangladesh in 2014.



