

The New Kelani Bridge Project Team

JFE Engineering Corporation, Mitsui E&S Co., Ltd., Toda Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd., Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd. Katahira & Engineers International

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No. of Members : 63 (JFE Engineering Corporation 19, Mitsui E&S Co., Ltd. 7, Toda Corporation 16, Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd 7, Oriental Consultants Global Co., Ltd 13, Katahira & Engineers International 1)

Located in the northern part of Colombo (the economic center of Sri Lanka), the New Kelani Bridge is a key transportation hub connecting National Highway No. A01, which connects central Colombo to the second largest city, Kandy, and National Highway No. A03, which connects to the Colombo Port Access Road and Bandaranaike International Airport.

While Sri Lanka's economy continues to grow, the existing Kelani Bridge has become a chronic traffic congestion point due to the recent increase in traffic volume, especially during the morning and evening peak hours. This project is a STEP project funded by Japanese ODA, which aims to increase traffic capacity in the area and solve traffic congestion by constructing a new bridge across the Kelani River and its approach road. Since the viaduct is located in an urban area, the SBHS500 material, a new Japanese technology standardized by JIS in 2008, was used in some parts of the bridge to prevent the bridge structure from becoming too large. This is the first time that this material has been used in an overseas project, and it can be said to have played an important role in the Japanese government's goal of exporting "high-quality infrastructure."

During the implementation of this project, three emergencies occurred: the series of terrorist bombings, the pandemic of COVID-19, and the default of the Sri Lankan government, which forced our construction to be suspended every time. The fact that we were able to complete the project with zero serious accidents and high quality despite such difficulties was because we were able to pass on our Japanese technologies for safety and quality to our subcontractors and other related members. Specifically, a junior Engineer system was established, and Japanese senior Engineers provided guidance and technology transfer to the local junior Engineers in planning, designing, and construction supervision, leading to the presentation of a technical paper by a junior Engineer at the ICSECM international conference. In addition, we have dispatched several specialized technicians from Japan to Sri Lanka to provide direct guidance to the local workers.

Furthermore, this project has greatly contributed to promoting the active participation of women in Sri Lanka society in that one of the few female project directors in Sri Lanka government led more than 1,000 members involved in this project until completion.

The four-year national project is expected to contribute to the logistics and tourism industries by shortening access times to the Colombo urban area. As an expression of these expectations, the opening ceremony was attended by the President, Prime Minister, Minister of National Highways, Japanese Ambassador, and many other dignitaries. The President of Sri Lanka expressed his expectations for industrial and economic development through this project, and expressed his gratitude for Japan's cooperation.

For these achievements, we won the 2021 JSCE "Tanaka Award". Also, we published the academic papers about this project in the academic conference and technical journals, etc.

Due to the above outstanding achievements and future developments, this case deserves an award in the field of international contribution.



Picture of JCT Kelanitissa Junction



Picture of the New Kelani Bridge