

## **Thailand Receives 95.671 Billion Yen ODA Loan Package from JBIC - To Support Road, Metrology System, Water Supply, Airport and Subway Projects -**

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1. Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC; Governor: Hiroshi Yasuda) today extended loans totaling 95.671 billion yen for five projects in its 25th ODA loan package to Thailand. The loan agreements, which were signed at JBIC's head office, bring the cumulative ODA loan commitments to Thailand to 231 in number and 1,878.657 billion yen in amount.
2. The five new loan agreements are for: the Regional Road Improvement Project (III), National Metrology System Development Project (II), Seventh Bangkok Water Supply Improvement Project (II), Second Bangkok International Airport Development Project (IV) and MRTA Initial System Project (V).
3. The 25th ODA loan package, aimed at social and economic development over the medium and long term, will provide continued support for major infrastructure projects. These include subway and airport construction, a project to improve regional trunk road networks to reduce regional disparities and foster linkage over extended geographical areas, and a project to improve the national system of weights and measures with a view to strengthening the country's industrial base. In addition, the package also supports subway construction and the improvement in water supply with the aim of controlling air and water pollution. The package provides special concessional interest rates to support efforts for human resources development, institutional capacity building and environment conservation. The loans also support coordination with technical assistance programs, and experts have already been sent from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to assist executing agencies of the Regional Road Development Project (III), MRTA Initial System Project (V), the Second Bangkok International Airport Development Project (IV) and the National Metrology System Development Project (II).
4. In the Medium-Term Policy for ODA Operations, drawn up by JBIC in December 1999, the key areas where ODA support is channeled are: (1) strengthening the economy for sustainable growth and overcoming barriers to growth; (2) poverty reduction and alleviation of regional disparities; (3) environmental conservation including disaster prevention and control; and (4) human resources development and institution building.