

International Conference on Sustainable Development through
Quality Infrastructure Investment
January 20-21, 2016

Jointly organized by the Government of Japan (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) and the World Bank Group

Closing Summation

Over the course of the highly engaging and productive 1st Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development through Quality Infrastructure Investment (QII) a consensus of more than 150 experts and practitioners expressed the growing recognition that investments in infrastructure need to be environmentally friendly; technically suitable; promote efficient and equitable land use at the metropolitan, regional, and national scale; and, last but not least, provide good value for money.

The conference succeeded in meeting the following objectives: 1) establishing the value proposition of each element of quality infrastructure from the perspective of a developing country or beneficiary; 2) uncovering the practical application of each element of QII in the design and implementation of infrastructure projects; 3) developing greater shared understanding of the implications of each element of QII towards the realization of sustainable urban development and other long-term goals; 4) establishing a network of experts and practitioners from MDBs, governments, academic organizations, think tanks and the private sector to pursue shared research and application on the efficient and effective application of the principals of quality infrastructure investment; and 5) demonstrating the abundant experience and expertise and lessons of quality infrastructure that Japan can offer the developing world.

“Quality” infrastructure can be seen as infrastructure which addresses five critical elements:

- **Economic Efficiency:** achieving value for money over the full project lifecycle by supporting procurement process; adopting life-cycle costs as an evaluation cost; scenarios/options with rated criteria where non-price attributes are assessed with merit points and available to stakeholders; better management of infrastructure projects and service delivery; enhanced flexibility; design for multi-use purposes; better planning/coordination leading to economies of scale, proper mobilization channeling and management of PPPs.
- **Resilience against Natural Disasters:** resilience against natural disasters through appropriate infrastructure design as well as adequate systems for disaster preparation and response.
- **Safety:** physical and operational safety and durability through improved construction standards, use of management information systems and smart design.
- **Environmental and Social Sustainability:** minimize harmful environmental impacts; improved welfare for all groups in society, attention to needs of traditionally excluded groups; gender considerations; accessibility (particularly for elderly and disabled citizens); citizen engagement in planning; and robust risk-assessment framework.
- **Economic and Social Contribution:** conducive to small and medium enterprise development; facilitates job creation and productivity growth through efficient trade logistics; supports enhanced competitiveness through technology transfer and human capital development.

The conference illustrated the fact that developing and emerging economies continue to grapple with planning infrastructure to deliver basic human needs, including water, sanitation, and electricity. Underlying these issues is the challenge of building infrastructure that is based on smarter decisions, better design and construction, innovative financing, and positioning the private sector as part of the solution. Given limits on available resources to finance investment and necessity for inclusive development in many developing countries, it is important the resources that are available get utilized for infrastructure investments that offer the greatest value for money and which incorporate smart planning and performance characteristics. Quality infrastructure, which takes into account not only the cost of construction but also the longevity, safety and cost to operate over the full-lifecycle of the investment and contributes to local human resource development, is an important part of such a process. Moreover, given the increasing climate change challenges we are facing it is important to maximize the green and resilient aspects of infrastructure, using the latest technologies that emit the least GHG emissions.