

Sub-Program Component	2. Improvement of Economic Infrastructure
Accepting University (Number of Scholars)	International University of Japan (4) Graduate School of International Management / Master of Business Administration
Target Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The State Committee for State Property Management ● "Uzkomunhizmat" Agency ● "Uzbekenergo" State Joint Stock Company ● "O'zbekiston Temir yo Ilari" State Railway Joint Stock Company ● Automobile and River Transport Agency ● "Uzavtosanoat" Joint Stock Company ● "Uzkiyosanoat" State Joint Stock Company
Purpose of Study	
<p>Since gaining independence in 1991, In 2007, the government formulated the final version of WISP (Full Strategy Paper for 2008-2010). Chapter 5 of the 2007 paper titled "Economic Policies for Implementing the Goals and Priorities of the WIS in Individual Areas and Sectors of the Economy" stresses a number of requirements Uzbekistan needs to meet. Among them are a shift in economic orientation from the production of raw materials to the manufacturing of industrial products with high value added; making domestic products competitive in domestic and international markets; and promotion of labor-intensive industries in rural areas as well as urban areas.</p> <p>The paper has identified areas for improvement in economic infrastructure, which constitutes the foundations for industrial development, especially in the energy sector. These areas include the improvement of the pricing system with the introduction of an advanced payment scheme, the installation of modern gas and electricity meters, and a better policy for setting rates for public utilities. Regarding the transport infrastructure including roads and railways, the paper stresses that developing transport networks connecting production bases in the regions of Uzbekistan with other parts of the country and even Kazakhstan, Afghanistan and other neighboring countries is essential for national industrial development.</p> <p>Japan's Country Assistance Program (CAP) for the Republic of Uzbekistan identifies "economic infrastructure renovation and improvement" as one of the four priority areas for ODA. Although the country's infrastructure and its systems developed in the Soviet era have basic functions, they are working far below their potential due in large part to the aging process and deteriorating maintenance skills associated with the brain drain of engineers. In fact, they are a major bottleneck in the country's economic growth. Japan will support Uzbekistan in building the foundations for economic growth with an optimal combination of financial assistance for renovating its aging infrastructure and technical cooperation in management and operational aspects, according to the CAP.</p> <p>Although the infrastructure remained under the management of government ministries some time after the country's independence, the Uzbek government is transferring its management to state joint stock companies such as "Uzbekenergo" (power) and "Uzavtodor" (road) as part of its streamlining efforts. A major challenge for these entities is how to achieve efficient management in the market economy, including how to finance them. Expectations are high that the JDS Program will develop human resources capable of addressing this challenge.</p>	

