

Japan faces tough task to make banks competitive

TOKYO, Sept 5: As Japanese policy makers strive to keep the nation's bad debt problem from spiraling into crisis, many analysts wonder whether they can achieve the even more daunting task of creating globally competitive banks, says Reuter.

Success at that task would require authorities to take an approach with few precedents here — to stand back and let market forces operate.

The Finance Ministry's current strategy to handle the problem of bad debts in the banking industry leaves the wider question of competitiveness unaddressed, said Yoshiro Ikujo, first Vice

OPEC unlikely to boost output in near future

DOHA, Sept 5: OPEC countries are abiding by current production quotas and are unlikely to boost output in the near future because of soft oil prices, Qatar's Energy and Industry Minister said here Monday, reports AFP.

"All OPEC countries are sticking to their ceiling," Abdallah Hamad al-Attiya told reporters, vowing Qatar would also keep to its quota.

"I don't think there will be any increase in production in the coming period."

Attiya said he hoped all the world's oil producers and consumers would cooperate "because everybody is losing from low prices, both inside and outside OPEC."

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) set a quota of 24.52 million barrels of oil per day at its last meeting in Vienna.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority

Inviting letters of interests for prequalification of contractors for construction of primary transmission mains and a part of secondary network in Dhaka City (Contract 6).

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority intends to employ the services of independent or foreign and local, preferably joint venture, construction firm(s) to provide services for construction of primary transmission mains and a part of secondary network in Dhaka City under the Fourth Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Project. It comprises:

- supply and installation of about 16.5 km main pipe line of diameter ranges from 1000 to 1600 mm including railway line crossing at 4 places and
- supply and installation of about 21.5 km secondary pipe line of diameter ranges from 300 to 600 mm including railway line crossing at 2 places.
- the works also includes the supply and installation of all necessary valves and fittings, construction of reinforcement concrete manholes and connection of the whole system to the existing distribution network.

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is expected to receive from the International Development Association (IDA) a credit amounting to US\$ 76.2 million equivalent towards the cost of the Fourth Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Project. The proceeds of the credit are intended to be applied a portion to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation for prequalification is issued. Firm(s) having experience in works stated above may obtain copy of the prequalification documents on written request and on cash payment of Tk. 5000/- (Taka five thousand only), non-refundable.

Request for prequalification documents are to be addressed to the Chairman, Dhaka WASA "WASA Bhaban" 2nd floor, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, (Kawran Bazar), Dhaka-1215.

Eligible applicants shall meet the minimum requirement for qualification:

- average annual turnover (defined as billing for works in progress and completed) over the last five years of US\$ 15 million equivalent ; and
- Successful experience as prime contractor in the execution of at least 3 projects of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract during the last five years; this experience should include construction of minimum 15 km length of water supply pipe lines of diameter 600 mm or above in developing countries for town of more than 2 million population.

The prequalification documents will be received in the office of the Chairman, Dhaka WASA "WASA Bhaban" 2nd floor, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, (Kawran Bazar), Dhaka-1215 on October 12, 1995 at 12.00 Noon.

The Authority reserves the right to make and select a short list of construction firms who would be invited to bid without assigning reason for either accepting or rejecting applicants.

WASA-P.I. 349/95

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Chairman
Dhaka WASA

President at brokerage Smith Barney International.

The Finance Ministry's plan to tackle bad debts will only avoid a crisis, it won't lead to an improvement in international competitiveness at all," he said.

says Reuter.

Japan last week suffered its first post-war bank collapse when it decided to wind up 84-year-old Hyogo Bank Ltd. The same day the Osaka government shut down most business at the nation's biggest credit union, Kizu, after a run on deposits.

Doing so, however, will only be a first step toward solving deep-rooted banking sector problems, they say.

The much bigger problem still to be resolved is at the 21 biggest banks, and you don't liquidate them or give them public money," said Salomon Brothers analyst Alicia Ogawa.

Depositors at the institutions are being protected by an injection of Bank of Japan funds, and a mix of government and private funds is

likely to be used to clear up their bad debt.

Analysts say authorities can probably deal with future failures at credit unions and the thorny issue of the nation's seven troubled housing loan firms, which are burdened with an estimated six trillion yen (62.5 billion dollars) worth of bad loans.

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