

10th Round Table Meeting held at Thimphu



The Royal Government of Bhutan attaches very high importance to the Round Table Meeting as it provides an opportunity for the Royal Government to engage the development partners in a meaningful discussion. The 10th RTM has a special importance since it takes place on the eve of the 10th Five Year Plan and Bhutan's transition to parliamentary democracy with elections scheduled in March 2008. "The Government of Japan would like to reiterate its appreciation to the Government of Bhutan for its continuous efforts to the nation building. It is strongly hoped that interactive and rich discussions during the meeting could give all of us hope and inspiration to work together harmoniously for the peaceful and sustainable development of Bhutan. Japan remains a strong and responsible development partner of Bhutan and supports to achieve the vision and goals of National Development Plans and to elevate Gross National Happiness", said Mr. Keizo Takewaka, Minister, Embassy of Japan who headed the Japanese delegation.

A total of 34 bilateral and multilateral agencies and 4 NGOs took part in the meeting.

JICA schemes

- ◆ Technical Cooperation Projects
- ◆ Grant Aid
- ◆ Training Programmes
- ◆ Development Studies
- ◆ Emergency Disaster Relief
- ◆ Citizen Participation
- ◆ Follow-up Cooperation

JICA target areas in Bhutan

- ◆ Agriculture and rural development
- ◆ Infrastructure development
- ◆ Local governance
- ◆ Social services development
(health, education and IT)

JICA members in Bhutan as of June

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16
(7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 26
- ◆ JOCVs: 31

KR2 Project Handed over to Ministry of Agriculture

The handing over ceremony for the 20th KR2 project was done at Agriculture Machinery Centre at Paro on 19 Feb 2008 between Mr. Keizo Takewaka, Minister (Economic and Development) of the Embassy of Japan and Mr. Sherub Gyaltsen, Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture. Under the project, 179 two wheel tractors and attachments, ploughs for tractors were provided to AMC for further delivery to the farmers in Bhutan. The minister commended the agriculture ministry for their policy in mechanizing agriculture and said that the Japanese government was happy to see the assistance put to best use in Bhutan. So far about 2,180 units of power tiller were received under the project and distributed to farmers.

On 19th February, the Minister and his delegation also met with the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture for the "Annual Committee Meeting" to discuss issues for effective execution of the project.



The technical training courses for the year 2008.

The following technical training courses are offered to the Royal Government of Bhutan for the year 2008. The selection of courses was discussed with the Royal Civil Service Commission and the GNH Commission (former Planning Commission). For information on application and eligibility, please contact Chief, HRO, HRD Division of RCSC.

(Sector) Name of Course

(A) Group Training Courses

1. (Governance) Seminar on Govt Audit
2. (Governance) Promotion of Enabling Environment for Civil Society and Community Development
3. (Agriculture/Rural Dev) Vegetable Cultivation Technology
4. (Urban/Regional Dev) Seminar on Construction and Application of Construction Engineering
5. (Governance) Seminar on Public Personnel Administration for Middle Level Officers
6. (Governance) Fire Fighting Techniques
7. (Governance) Analysis, Interpretation and Dissemination of Official Statistics
8. (Governance) Crime Prevention (Treatment of Offenders)
9. (Governance) The Criminal Justice Response to Corruption
10. (Social Security) Occupational Safety Management in Construction Industry
11. (ICT) Information Security for E-Governance Promotion
12. (ICT) Media Strategy for Community Enlightenment
13. (Private Sector Dev) Small and Medium Enterprises Development Policies (B)
14. (Private Sector Dev) Tourism Promotion and Marketing : Targeting the Japan Market
15. (Agriculture/Rural Dev) Participatory Community Development for Practitioners through JICA-NGO Partnership
16. (Nature Conservation) Satellite Remote Sensing Data Analysis Technology for Disaster/Environmental Monitoring
17. (Gender and Dev) Women's Entrepreneurship Development Training for Leaders (B)

(B) Region Focused Courses

1. (Health) Workshop on Safer Motherhood Strategy for Asia (Improvement of Conducive Environment for Mothers at the Community Level)
2. (Agriculture/Rural Dev) Rural Development for Small-Scale Farmers through the Agriculture Cooperatives Activity in Asia
3. (Governance) Top Management Forum on Local Government Reform for Asia and Africa

(C) Long Term Training courses

1. (Education) Development of Human resources in the Field of Engineering for Strengthening Industry and Economy (Master's Degree Engineering)
2. (Governance) Governance Studies/Public Policy

News in Brief

- ◆ The first "ODA Task Force" meeting for the Japanese ODA to Bhutan was convened in Thimphu on 16 Feb at JICA Office. The Task Force discussed the modality, priorities issues and current status of Japanese ODA to Bhutan. Members of the Task Force included Embassy of Japan, JBIC and JICA.
- ◆ Six Senior Volunteer members are completing their assignments by 26th March and will return to Japan:
Mr. Hiroshi Kanamori, Gong Casting, National Institute of Zorig Chusum. Ministry of Labour and Human resources.
Mr. Tsuyoshi Miura, ICM Standardization, Bhutan Communications Authority.
Mr. Tsukasa Kawahata, Housing & Real Estate Expert, National Housing Development Corporation.
Mr. Katsuhiko Nishikawa, Seed Processing Technologist, Druk Seed Corporation.
Mr. Hiroyuki Mori, Meteorologist, Meteorology Unit, Ministry of Economic Affairs.
Mr. Hideyuki Okuno, E-Governance Expert, Ministry of Information & Communications.
- ◆ Three JOCV Members are also completing their assignment by the end of March:
Mr. Hiroshi Ishii, Elementary Education Instructor, Tsimalakha Lower Secondary School. Ministry of Education.
Mr. Nobuyuki Nishiura, Elementary Education Instructor, Changangkha Lower Secondary School, Ministry of Education.
Mr. Naohito Matsumoto, IT Specialist, Department of Revenue & Customs, Ministry of Finance.
- ◆ Follow-up Cooperation for the Department of Livestock was completed with the handing over of dairy production and management equipment worth Nu. 1,631,286. The Department of Livestock also conducted a Dairy Production and Management training for the milk producers group of Haa and Paro on 12 March at Haa. The Follow-up cooperation was requested by the Department of Livestock to carry out the activities planned by JICA Expert for Livestock Production.

For more information

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