

Bridge Reconstruction project III on track



The JICA mission for the project "Reconstruction of Bridges phase III" led by Mr. Hidetaka Sakabe, Senior Project Administration Officer, Grant Aid Management Department and Mr. Phuntsho Wangdi, Director of Department of Roads signed the Minutes of Discussions for the Basic Design of project on 30 April 2008. The JICA team conducted field surveys and held intensive discussions with the Department of Roads to confirm the contents of the request and project sites. The request made by the Bhutanese government is replacement of Lowakha Bridge, Basochu Bridge, Burichu Bridge, Nyarachu Bridge, Changchey Bridge and Loring Bridge along the Wangdi-Tsirang highway.

The mission members comprising of road traffic planner, bridge engineers, geologist, procurement planner, and meteorologic/hydrologic specialist, conducted site surveys to investigate the landscape and other conditions to come up with bridge design options. The mission members will take back the collected data to Japan and prepare the draft final report and submit to the Bhutanese government around September 2008.

The project will not only replace the six temporary bridges to permanent ones, but strengthen the load capacity of Highway No.5, a route from Gelephu to Wangdue Phodrang, which would contribute to heavily loaded trucks for the construction of Hydropower projects on the route. Japanese Government has contributed for the construction of 5 bridges during the first phase and 3 bridges during the second phase.

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; 7 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 26
- ◆ JOCVs: 31



Current Loring Bridge

Request Survey 2008: Invitation for proposals

The request survey 2008 is underway. Request survey is conducted once per year to invite proposals from the Royal Government of Bhutan for Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) under the schemes of Technical Cooperation and Development Study for the Year 2009-1010 and Grant Aid for the Year 2010-2011:

All interested sectors shall submit proposals to GNH Commission by the end of June. Please contact GNH Commission or JICA Bhutan office for further details. JICA's focused areas are: (1) Agriculture and Rural Development, (2) Balanced Infrastructure Development, (3) Improvement of Social Services, and (4) Good Governance.

Japanese Fest in Trashiyangtse



The "Japan Fest" this year was held at Trashiyangtse Lower Secondary School and Bayling Higher Secondary School in Trashiyangtse on 22nd and 23rd April. The festival was organized by the JICA volunteer members with the aim to introduce Japanese culture and spread goodwill and friendship. The people living in Trashiyangtse haven't had much opportunities to interact with Japanese and know about Japanese cultures so the festival was a great success as seen from the smiles on the faces of the students and local people.

There were four events in this Festival - Cultural Fest (introduction of traditional Japanese games and pastimes), Variety Show (Japanese and Bhutanese songs and dances), Sports and short Excursion in Trashiyangtse. The most popular attraction was the Bhutanese dance performance by the very talented Japanese members. Besides many students also took part to sing and dance to Japanese songs and dances. School children, government staff and

local people made more than 1500 spectators who came to watch the Fest. DASHO (Dr.) Ugyen Tshewang, Dzongdag of Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag who graced the Variety Show as Chief Guest spoke very eloquently of Japan Bhutan relationship and congratulated the JICA volunteers for organizing this Fest at Trashiyangtse. The excellent support and overwhelming reception from the local people highly encouraged and motivated the JICA volunteers to organize much more Fests of this nature. The last two Japanese Fests were held at Trashigang and Chukha dzongkhag.

News in Brief

- ◆ Mr. Bishnu Bhakta Mishra, Technical Officer decided to resign from JICA Office from 30 April 2008. He worked was employed from 15 Dec 2003 and his main responsibilities included procurement and support the general services of the office.
- ◆ Mr. Tetsuo Yabe, Resident Representative, Mr. Taiji Usui, Project Formulation Advisor and Ms. Mayumi Miyata, Project formulation Advisor attended the Second ODA Task Force Meeting at New Delhi from 8-9 May, 2008.
- ◆ Mr. Masakazu Takagi JOCV Architect completed his term of assignment at the Department of Culture. He was very much involved in the conservation works of the age-old monasteries and historical buildings which needed urgent repair and conservation.



- ◆ Mr. Vudhist Viryasiri, the Director of International Organizations Partnership Branch of the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) and his delegation visited JICA office on 8 May to share views on international volunteerism in Bhutan. The delegation is visiting Bhutan to explore possibilities of dispatching TICA volunteers in the near future.

For more information

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
P.O. Box 217, Doy-bum Lam, Above Memorial Chorten, Thimphu, Bhutan

Tel: (975) 2-322030, 323218, 328074, 324571, 324463

Fax: (975) 2-323089

E-mail: <newsletter@jica.org.bt>

Website: <<http://www.jica.go.jp/bhutan/index.html>>

Newsletter Team

Mayumi Miyata, Project Formulation Advisor
Kinley Dorji, Senior Programme Officer