

**Mr. Toshitsugu Uesawa, Minister Counselor of Japanese Embassy attends inauguration at Chukha Higher Secondary**



His Excellency Mr. Toshitsugu Uesawa, Minister Counselor from the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi attended the inauguration ceremony of the Chukha Higher Secondary School held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Chukha Higher Secondary School was one of the recipient schools under the Construction of Educational Facilities of the Government of Japan. The infrastructure development project included classrooms, a dining hall, girls' hostel, staffroom and a library amongst others. Mohri Consultants from Japan designed the structure and Dai Nippon Construction Company executed the work.

**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 April 2007**

- ◆ JICA office staff: 17  
(7 internationals; 10 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 29 (Short term 2)
- ◆ JOCVs: 32  
(Short-term 4, Senior JOCVs 1)

The education secretary Dr. Pema Thinlay touched upon the two countries' relationship in the field of education from the days when JOCV Physical Education Instructors were dispatched to teach in Bhutan and when Japanese volunteers worked as architects to design Bhutanese schools. He said that with more care the school could have multiple benefit spread over many years.

A student representative summarizing students' views said, their happiness knew no bound when Japan came forth to build amongst others, the girls' dormitory because then they didn't have to go out at night. Besides benefiting immensely from the facility she further said, the students would always keep in their minds the mark of quality and excellence demonstrated by the Japanese contractors during the construction phase.

**Status of Projects submitted in 2006**

**Projects approved for implementation in JFY 2007**

SI No.	Project Title	Agency	Remarks
1	Local Governance and Decentralization Project Phase II (TCP)	DLG, MoHCA	
2	Broadcast Engineering (Expert)	BBSC	This is changed to a TCP
3	Multi-bi Cooperation for Expanded Program for Immunization	DoPH, MoH	This is the last year of the Five Year Project.
4	Research and Development of Agriculture Machinery (Long term Training)	AMC, MoA	

**Projects under consideration**

1	Strengthening of Farm Mechanization Project (TCP)	DoA, MoA
2	Strengthening the Capacity of Trainers' in Vocational Training Institute (TCP)	DHR, MoLHR
3	Acceleration of Rural Electrification Project (TCP)	BPC
4	Bridge Design and Construction (TCP)	DoR, MOWHS

The request survey of new projects is under way. The agencies of the Royal Government may kindly contact the Department of Aid and Debt Management for information on submission of new project proposal.

## The First Japanese Soft Loan for Bhutan

The Government of Japan agreed to extend a soft loan assistance of US\$30 million to the Government of Bhutan for the Rural Electrification Project. The loan was formalized with the signing of the Exchange of Note by the Japanese Ambassador to Bhutan HE Mr. Yasukuni Enoki and Bhutan Foreign Secretary Mr. Yeshey Dorji on April 24 at Thimphu.

The loan will be used for rural electrification of households in Bumthang, Trongsa, Dagana, Tsirang, Mongar, Trashiyangtse, Samtse, Paro, Haa and Chukha. The Integrated Rural Electrification Master Plan Study was conducted under the assistance of the Japanese Government.

The Japanese Ambassador said that the loan assistance was an expression of goodwill and support of the people of Japan towards the people of Bhutan.

This concessional loan will be made available through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), at a low rate of 0.01% per annum with the repayment period of 40 years including the grace period.



## Visitors

The Japanese Vice Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Mr. Kazufumi Taniguchi visited Bhutan from 30 April to 2 May 2007. During his visit he called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister and other cabinet ministers including the Minister of Information and Communications, Minister of Trade and Industry, Minister of Finance.

## JICA News in Brief

### New Arrivals:

**The following new JOCV members arrived on 25 March to take up their volunteer assignments:**

- 1) Mr. Junichiro Matsumura, Architect, RUB, Simtokha
- 2) Ms. Megumi Kaneko, Laboratory Technologist, Serbithang
- 3) Mr. Noriyuki Nakatani, PE Instructor, NID, Khaling
- 4) Mr. Dai Fujimaki, Network Engineer, RAA, Thimphu
- 5) Mr. Yusuke Sugamoto, Environment Inspection Advisor, Environment Unit, MTI, Thimphu
- 6) Ms. Rie Akamine, Associate Coach, Volley Ball Fed, Thimphu
- 7) Mr. Kiyohito Ueda, Table Tennis Coach, Table Tennis Federation, Thimphu
- 8) Ms. Kumiko Kisu, Midwife, JDWNRH, Thimphu
- 9) Mr. Tankanori Kawada, IT Expert, College of Natural Resources, Lobesa

**On 2nd April the following members of Senior Volunteers joined their the colleagues to make JICA volunteers one of the largest volunteer group in Bhutan**

- 1) Mr. Seiji Takashima, Environment Engineering Lecturer, College of Science & Tech. Rinchhending
- 2) Mr. Kunio Saito, ICT Policy Analyst Expert, PPD, MoIC
- 3) Mr. Tetsuo Ikenaga, Civil Engineering Lecturer, College of Science & Tech. Rinchhending
- 4) Mr. Tetsuya Momota, Hydrologist, Hydromet Service Div, DoE
- 5) Mr. Takesh Hirota, Geotechnologist, DoR, Thimphu
- 6) Mr. Akira Matsuno, Urban Planner, City Corp. P'ling
- 7) Mr. Toshiaki Kinpara, Archtect Planner, NHDC, MoWHS, Thimphu
- 8) Mr. Kenji Moriyama, Building Construction Supervisor, DUDES, MoWHS
- 9) Mr. Yukio Ueno, Building Interior Designer, CTC, MoLHR, Thimphu
- 10) Mr. Hiroyuki Suzuki, Doll Making NIZC, MoLHR, Thimphu
- 11) Ms. Ei Yoshida Sovenior Making NIZC, MoLHR, Thimphu

### Departure:

Ms. Hiroko Irumata, JOCV Coordinator repatriated on 29 April at the end of her 2 years 4 months assignment to Bhutan.

### 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  
BB Mishra, Technical Officer (General Affairs)