



## **JOCV instructors popularize Physical Education in Bhutan**

There are five JOCV Physical Education (PE) teachers in Bhutan. PE has been supported in schools throughout the country for years and is a well-known JOCV-supported activity. JOCV PE teachers normally teach classes at their assigned schools. They also periodically participate in a team teaching component called "PE force". This consists of group teaching by all JOCV PE teachers visiting schools to hold special classes. In May they organized special PE Force classes at Secondary Lower Schools in Bumthang and Mongar with the participation of students as well as teachers. A JOCV teacher said "What moves us though these special classes are the kids' smiles and happiness".

The JICA Bhutan office will continue to support and expand its PE programme to other Dzongkhags in the future.

## **Grant aid and Volunteer programmes: School construction in Bhutan**

As a result of recent increases in the primary enrolment rate and the extension of the basic education system from the lower secondary to the middle secondary level, the need for secondary schools has increased rapidly. The objective of the School Construction Project is to improve the educational environment and expand access to basic education through this grant aid scheme. Five schools were selected for construction after a series of discussions. In a signing ceremony held at New Delhi between the two ambassadors, the Government of Japan has agreed to extend a grant of up to 474 million Japanese yen. The five schools selected for construction are Phobjikha, Kabjisa, Pakshikha and Kanglung Middle Secondary Schools and Chukha Higher Secondary School.

JICA Volunteers also support the planning and building of schools at the School Planning and Building Division (SPBD). Three volunteers play important roles in architecture and landscapes: "LGSF (new technology of construction methods) School Project", "Planting Design for the School Greening Project", and the enhancement of the technical skills in the educational building sector.

### JICA schemes

- Technical cooperation projects
- Grant aid
- Training programmes
- Development studies
- Emergency disaster relief
- Citizen participation
- Follow-up cooperation
- Volunteer programmes

### JICA target areas in Bhutan

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

### JICA staff in Bhutan

- Office staff: 16  
(7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- Experts: 8
- Senior Volunteers: 21
- Senior JOCVs: 3
- JOCVs: 19

## **JAAB members support sports activity**

JOCVs also support other voluntary activities outside their offices and schools. On May 21, JOCVs organized "JICA Sports Day" at YHS Ground. It aimed to strengthen friendship among Japanese people, JICA local staff and JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) members. More than 60 people participated and enjoyed various Japanese-style sports, that are common at schools on National Sports Day in Japan. It was the first demonstration of a Japanese-style sports festival in Bhutan.

## Vocational Training

Ms. Yoko Ueno, a Senior Volunteer, is teaching doll designing at the National Institute for Zoring Chusum under the Department of Human Resources. She trains youngsters on the entire process of doll making from the clay shaping to the sewing of cloths. The work of the students have already contributed to a Royal Family project for industrial development in Bhutan supported by His Royal Highness the Chhoetse Penlop, the National Museum of RGoB and the Bhutan pavilion at the Japan Expo in Aichi Prefecture. Ms. Ueno supports not only vocational training but also the improvement of marketing. This volunteer activity also directly promotes income generation through the tourist sector.

## Environmental Education

Ms. Keiko Momose, a Senior Volunteer, just completed her two-year mission for the NGO Royal Society for Protection of Nature last month. Her main activities included environmental education for children and urban waste management through various campaigns. **"How should we manage waste?"** was one of her publicity posters which were distributed to schools and offices. Ms. Momose also organized a series of meetings with government offices, institutions and private corporations to promote recycling activities in Bhutan. She contributed reading materials with the help of other Japanese Volunteers and prepared text books about environment, including **"Conifers of Bhutan"** and **"Basic Gardening Handbook"**. The latter will be published soon.

## JICA Bhutan News in Brief

- **Next month's focus will be on Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) and Bhutan Telecom (BT) projects.**
- A JICA HQ delegation held a **seminar on Japan's assistance for Bhutan** on 1 July. It contained the ODA/JICA scheme and activities in Bhutan and procedures for project application. The JICA Bhutan office distributed the ODA/JICA application formats electronically. **Please contact the JICA Bhutan Office if you would like to receive a copy.** The delegation also visited various authorities and project sites to exchange views.
- Four JOCVs left Bhutan after two years of volunteer service on 12 June. Three of them - Ms. Otani, Ms. Takahashi, Mr. Fuse - were Physical Education teachers in Chukha, Haa and Wangdue respectively. Another supported the Druk Seed Corporation as a Seed Production Specialist in Wangdue. All of them expressed appreciation for the Bhutanese hospitality and kindness.
- A delegations from Construction Project Consultants, Inc. visited Bhutan to submit a Detailed Design and exchange signatures on a Consultancy Agreement with DOR on 15 July. **A Tender Notice will be published at the end of August.**
- **Mr. Ito, the Deputy JICA Resident Representative in India will act as the Resident Representative of the JICA Bhutan Office** during the leave of Residential Representative Mr. Sugimoto between 13 August and 10 September.
- **Mr. Sasaki, a JICA Expert**, is leaving Bhutan on 12 August after three years of service at DOR, MoWHS. **Mr. Tsujino** will be assigned to replace him on 6 August.
- **The Japanese Ambassador in Delhi will visit Bhutan 7-11 August** to attend the ceremony for equipment donations at BBS and Keunsel Corporation through grant assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects. He will also call on Bhutanese authorities and visit various JICA project sites.

### For more information

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