

Protecting the Environment

Monthly topic : Environment

JICA's involvement in environment protection in Bhutan began in April 2001, when the first JICA Senior Volunteer Mr. Yoshinobu Sasaki was assigned to the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) as Environment Education Specialist. Mr. Sasaki, a former school headmaster helped RSPN in environment management and awareness campaigns and build up important linkages between the various agencies associated with environment protection. He was the key player for the supply of 3 units of garbage collection trucks from Japan to Thimphu City Corporation in 2002.



The JICA/RSPN project for "Capacity Building for Management of Black Necked Crane Information Centre in Phobjikha Conservation Area" started in 2002 and spread over three years has been useful to send members from RSPN and the conservation area for observation to Japan's famous crane habitat at Kushiro which shares similar physical environments like Phobjikha. Experts and researchers from Japan also visited Phobjikha to discuss ways to bring economic development to the local population without endangering the crane habitat.



Successor to Mr. Sasaki, Ms. Keiko Momose another Senior Volunteer helped strengthen environment preservation campaigns in schools and institutions all round the country.

For a short stint, Ms. Tatsuo Kondo a Senior Volunteer for Environmental Monitoring worked at the National Environment Commission to set up water quality monitoring procedures.

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: 23
- ◆ JOCVs: 26
(Short-term 3, Senior JOCV 4)

Curve Mirror Installed at JICA Office

If you had escaped narrow accidents in the past, you need not carry such fear any more. JICA Bhutan Office has installed a set of curve mirrors in front of JICA entrance at Rabten Lam. A strong need for a traffic mirror was expressed, especially by JICA Volunteers, sensing the dangers of accident at the spot. Traffic mirrors, they said were very commonly in Japan to ensure traffic safety. Mr. Tetsuo Yabe, JICA Resident Representative unveiled the mirrors on 25th June in a simple ceremony.



The mirrors were supplied by a Japanese company. "Since the mirror pole was very long, no aircraft wanted to carry it. Therefore it had to be carried in a container, which delayed the delivery from Japan, and subsequently the installation", said Mr.B.B. Mishra, Technical Officer, and JICA Bhutan Office.

With the installation of the curved traffic mirror, it is expected that traffic flow along the highway is smooth, and especially for those driving out from JICA Bhutan Office premise, vehicles plying up and down along the Doybum Lam are clearly visible on the both the directions at the mirror. City Corporation and Traffic Branch (RBP) were consulted before the installation.

As hundreds of motorists would be deriving the benefits from the mirror, JICA Bhutan Office's appeal to all public is to not to distemper this civic facility.

JAAB celebrates Social Forestry Day

The Coronation Anniversary Day on the 2nd of June is observed as the Social Forestry Day in Bhutan. Various institutions and organizations throughout the country organize tree planting campaigns as a tribute to His Majesty the King for his most wise and benevolent leadership.

The JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) takes the opportunity to organize tree planting in and around Thimphu with support from related agencies. Every year led by the President, members of JAAB, JICA personnels and other volunteers plant saplings at selected locations designated by the Department of Forestry. The President remarked that it is a most befitting tribute by the people to His Majesty the King for his far reaching leadership. With continued support from JICA office, this event will be carried out every year.

Beginning in 2002, JAAB has so far planted 1000 saplings at Sangaygang, 600 nos at Dechenzam (2004), 400 nos at Samazingkha (2005) and another 400 nos in at Samazingkha (2006). The living trees will also stand to witness and spread the message of friendship and goodwill between the people of the two countries at grassroots level.



Book Review



The series of articles on gardening written by Mr. Kazuyoshi Takemoto a Senior Volunteer Landscape Architect with the Division of School Planning and Building, on Kuensel is published in the form of a small booklet. His simple explanations and plenty of colourful pictures have caught the attention of lot of readers and prospective gardeners. Most of flowers he has mentioned in the book are of the type which can be easily grown in Bhutan. The professional advice on different aspects of gardening will be of great value both for the beginner and the veteran.

JICA News in Brief



■ Ms. Mayumi Miyata joined JICA Bhutan Office on 27 June 2006 as the succeeding Project Formulation Advisor of Ms. Emi Doyle. Through her past experience working in Bhutan as a UN Volunteer, she is already familiar with many of the people and places in Bhutan. She is full of eagerness and zeal to work with the Bhutanese government counterparts to implement maximum Japanese government assisted projects. Ms. Miyata will be responsible for infrastructure related projects while in Bhutan. She has her Masters in Economics and Management (focus on Information Technology) from Kyoto University.

Next month's topic will be focused on Agriculture.

- Mr. Kenichi Ariyama, JICA Expert on Livestock Development completed his term and left on 6 July 2006.
- Ms. Junko Mukai, Senior JOCV at the Department of Culture in the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs completed her 3 years of assignment and left on 11 July 2006.
- Mr. Seishu Ueno, Senior JOCV System Analyst at the High Court completed his term and left on 8 July 2006.
- Mr. Kazuhiro Seki, JOCV System Engineer Sherubtse College and Mr. Toru Ysuhara, JOCV Structural Engineer, Health Department completed their terms and left on 11 July 2006.

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)