



JICA schemes

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

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 November)

- Office staff: 16 (7 Internationals, 9 Nationals)
- Experts: 8
- Senior Volunteers: 22 (1 short-time)
- Senior JOCVs: 3
- JOCVs: 24 (2 short-time)

JICA training for Local governance

In the 1st year of the project implementation various trainings, workshops and conferences were conducted which included:

- Regional Development in Japan - 13 participants.
- Group Training course – 03 participants

One of the main components in the 2nd year of the project will be integrated capacity building aspect whereby training curriculum and materials for the GYT and DYT members will be standardized and implemented accordingly.

Better Governance for all: Technical Cooperation Project

The Local Governance and Decentralization Project started in March 2004 for the duration of two years in the three pilot districts of Haa, Bumthang and Trashigang. The overall goal of the project is to enhance capacities and improvement in the delivery of public services to communities in order for the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) and the Bhutanese people to come closer to achieving “Gross National Happiness”.

The main component of the project is the organizational and individual capacity building at Ministry (Department of Local Governance), Dzongkhag (District) and Geog (Block) levels, through training, material capacity development (geog center construction and provision of equipment) and actual implementation of pilot projects with an average budget of USD 20,000 each for all 25 geogs in the three districts, aimed at the following outputs:

- That the institutionalization of “GYT Chathrim 2002” (legislation) and “DYT Chathrim 2002” are facilitated throughout the Kingdom.
- Capacities for local governance in selected districts are enhanced both at organizational and individual level.
- Capacity of MOHCA is enhanced for policy formulation and coordination.
- Needs for further development of capacities and institutions for local governance are identified and the scope of second phase of the project is formulated.

JICA Internship program in Bhutan

“Every single experience and scenery will be unforgettable memory for us”, said one of the interns.

The first JICA interns to Bhutan were attached to the Decentralization Support Project Management for their field research. One intern focused on financial and planning flow, and the other set up theme on relationships of stakeholders in decentralization. They had opportunities to visit the project sites, interview the community directly, and collect related materials for their research. They mentioned that site visits and interviews helped them to expose to the Official Development Assistance and understand on-going JICA projects.

Other Volunteer Activities in Bhutan: Baseball Coaching for Children in Thimphu

The JICA volunteers also support the children in Bhutan outside of their offices. A JOCV, Mr. Suganuma introduced the baseball game for Bhutanese children. He requested Japan Baseball Association to gather the used baseball equipment and negotiated with JICA Head Quarter using the small JICA grant, **“Smile for All” which supports the shipping costs from Japan.**

He started to teach baseball for children in Thimphu since July 2005 to let Bhutanese experience the baseball and to expand the friendship between Bhutan and Japan at the grass-roots level. Mainly, he holds lessons every weekend at each school: **Changzamtog L.S.S Changangkha L.S.S and Zilukha L.S.S. in Thimphu City.**

The total number of participants reached to around 450 (in total nine lessons). Mr. Suganuma said, “We are planning to hold a league game among three schools”.



Discussion with related agencies of RGoB

A discussion was held between JICA Bhutan Office and officials from the Royal Civil Service Commission, Department of Aid and Debt Management and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reaffirm the roles of JICA Bhutan Office in relation to the execution of technical cooperation and grant aid which are currently undertaken by the Embassy of Japan. This meeting was convened following the recent confirmation note sent by the Embassy of Japan to Bhutanese Government.

The participants having understood the roles came to a common understanding on the procedural flow of different schemes of Japan’s technical cooperation and grant aid.



JICA Bhutan News in Brief

- **Next month’s focus will be on Construction.**
- **Mr. Kido**, a Senior Volunteer leaves on 6 December after two years assignment at Bhutan Telecom.
- **Five new JOCVs** will be dispatched in December for the following agencies:
- **Mr. Kajiwara**, System engineer at Chukha Hydro Power Cooperation
- **Mr. Komatsu**, System engineer at Royal Institute on Management
- **Ms. Higaki**, Physical Education Instructor at Kanglung LSS
- **Ms. Hayashi**, Physical Education Instructor at Khaling LSS
- **Mr. Kawada**, System Engineer (short term) at AMC Paro

For more information

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