

Evaluation Team for Japanese ODA visits Bhutan



A six-member Japanese delegation arrived in the country on 13 November to conduct an independent evaluation study on the Japanese official development assistance to Bhutan in the past 20 years. During their stay they had an opportunity to call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk as well as other Ministers, senior officials of the Government, interviews with people at the grassroots level and talk with other donor organizations in Bhutan. Besides Paro and Thimphu the mission members also made a field visit to Mongar to see some of the on-going Japanese projects and also get an clear picture of the geo-economic situation of the country.

The delegation which was commissioned by the Japanese foreign ministry will evaluate and review Japan's aid policy to Bhutan and draw lessons from it in order to improve future assistance. As said by one member, the political ambience in Tokyo is very favourable and Bhutan must seize the opportunity to make Japanese assistance to Bhutan ever more successful.

Led by the director of UN Population Fund, Tokyo office, Ms. Kiyoko Ikegami, the delegation completed their study and left on 30 November 2006. The final report will be available in March 2007.

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 December

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16
(7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 25
- ◆ JOCVs: 19
(Short-term 4, Senior JOCVs 1)



Photo by Mr. Shoji Satomi SV

JOCV Bi-Annual Meeting at Thimphu



The JOCV members especially those far away from Thimphu look forward to the Biannual General Meeting held in Thimphu where they update themselves on current events, share experiences, buy provisions and collect mail. It is also a great opportunity to meet new members, bid farewell to outgoing members, and unwind themselves with Japanese food, and drinks (after months of struggle with neo-Dzongkha, Sharchop).

The last Autumn Meeting saw about 25 members from Khaling, Kanglung, Mongar, Lingmeythang, Jakar, Punakha, Tsimalakha besides a large chunk from Thimphu. A representative from Royal Civil Service Commission gave a lecture on

Evaluation of Volunteer program in Bhutan and Code of Ethics. One resource person from the UNDP office also provided an overview of security condition in Bhutan.

Living healthy is a very important aspect of JOCV program and the members underwent a rigorous medical check-up at the JDWNR Hospital before going back to their respective place of assignment. The support from the hospital is very much appreciated by the members.

The highlight of the meeting was a grand dinner attended by the dignitaries like Dasho Bap Kesang, Secretary of Royal Civil Service Commission, Dr. Gado Tshering, Secretary of Ministry of Health.

JICA News Update

Mr. Kinley Dorji, Senior Programme Officer attended a 2-days training for National Staff Programme Officers in Bangkok from 8 to 10 November.

Mr. Kenzo Muroi, a short term JICA Expert for BBS, arrived on 23 Nov 2006. He will assist in the TV Programme Operation and Production Engineering for a period of about one month.

Mr. Tetsuo Yabe, Resident Representative took his annual leave from 25 Nov to 24 Dec.

Six members of JOCV completed their term and repatriated to Japan on 5 December 2006. The current strength of JOCVs now stands at 19.

1. Ms. Mikako Ando, Dental Surgeon, JDWNRH, Thimphu
2. Ms. Kaoru Chano, Vegetable Growing, Lingmeythang, RNR Research Station
3. Mr. Takayoshi Okumura, IT Specialist, Dept. of Employment
4. Ms. Yasuko Fukae, System Engineer, DADM, Ministry of Finance
5. Ms. Yukiko Sugihara, Architect, Dept. of Cultural Affairs, MoH&C
6. Ms. Ami Soda, Physical Edn. Instr., Wangdicholing, Jakar

For more information

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