

## Project for the Local Governance and Decentralization



### 1. Background of the Project

The Local Governance and Decentralization Project was launched in March 2004 as a technical cooperation project between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (MoHCA) in the three Dzongkhags of Haa, Bumthang and Trashigang. The purpose of the project was to enhance the capacities for strengthening of local governance and decentralization as enunciated in the national priorities.

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project was completed on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006.

### 2. Project Achievements

During the project period, fifty pilot projects with the main aim of building capacity of the community leaders through project implementation in 25 Geogs of three pilot Dzongkhags of Haa, Bumthang and Trashigang have been carried out. The projects ranged from farm roads, wooden bridges to community halls as listed below:

SI No	Name of Pilot Project	Dzongkhag	Geog
1	Wooden bridge construction	Haa	Bjee, Eusu & Sombaykha
2	Farm road construction	Bumthang	Chhokhor
3	Rural water supply	Haa	Bjee, Katsho, Samar & Eusu
4	Mule track construction	Bumthang	Tang
5	Community hall construction	Trashigang	Nanong & Sakten
6	Feeder/farm road maintenance	Haa	Samar
7	Footpath construction	Trashigang	Khaling
8	Power tiller road construction	Haa	Sombaykha
9	Kitchen cum Dining hall construction	Bumthang	Chumey
10	Guest house construction	Trashigang	Bartsham, Bidung, Phongmey, Radhi & Yangneer
11	Store construction	Haa	Katsho
12	Fencing of Integrated Geog Dev Center	Bumthang	Chhokhor, Chumey & Tang
13	Agriculture marketing group	Bumthang	Ura
14	Farm machinery users group	Trashigang	Kanglung & Shongphu
15	Potato chips users group	Trashigang	Kangpara
16	Nursery to support local handicraft	Trashigang	Lumang, Merak, Sakten & Uzorong
17	Community forestry	Trashigang	Thrimshing
18	Milk processing unit	Bumthang	Ura
19	Maize mill users group	Trashigang	Bartsham & Phongmey
20	Tailoring group	Trashigang	Bidung & Khaling
21	Souvenir showroom	Trashigang	Kanglung
22	Cornflake users group	Trashigang	Kangpara
23	Vegetable producers group	Trashigang	Lumang
24	Market shed and showroom	Trashigang	Merak
25	Oil expeller group	Trashigang	Nanong
26	In-country training	Trashigang	Radhi
27	Training in Japan and Thailand	All Bhutan	Sakten
		All Bhutan	Samkhar & Yangneer
		All Bhutan	Shongphu
		All Bhutan	Thrimshing
		All Bhutan	Uzorong
		All Bhutan	623 participants
		All Bhutan	28 participants

Besides supply of equipment and various in-country as well as third country trainings, fourteen Gup's offices were built, three in Haa (Bjee, Katsho and Samar Geogs), two in Bumthang (Tang and Ura Geogs) and nine in Trashigang Dzongkhag (Bartsham, Bidung Kanglung, Kangpara, Khaling, Sakten, Samkhar, Shongphu and Uzorong Geogs)

### 3. Useful Lessons Gained from the Project

● The pilot projects was a practical hands on training for the community leaders which enhanced their skills in decision making and participatory planning process, management of budgets, book keeping and managerial skills.

● Since the communities have been involved right from the planning process to implementation and completion, the project created a sense of ownership for the communities.

● DYT/GYT members lacked technical capacity especially in planning and implementation and preparing reports. DYT and GYT members need to be thoroughly briefed about the main purpose and objective of the project and clearly define their roles and responsibilities during the implementation.

● Lengthy procedure for release of fund, different fiscal year of JICA and RGoB, shortage of labour, harsh weather conditions and snow, remoteness of village were some of the factors responsible for delay in completion of activities.

● A single functional monitoring and reporting system is desirable.

● Valuable experiences gained from implementation of project activities in the pilot Dzongkhags could be disseminated to other Dzongkhags or similar projects should be replicated in other Dzongkhags.

● Development of infrastructure for gewogs is very much essential. About 50 Gewogs still have no Gup's office. Provision of basic equipment, and telecommunication infrastructure in the Gewogs were high priorities.



#### 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 February

- ◆ JICA office staff: 17  
(7 internationals; 10 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 25 (Short term 2)
- ◆ JOCVs: 25  
(Short-term 4, Senior JOCVs 1)

### JICA News in Brief

■ The final evaluation for the project "Enhancement of Bhutan Broadcasting Service" was conducted from 22 Jan to 30 Jan 2007.

■ The Preliminary Study on the project for "Strengthening of Bhutan Broadcasting Service Program Production and Improving Local Contents from Rural Areas" is held from 29 Jan to 27 Feb 2007 (see photo on right).

■ Mr. Shinsuke Shimizu, Director, Department of South West Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led a three member delegation to Bhutan from 25 Jan to 28 Jan 2007 for discussions with the Royal Government for future technical cooperation.

■ A two member study team on "Construction Work Conditions" completed their observation and meeting with the Consultant and Contractor for the on-going JICA Grant Aid projects.

■ Mr. Kazuhiro Seki JOCV System Engineer for Sherubtse College and Mr. Hiroji Ono, Senior Volunteer Construction Advisor for Central Machinery Unit, Bumthang joined on 23 Jan 2007.



#### For more information

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