

Monthly topic : Health sector

**Teeth brushing Campaign by the dentists:
JOCV**

Dr. Mikako Ando, a JOCV, is working for JDWNR Hospital as a dentist. She has been aware of the necessity of primary health education for Bhutanese children and their parents through her daily work at the hospital.



She organized the teeth brushing campaign in collaboration with her co-workers and JOCV friends. Mr. Sehata, ex-IT lecture at RIM, supported to shoot the video of cavity prevention.

Dr. Ando visited Changankha Lower Secondary School with her Bhutanese co-workers to show the video and lecture on teeth brushing for attendants. She also demonstrated a game on bad or good foods for teeth.

with other JOCV Physical Education Instructors she plans to expand the teeth brushing campaign in other Dzongkhag, especially in the rural areas that are less accessible to prompt dental treatment.

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)

**Food Security Improvement in Bhutan:
JOCV**

Mr. Sasaki, a JOCV is assigned to Public Health Laboratory (PHL) in Thimphu as a food microbiologist. He supports to initiate the Food Microbiological Section and the Laboratory Quality Control System in Bhutan. PHL plans to start a study on food surveillance to establish the standards. He has also advised in their design of a new PHL building for efficient research.



He contributes some articles about "Food for Health" to Kuensel to share his knowledge with the people outside his office as well.

JICA members in Bhutan as of February)

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16
(7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 9
(short-term: 2)
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 23
(Short-term 1)
- ◆ JOCVs: 24
(Short-term 1)
- ◆ Senior JOCVs : 3

**EPI Project
in collaboration with UNICEF**

JICA has been supporting EPI (Extended Programme for Immunization) projects since 1995 through UNICEF. JICA EPI study team visited Bhutan from 14-25th January to survey the situation of equipment at Tsirang and Gelephu hospitals and the BHU at Genekha, Thimphu. They also discussed the current issues with the concerned officers of the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

**JICA Future Challenges
in Health Sector**

Mr. Ishii, a regional project formulation advisor based in Bangkok, along with Ms. Shuto, a project formulation officer in JICA Bhutan Office travelled to the east for project findings. They visited the hospitals and BHUs in Wnagdue, Bumthang, Tashiyangtse, Trashigang, Mongar and Luentse, and exchanged their views with related officers of health sector in Bhutan on infectious diseases.

Traditional Medicine Development in Bhutan: Senior Volunteer

Mr. Tsuchiya, a Senior Volunteer has been assigned to the Institute of Traditional Medicine Services as a Pharmacologist. His main duties are research and development of medical plants. He supports to research extraction, isolation and purification of active compound of traditional plants in Bhutan. He is also involved in improving the preliminary screen and quality assurance system at the institute. Currently, he collaborates with EU to develop several kinds of herbal cosmetics and establish the pharmacological screening without animal tests. He plans to expand the marketing opportunities of these products in Japan as well.

Strengthening Telemedicine in the Rural Areas: Senior Volunteer

Mr. Mizuno, another Senior Volunteer supports the human resource development of telematic engineers at Information, Communication, Technology and Telemedicine Unit, of the JDWNR Hospital in Thimphu. The enhancement of IT engineers are urgently required for the distance treatment in 170 rural hospitals which is planned by the Ministry of Health for future. He focuses strengthening the capacity development of IT engineers at the JDWNR hospital.

Constructions Launched at Tangmachu, Wakleytar and Sunkosh Bridges

The ground breaking ceremonies of Reconstruction of Bridges (Phase II) were held on 24th and 27th of December, 2005. The local officials and engineers from DOR, CPC consultant and DNC contractor attended them. This project is the replacement of three existing old bailey bridges under the Government of Japan assistance of 1,302 million yen (3,515 million Nultrum) at Wakleytar Bridge in Wangduephodrang, Sunkosh Bridge in Dagana and Tangmachu Bridge in Lhuntshi districts. The Project Management Team arrived in December and started the excavation in January. The construction is expected to be completed by December 2007 and the three bridges are expected to enhance more reliable road network in Bhutan.



New Year Celebration Party organized by JAAB members

JAAB (Japan Alumni Association of Bhutan) organized a party for JICA members on 31st of December. Approximately 70 Japanese and Bhutanese gathered together to celebrate the new year. JAAB plans many activities; tree plantation, blood donation and travel to Gasa every year. Please contact the JAAB office if you are ex-JICA trainee.



JICA BHUTAN NEWS IN BRIEF

- Next month's focus will be on **Japan ODA application procedure**.
- Mr. Sakurai, a short term senior JOCV left on 27 of January. He supported IT engineers at the Chukha Power Corporation.
- Mr. Sakurai, an expert, will be assigned for AMC in Paro to enhance the farm mechanization program.
- Mr. Takeda, a short-term expert will be assigned for BBSC Enhancement Project on 21st February. He supports TV transmission system for the expansion of network.

For more information

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