

## International Volunteer Day Celebrated at Thimphu



The International Volunteers Day 2006 was observed on December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday) at the clock tower premise, to enable volunteers participate in the event without hampering their office work. The chief guest was His Excellency Lyenpo Dr. Jigme Singay, the Minister for Health. HE Lyenpo Jigme Thinley the Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs also graced the event. Present amongst others were high level government officials, representatives from international organizations, NGOs, media and individual volunteers.

Spearheaded by Volunteers in Bhutan (VIB), the event was divided in two parts: formal forum which included speeches, prize distribution for essay contest winners and exhibitions organized by the members of VIB. The afternoon saw a flurry of cultural programmes presented by JICA/JOCV volunteers, family enthusiasts, Korean volunteers and local volunteer groups like REWA and RENEW, making the day a perfect blend of recognition of volunteer efforts and family fun.

Speaking on the occasion the chief guest applauded the roles of past and current volunteers in Bhutan. On this year's theme "Five Years On" B.B. Mishra a volunteer from JICA said that volunteerism, recognized as an important component to meet the MDGs would go a long to enhance Gross National Happiness. For more log on to [www.vib.org.bt](http://www.vib.org.bt).

## 19th Batch of Youth Invitation Programme goes to Japan

The Japan-Southwest Asia Youth Friendship Programme is conducted for promotion of human resource development and fostering friendly relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Under this programme primary school teachers from Bhutan are invited to Japan for 23 days to observe the Japanese schooling system and also interact with Japanese people.

The 19<sup>th</sup> batch consisting of 10 primary school teachers will visit Japan from 17 January to 8 Feb 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 January

- ◆ JICA office staff: 17  
(7 internationals; 10 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 24 (Short term 1)
- ◆ JOCVs: 25  
(Short-term 4, Senior JOCVs 1)

## Mini Japan Fest held at Dagana



To the delight of government officials, students and general public, the member of JICA volunteers working in Bhutan, and their family members presented a colorful event of Japanese music, song and dance, Japanese language and arts at Dagana Middle Secondary School ground on the 17 Dec 2006 coinciding with the National Day celebrations. The event was organized by the JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) with support from the Dzongkhag administration, to promote goodwill and friendship in interior parts of the country where the presence of Japanese is less known.

## JICA News in Brief

■ JICA office welcomes three new Volunteer Coordinators who arrived on 6 January 2007 to replace the out-going coordinators:



Mr. Eiji Shibasaki



Mr. Youichi Wada



Ms. Noriko Endo

■ Meanwhile Mr. Taiji Usui and Mr. Hiroshi Suemitsu will leave on 31 Jan 2007 after the successful end of their assignment here in Bhutan Office. Ms. Hiroko Irumata will leave at the end of April 2007.

■ A one man mission led by Mr. Hiroto Goto arrived on 6 Jan to conduct field research in industrial areas in Thimphu, Paro, Phuntsholing and make recommendations on the improvement of occupational safety standards. He will be attached to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources.

■ The mid term Evaluation for the project "Agricultural Research and Extension Support Project in Lhuntse and Mongar" will be held from 7 Jan 2007 to 25 Jan 2007.

■ The final evaluation for the project "Enhancement of BBS" will be held from 22 Jan to 30 Jan 2007.

■ Mr. Atsunori Kume, JICA Expert for Vocational Education is assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources from 12 Jan to 24 Feb 2007

■ Seven new JOCV members arrived on 10 Jan for the following agencies:

1. Ms. Yoko Ito, X-ray Technician for JDWNRH, Thimphu
2. Ms. Asami Murata, PE Instructor, Khanghu Lower Secondary School, Paro
3. Mr. Kensaku Seki, PE Instructor, Trashiyangtse Lower Secondary School, Trashiyangtse
4. Mr. Hajime Ishii, System Administrator, PPD, MoE, Thimphu
5. Mr. Tomotaka Shimotai, System Analyst, BDFC, Thimphu
6. Mr. Susumu Murase, System Administrator, PPD, MoHCA, Thimphu
7. Mr. Noriyoshi Sakaguchi, Information System, NEC, Thimphu

■ ■ ■ *We wish all readers a Happy and Successful Year ahead* ■ ■ ■

### For more information

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