

Monthly topic : Culture

Zorig Day celebrated at National Institute of Zorig Chusum

Coinciding with the Zorig Day celebration on 13 May, the Department of Labour opened the Show Room at newly constructed office at the National Institute of Zorig Chusum at Kawajangsa (NIZC). JICA rendered technical and financial support for the Show Room which is being used to show-case excellent works done by the students of NIZC. The new complex was constructed solely by the trainees of the Vocational Training Institute formerly known as Construction Training Center (CTC). During the early stages of the CTC, JICA dispatched a group of Senior Volunteers as Instructors for Plumbing, House wiring and Re-bar fixing for on-the-job training of trainees. It is felt that the group made useful contributions in the maiden venture by the Government to train school leavers in the construction sector.



Since Japan and Bhutan shared many ancient art and crafts, the Royal Government requested technical assistance from JICA for reviving the skills of age old Bhutanese arts and crafts. A JOCV was assigned in 2002 for teaching lacquer techniques; a Senior Volunteer guided Bhutanese students in making typical Bhutanese style dolls which gained wide acclaim and also were exhibited at the Aichi Expo in 2005 in Japan. More recently another Senior Volunteer is helping the Institute in metal casting works.



The Institute also received the first foreign student from Japan, a former JOCV Coordinator in Thimphu Office, Ms. Tae Kikuchi. Ms. Kikuchi has enrolled to fine tune her embroidery skills. More recently one more student from Japan Ms. Kaji is admitted in the painting section.

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 June

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16
(7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 8
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 23
- ◆ JOCVs: 24
(Short-term 1, Senior JOCVs 3)

The survey team visited the Grant Aid Project sites: Bridge Reconstruction Phase II and School Construction

Mr. Kayumi, a technical advisor of Grant Aid visited six on-going project sites in Trashigang, Lhuentse, Tsirang and Chukha Dzongkhag with project formulation advisors of the JICA Bhutan Office from 22 June to 4 July.

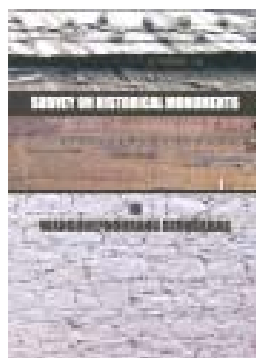
Two schools in Kanglung and Chukha, and three bridges in Tamgmachu, Waklytar and Sunkosh are under construction since December 2005. He surveyed the condition of projects and the quality of constructions implemented by the Japanese firms: CPC, Mouri Consultant and DNC.



JOCVs Support the Cultural Preservation Activities

Four Japanese architects: Ms. Mukai, Ms. Sugihara, Ms. Takada and Mr. Takagi are working in the Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs to support the historical preservation of Bhutanese architecture. Their main activities are:

- To document Bhutanese historical structures
- To implement and supervise conservation projects of historical structure
- To implement and supervise development projects of cultural institutions
- To implement awareness campaigns of architectural heritage conservation



Ms. Mukai, a senior JOCV, who had been working in Bhutan for more than five years completes her assignment in July, 2006. One of her final works was to publish a book; “**Survey of Historical Monuments in Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag**”. This book is a summary of the joint survey project of historical monuments implemented by Bhutanese monks in Talo and Sewala Buddhist Institute and Japanese architects. This project was supported by the JICA backup program team. The series of survey were conducted for the duration of 15 days from 26 July, 2004 in collaboration with the Division for Conservation of Architectural Heritage under the Department of Culture.

Ms. Mukai mentioned that conservation concepts and techniques adjusting to the local contexts should be appropriately integrated with age-old traditions and customs of Bhutan. In order to conserve and protect cultural heritage properly, the survey should be initiated by the local people; monks, who are the key guardians of monuments in Bhutan and conservators to develop conservation concepts of Bhutan. She also noted “ I am hoping that the information provided in this book could be utilized as a source to undertake further necessary studies or discussions so as to ascertain various aspects of Bhutanese architecture”.

JICA News in Brief

- Next month's topic will be focused on **Environment**
- Ms. Mayumi Miyata joined JICA Bhutan Office on 25 June as the successor of Ms. Emi Doyle, Project Formulation Advisor. Ms. Emi Doyle was responsible for projects related to infrastructure sector including Roads, Telecom and Broadcasting.
- JAAB (Japan Alumni Association of Bhutan) led by Dr. Gado Tshering the President organized a tree planting campaign on 2 June on the occasion of the Social Forestry Day. Members from JAAB and JICA took part in the tree plantation.
- JOCV members organized the annual JICA sports festival at the Police ground on 2 June. All JICA members, Japanese residents and JAAB members gathered together to enjoy the sport events and Japanese traditional dance.
- Three new JOCVs will arrive on 28 June. They will work as a IT specialist for the Department of Information and Technology, and as Physical instructors for Changangkha LSS of Thimphu and Tsimalakha LSS, Chukha for next two years.
- Three short-term JOCVs arrived on 14 June: They will be assigned for BBS, Kuensel and Killu Music School.



For more information

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
P.O. Box 217, Doy-bum Lam, Above Memorial Chorten, Thimphu, Bhutan

Tel: (975) 2-322030, 323218, 328074, 324571, 324463

Fax: (975) 2-323089

E-mail: <newsletter@jica.org.bt>

Website: <<http://www.jica.go.jp/bhutan/index.html>>

Newsletter Team

Emi Doyle, Project Formulation Advisor
Kinley Dorji, Senior Programme Officer
BB Mishra, Technical Officer (General Affairs)