

Monthly topic : ODA/JICA Seminar

Mr. Yoshihisa Ueda the Vice President of JICA visits Bhutan

Mr. Yoshihisa Ueda, the Vice President of JICA visited Bhutan from 13 to 16 May on a four days official visit. During his visit he called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Finance Minister. He expressed his complete satisfaction over the current status of Japanese government assisted projects in Bhutan and the smooth bilateral relations between the two countries. While in the capital he visited UNDP office to exchange the views for further cooperation.



He also visited the various JICA project sites and work places of Japanese volunteers and experts. He handed over TV equipment to BBS project on 15 April during his visit. An ardent photographer he was thrilled with the natural beauty and splendid architectural works of Bhutanese culture and history. Like all first time visitors to Bhutan he fell in 'love at first sight' and he would like to visit Bhutan once again.

Mr. Ueda assured the Royal Government of continued support from the Japanese side although Japan Government is facing the largest budget deficit in history.



Before joining JICA in July 2005 he was the Executive Director of Inter-American Development Bank. He started his career in the Ministry of Finance and served in various capacities both at home and abroad.

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 Third ODA/JICA Seminar held in Thimphu on May 3, 2006

The Third Japanese ODA/JICA Seminar was held in Thimphu on 3 May 2006 jointly organized by the JICA Bhutan Office and the Department of Aid and Debt Management (DADM), Ministry of Finance.

The objective of the Seminar was familiarize the participants on the roles of JICA in implementing the Japanese ODA system; brief about the various schemes of JICA assistance for submitting proposals; introduction of the JICA Country Program and the status of on-going projects.

The Director General of DADM in his opening speech marked that this seminar is an "eye-opener" for many of the participants who are not very familiar with Japanese ODA system and JICA's roles. He also highlighted the excellent support received from Japanese government and assurance for further cooperation made by the Japanese Government both at the Round Table Meeting in Geneva as well as Review Meeting in Delhi.



The Resident Representative, Mr Yabe mentioned that compared to other developing nations in this region, the per capita ODA disbursement to Bhutan is rather high based on the low population figure. However since Bhutan has very specific situation because of rugged mountains and scattered population the cost benefit ratio will remain high unlike in other countries.

Participants were presented with a complete information dossier on JICA as well as electronic data including application forms and procedural matters. Ms. Emi Doyle, JICA Project Formulation Advisor emphasized on the timely submission of proposals and in the correct format to hasten decision making process.

A total of 43 participants from the Government agencies, corporate bodies and international organization in Bhutan took part in the Seminar.

Visitors to JICA Office

- Ms. Mary Jane Jamar the Vice President, Human Resource and Facilities of the World Wild Life Fund visited on 26 April for salary and benefit survey of National Staff.
- Mr. Hajime Matsumura, First Secretary from the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi visited Bhutan from 15 to 18 May 2006 for discussions with the officials of Royal Government regarding the celebration of 20 Anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- Mr. Shigetaka Kayumi, a technical advisor of Japan Grant Aid surveyed the on-going Grant Aid from 22 May to 4 June.

JICA News in Brief

- Next month's topic will be focused on **Culture**
- Mr. Yuji Kado, Short term JICA Expert on Local Governance Management left on 29 April.
- Ms. Yoko Ueno Senior Volunteer Doll Making Instructor completed her two and half years term at National Institute of Zorig Chusum and left on 19 May.
- Mr. Yuichi Tomiyasu, Horticulturist and Mr. Toyozo Tanaka, Rice Cultivation, both JICA Experts in the Project for Agriculture Research and Extension in Lhuntse and Mongar have extended their term of assignment for another one year.
- Mr. Hajime Kikumura, JICA Expert for TV Broadcasting has extended his term of assignment for another one year upto 14 June 2007.
- Mr. Yabe attends the annual Resident Representative's Meeting at JICA HQ in Tokyo from 24 April to 27 April.
- Ms. Sadako Meguro Health Administrator and Mr. Ugyen Dorji, Security Advisor successfully completed a field visit to various Dzongkhags in Southern and Eastern part of Bhutan from 17 to 28 April to observe the likeliness of health related problems and health facilities available.

For your Information

The next batch of basic Japanese Language course will be conducted from **June 7 to 3 Aug 2006** at the Department of Tourism conference room. The course is organized by the Department of Tourism and conducted by Ms. Rie Kabata, a JOCV Japanese Language Instructor. **All interested may contact the Department of Tourism on or before 6 June 6, 2006.**

For more information

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