

Support to BBS for Capacity Development



The JICA Preparatory Study Team and the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications signed the Minutes of Meeting for the “Capacity Development of the Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation” on 22 June 2007. The project purpose is to promote professionalism through capacity enhancement and to improve management of BBSC; and ultimately broadcast high quality program and to provide information of relevance appropriately and promptly. Amongst the measures to be

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)

taken by JICA are: (1) Dispatch of Experts (both long term and short term) (2) Training of Bhutanese counterpart personnel in Japan and (3) Provision of machinery and equipment. Once finalized the project is expected to last 3 years from commencement. Meanwhile the Technical Cooperation project “Enhancement of BBS” is expected to be over by middle of September 2007.

Local Governance and Decentralization Phase 2

The Department of Local Governance (DLG), Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs MOHCA and JICA Implementation Study Team confirmed that Phase 2 based on Phase 1 supports Integrated Capacity Building Plan (ICBP). As a technical cooperation project, the Japanese input will consist of dispatching experts, training, equipment, project management with the supplemental cost. Both the parties confirmed that detailed work plan can be worked out in consultation with the mission and the Capacity Building Division of DLG, MOHCA considering the implementation schedule of other activities supported by RGOB and other donors..

The Memorandum of Meeting was signed between the mission and DLG on 4 June 2007.

JICA members in Bhutan as of June 2007

- ◆ JICA office staff: 17
(7 internationals; 10 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 29 (Short term 2)
- ◆ JOCVs: 31 (Short-term 4,)

Fourth ODA/JICA Seminar held in Thimphu



The Fourth ODA/JICA Seminar was held on 1 May at Thimphu at the Conference Room of the Department of Aid and Debt Management. Members from JICA Office explained the JICA country program for Bhutan, different schemes of the Japanese assistance, procedures for submitting proposals and status of requests made to Japanese government in 2006. A total of 27 participants from ministries and government corporations participated in the seminar which was an eye-opener to many of the participants. It is hoped that the seminar will help participants better understand the Japanese assistance system for better approach to project proposal and implementation. The Department of Aid and Debt Management, Ministry of Finance and JICA jointly organized the seminar.

Construction of Educational Facilities (term II)

A five members mission arrived on 20 May for preliminary study on the project for “Construction of Construction of Educational Facilities (term II)”. The mission members met with the officials of Ministry of Education, other donor organizations, and visited sites in Punukha, Chukha, Thimphu and Phuntsholing for efficient implementation of the project under Grant Aid for Community Empowerment. The project was initially started as a Grant Aid project. The mission members and the RGoB signed an agreement to implement the term II of school construction project using Grant Aid for Community Empowerment scheme. The scheme started by then Japanese government in 1996 is a new scheme. “It is aimed towards development of certain communities or regions in recipient country by empowering capability of the community as a whole to overcome various threats such as hunger, poverty, epidemics, etc. Multiple different components (construction of schools, roads, wells, or training, etc.) can be combined effectively to formulate one project. Single component projects for example, construction of school classrooms in certain region by utilizing local resources are also possible. Contractors, suppliers or consultants are not confined to Japanese companies only, and construction can be done in line with local specification, which leads to cost reduction”. Main features of the new scheme are:

1. Contractors, suppliers or consultants are not tied to Japanese companies only, and construction can be done in line with local specification
2. Multiple different components can be combined to formulate one project
3. Procurement Management Agent of JICA, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICS) is assigned to undertake overall management of the grant (including fund management) on behalf of the recipient countries
4. A project has simpler procedure and is commenced earlier than in the case of General Grant Aid type
5. Local resources, such as suppliers, contractors, consultants, materials, work force, etc., may be utilized where necessary
6. JICA is assigned to undertake outline design studies and project implementation promotion

One important feature and principle of the scheme is adoption of cost effectiveness. If contractors with reasonable technical standard are available in the recipient or nearby countries, they can participate in bidding for construction. (Standard of quality will be supervised by technical advice of consultants selected by Japanese side.)

The new grant scheme, by empowering the community, thus seeks to enhance human security, an important vision for Japanese Official development assistance.

Source: Application Form for JICA Grant Aid for Community Empowerment P. 1

Visitors



A five member delegation from Kasetsart University in Bangkok led by Dr. Supamard Panichsakpatana, Vice President for Academic Affairs visited JICA office on 15 June for exchange of information and goodwill. The delegation arrived in Bhutan to strengthen the collaboration on Human Resource Development with the Ministry of Agriculture.

JICA News in Brief

1. Mr. Yuichi Tomiyasu, JICA Expert for the project “Agriculture Research and Extension Support in Lhuntse and Mongar” is declared recipient of the prestigious Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation for the year 2007.
2. Ms. Megumi Shuto, Project Formulation Advisor (Health, Education and Vocational Education) left Bhutan on 13 June after the successful completion of her 2 years term in Bhutan.
3. Mr. Taiji Usui who was a former Senior Volunteer Coordinator in Bhutan arrived on 4 June as Project Formulation Advisor in replacement of Ms. Megumi Shuto.
4. Mr. Yukio Kanesaka, Deputy Resident Representative of Regional Office in Bangkok provided many useful advices and support on improvement during his stay with us for accounting coaching from 12 to 15 June.
5. Ms. Nami Iihoshi, Assistant Resident Representative and Procurement Specialist arrived on 27 June to help streamline procurement procedures. She is based in JICA Regional Support Office at Bangkok.
6. Ms. Tomoko Kikuta a short term JOCV for piano instructions at Killu Music School arrived on 28 June. This is her second short term assignment to the same school.

For more information

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