

*Monthly topic : JICA Country Program*

**Bilateral meetings for more effective development**

The Ambassadors of Bhutan and Japan will meet in Delhi towards the end of March at the first annual review meeting to discuss Japan ODA projects.

Following the meeting, the JICA Bhutan office intends to organize an ODA/JICA seminar to explain Japan ODA/ JICA schemes and the timeframe for proposal procedures in the beginning of April. The exact date will be informed through DADM and Kuensel.



**JICA Country Program to achieve a field-oriented approach**

JICA activities are being reorganized around the three principles of (1) a field-oriented approach, (2) human security, and (3) effectiveness, efficiency, and speed. To achieve a field-oriented approach, JICA started the Country Program Approach.

JICA is also working to achieve the MDGs by undertaking various projects incorporating the Bhutanese Governments' strategies. JICA has set up the four priority areas and programs in line with the Government development policy and international strategies. JICA plans to discuss with the Bhutanese Government to focus more specifically on the synergy of cooperation.

- 1) Agricultural and Rural Development
  - o Agricultural mechanization;
  - o Agricultural research and expansion;
  - o Farm road expansion;
  - o Livestock technology modernization.
- 2) Balanced Infrastructure Development:
  - o Rural electrification expansion;
  - o Improvement of TV broadcasting;
  - o Improvement of telecommunication network;
  - o Improvement and expansion of road network.
- 3) Social Service Development
  - o Human resource development and employment generation;
  - o School education improvement;
  - o Health care service improvement.
- 4) Improvement of government functions
  - o Enhancement of decentralization.

**JICA schemes**

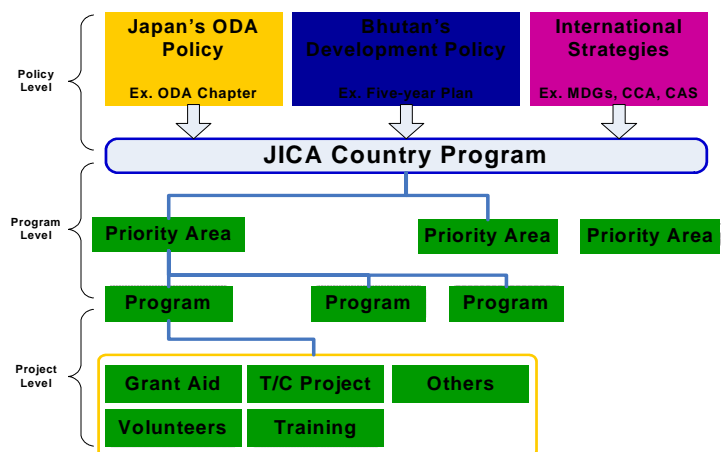
- ◆ Technical Cooperation Projects
- ◆ Grant Aid
- ◆ Training Programmes
- ◆ Development Studies
- ◆ Emergency Disaster Relief
- ◆ Citizen Participation
- ◆ Follow-up Cooperation

**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 March**

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16 (7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 10 (short-term: 2)
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 22 (Short-term 1)
- ◆ JOCVs: 23 (Short-term 02 )
- ◆ Senior JOCVs : 3



## New Resident Representative assigned in March

The new Resident Representative, Mr. Tetsuo Yabe, joined the JICA Bhutan Office on March 4, 2006. His earlier assignment included posting as the Deputy Resident Representative in Nepal from 1999 to 2002. Before arrival to Bhutan he was assigned to manage the Yen Loan Projects in Iraq. He said that he was very pleased to be assigned to the peaceful country of Bhutan.



## Message from the out-going Resident Representative

Mr. Sugimoto, the Resident Representative, said " I am pleased to express my extreme satisfaction and happiness for being able to take part in the Royal Government of Bhutan's development efforts. My short tenure in Bhutan has been a period of great experience and personal learning for myself in the course of discharging of my duties. I thank the Government and the people of Bhutan for the excellent cooperation and support enjoyed by JICA from all quarters of the Government, public organizations and people at large.

## JICA Local Governance Project Extended

In March 2004, the Local Governance and Decentralization Project was signed for a duration of two years in the three pilot districts of Haa, Bumthang and Trashigang.

The main component of the project is the organizational and individual capacity building at Dzongkhag and Geog level through training, material capacity development (geog center construction and provision of equipment) and actual implementation of pilot projects in all 25 Geogs in the three pilot districts.



In response to the request of the Royal Government of Bhutan, the Government of Japan has decided to extend the term of the Local Governance and Decentralization Project until October 31, 2006. A Record of Discussion was signed in Thimphu on January 26, 2006.

Missions are planned from JICA HQ to Bhutan to organize the workshop and research on the impact of the project.

## JICA BHUTAN NEWS IN BRIEF

- Next month's focus will be on **JICA Country Program (Part 2)**.
- **Mr. Mitsukuni Sugimoto**, Resident Representative, leaves Bhutan on March 11, 2006 on the completion of his term of assignment. **Mr. Tetsuo Yabe**, the new Resident Representative, arrived on March 4, 2006.
- **Mr. Suakurai**, a farm mechanization advisor, has been assigned for AMC in Paro. He will support the enhancement of farm mechanization in Bhutan.
- **Mr. Kado**, a local governance management advisor, will support the decentralization project from February 3 to April 30. He plans to visit JICA project sites for training in Trashigang, Haa and Bhumthang.
- Local governance missions from Japan visited Bhutan to review the JICA decentralization project and to exchange the views with stakeholders on February 26.
- **Mr. Kinley Dorji**, Sr. Programme Officer, and **Mr. Bishu Bhakta Mishra**, Technical Officer, participated in a Project Cycle Management (PCM) workshop from January 31 to February 2. The workshop was organized by the Austrian Cooperation Office in Thimphu.

### For more information

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