

## 2006 : The Year That was

The Japanese Fiscal Year 2006 ends on 31 March 2007.  
In this Issue we highlight the major events of the year that was.

The year 2006 saw a flurry of activities as Bhutan and Japan celebrated 20 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. In addition to traditional areas of cooperation and technical assistance, a major backdrop was the preparations for transition to parliamentary democracy in Bhutan in 2008. The Government of Japan expressed full support and continued cooperation for a successful transition to democracy as per the wishes of His Majesty the King.

### Celebration of 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic relations

In commemoration of 20 years of Japan-Bhutan diplomatic relations, a week long "Japan Week" was organized in Bhutan from 20 to 30 October. It started off with a *Kyudo* demonstration at Changlimithnag ground by the members of the International *Kyudo* followed by Japanese music concert, photo exhibition and film festival at Swimming Pool Sports Complex. Film Festivals were also held at Khuruthang, Bumthang and Paro. A Joint Reception was held on 29th October at *Gyalong Tshogkhang* (National Assembly courtyard) where cultural programmes of both countries were performed to a large audience comprising of Government officials, members of the international organizations and Japanese community in Bhutan. The occasion was graced by Mr. Machimura, the former Foreign Minister of Japan who led a delegation of "Japanese Parliamentarian League for Bhutan". HE Mr. Enoki, Ambassador of Japan to Bhutan and the Hon'ble Foreign Minister Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk of Bhutan spoke on the history and value of the excellent relations that the two countries have enjoyed over the past 20 years and expressed hopes and wishes for continued cooperation in years to come.

### First Review Meeting held in Delhi

The first bilateral review meeting between the Government of Japan and the Royal Government of Bhutan was held in New Delhi on April 5, 2006. The two sides reviewed the progress of the on-going and recently concluded projects and also the status of new projects requested by the Bhutanese government to Japan in the previous year. The Japanese assistance to Bhutan is mainly in agriculture, telecommunications, energy, road, education and local Governance. The Japanese Government assured its commitment to continue its assistance in future. The JICA Bhutan Office also presented the JICA Country Program for Bhutan.

### ODA Seminar held in Thimphu

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 to 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 inform the participants on the status of on-going projects. The Director General of DADM in his opening speech 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 the Review Meeting in Delhi. A total of 43 participants from the Government agencies, corporate bodies and international organization in Bhutan took part in the Seminar.

### Evaluation of Japanese ODA in Bhutan

A six-member Japanese delegation conducted an independent evaluation study on the Japanese Official Development Assistance to Bhutan in the past 20 years. The team called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk as well as other Ministers, senior officials of the Government, interviewed people at the grassroots level and held talks with other donor organizations in Bhutan. The delegation which was commissioned by the Japanese foreign ministry will evaluate and review Japan's aid policy to Bhutan and draw lessons from it.

### Mini Japan fest at Dagana

To the delight of government officials, students and general public, the member of JICA volunteers working in Bhutan and family members, a colorful event of Japanese music, song and dance, Japanese language and arts was organized 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 to interior parts of the country, where the presence of Japanese is less known.

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

### High level visitors to Bhutan in 2006

- Mr. Ryoichi Horie, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan
- Mr. Yoshihisa Ueda, Vice President of JICA
- Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister of Embassy of Japan
- Mr. Takio Yamada Minister, Embassy of Japan
- HE Mr. Kiyoshi Nakano, Vice Minister of Health
- Dr. Shigeru Omi, Regional Director, WHO
- Mr. Nobutaka Machimura, Diet Member (House of Representative)
- Mr. Katsuyuki Kawai, Diet Member (House of Representative)
- Mr. Masayoshi Namki and Mr. Kensei Mitsuya Diet Member (House of Representative)
- Mr. Shinsuke Shimizu Director, South West Asia MOFA
- HE Mr. Yaskuni Enoki Ambassador, Embassy of Japan
- Mr. Shisuke Shimizu Director, Dept of SouthWest Asia, MoFA in 2007

## Training Courses for the year 2007

JICA has offered the following training courses to Bhutan for the year 2007. Interested participants may contact RCSC Fellowship section for application procedures.

### Group Training Course

COURSE NAME	DURATION
1. The International Welding Engineer	2 April 2007 - 20 Oct 2007
2. Dental Education	23 Apr 2007 - 15 Sep 2007
3. Crime Prevention	9 May 2007 - 24 Jun 2007
4. Remote Sensing Technology	10 May 2007 - 14 Jul 2007
5. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Promotion of Persons with Disabilities	15 May 2007 - 30 Jun 2007
6. Agriculture Infrastructure Improvement in Upland Crops Area	27 May 2007 - 18 Aug 2007
7. Seminar for JBIC's Official Financial Cooperation	27 May 2007 - 9 June 2007
8. Vocational Training Instructors (Mechanical Engineering for Instructors and Engineers)	19 Jun 2007 - 22 Dec 2007
9. Seminiar on Development and Application of Construction Engineering	6 May 2007 - 23 Jun 2007
10. Occupational Safety Management in Construction Industry	14 Aug 2007 - 22 Sep 2007
11. Economical Planning and Operation for Electric Power Transmission	26 Aug 2007 - 7 Oct 2007
12. Local Government Administration and Public Services	5 Sep 2007 - 28 Oct 2007
13. Immigration Control administration	2 Oct 2007 - 2 Nov 2007
14. Promotion of Enabling Environment for Civil Society and Community Development	10 Oct 2007 - 25 Oct 2007
15. ICT Executives' Seminar II (Information Technology)	14 Oct 2007 - 27 Oct 2007
16. Planning and Management of National Mapping and Surveying	30 Oct 2007 - 9 Aug 2007
17. Television Programme Production	9 Jan 2008 - 18 Mar 2008
18. Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management	14 Jan 2008 - 24 Feb 2008
19. Vegetable Cultivation Technology	30 Jan 2008 - 17 Nov 2008
20. Seminar on Postal Service Management	5 Feb 2008 - 17 Feb 2008
21. Development Farm Machinery for Small-Scale Farmers	11 Feb 2008 - 20 Oct 2008
22. Seminar on Government Audit	13 Feb 2008 - 17 Mar 2008

### Region Focussed Training Course

1. IT Human Resource Development Program for Southwest Asian Countries	20 Nov 2007 - 9 Feb 2008
2. Rural Development for small-scale Farmers Through the Agricultural Cooperatives Activity in Asia	4 Sep 2007 - 28 Nov 2007

## JICA News

■ The following new members of JOCV and Short term JOCVs will join on 26 March 2007 to take up their assignments:

#### JOCVs:

1. Mr. Junichiro Matsumura, Architect, RUB, Simtokha
2. Ms. Megumi Kaneko, Laboratory Technologist, Serbithang
3. Mr. Noriyuki Nakatani, PE Instructor, NID, Khaling
4. Mr. Dai Fujimaki, Network Engineer, RAA, Thimphu
5. Mr. Yusuke Sugamoto, Environment Inspection Advisor, Environment Unit, MTI Thimphu
6. Ms. Rie Akamine, Associate Coach, Bhutan Volley Ball Federation, Thimphu
7. Mr. Kiyohito Ueda, TT Coach, Bhutan TT Federation, Thimphu
8. Ms. Kumiko Kisu, Midwife, IT Expert Unit, JDWNRH Thimphu
9. Mr. Tankanori Kawada, College of Natural Resources, Lobesa

#### Short term JOCVs:

1. Mr. Toyohiko Hashimoto, Audio-visual Producer Information and Communication Service, MoA, Thimphu
2. Ms. Kaoru Chano, Vegetable Researcher, RNR Research Sub Centre, Limithang
3. Ms. Yasuko Fukae, System Engineer, National Housing Development Corporation, MoWHS, Thimphu

#### Expert Arrival:

1. Mr. Shigeya Akiyama, News and Programme Production (Short term: March 7th - April 4th, 2007)
2. Mr. Kaoru Nishiwaki, Power Utility Expert (Long term: March 26th 2007 for 1 year)

### For more information

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