

Monthly topic : JICA Country program

The first review meeting held in New Delhi on April 5, 2006



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 the future.

The JICA Bhutan Office also presented the JICA Country Program for Bhutan. It is envisaged that the document will be further refined in close cooperation with the Department of Aid and Debt Management, Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan. It was also mentioned that JICA in collaboration with DADM will organise the Third JICA/ODA Seminar in Thimphu on May 3 for introduction to the JICA Country Program, explanation on the Japan ODA chapters, aid schemes and JICA's roles, JICA projects in Bhutan, Volunteer program and project application procedures.

Taking the opportunity of the very high level gathering, the two sides also exchanged views on events and preparations for the celebration of the 20th year of diplomatic relations between the two countries in the current year.

The Bhutanese delegation was led by Lyonpo Dago Tshering, Bhutan's Ambassador to Japan and included representatives from the Foreign Ministry, Agriculture Ministry, Finance Ministry, and Department of Roads. The Japanese side was led by the Yasukuni Enoki the Ambassador of Japan to Bhutan and included officials of the Japanese Embassy, JICA India Office, JBIC Office in New Delhi and JICA Bhutan Office.

The Resident Representative calls on the Ambassador of Bhutan to Japan

On April 4 2006, Mr. Tetsuo Yabe made his first courtesy call on Lyonpo Dago Tshering Ambassador to Bhutan to Japan in New Delhi, after assuming his post as the Resident Representative of JICA Bhutan Office. Lyonpo Dago Tshering commended the excellent contributions made by the Japanese volunteers living in Bhutan and the close collaboration enjoyed with the local people inspite of difficult living conditions.

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 April

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



Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects

The Japanese Government offers a financial assistance scheme for development projects designed to meet the diverse needs of developing countries. Known as Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), this scheme supports projects proposed by such bodies as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and local government authorities. The GGP has acquired an excellent reputation for providing flexible and timely support to development projects at the grassroots level.

The Government of Bhutan has implemented 21 projects since 1992 under this scheme out of which 3 projects were for the shipment of fire engines from Japan to Bhutan. Other projects included shipment of recycled special purpose machineries and vehicles, purchase of educational and medical equipment and construction of mule tracks in Trongsa and construction of suspension bridges in Mongar and Lhunte dzongkhags.



JICA BHUTAN NEWS IN BRIEF

- JICA Bhutan Office in collaboration with Department of Aid and Debt Management will organize the Third ODA/JICA seminar **at the Conference hall of DADM on May 3**
- Next month's topic will be focused on on **ODA/JICA Seminar**.
- April has seen the largest number of movement in JOCVs and Senior Volunteers because of large number of incoming and out-going members:
 - Newly arrived JOCVs**
 - 1. Mr. Koichi Chijiya, Electronic Engineer, VTI Khuruthang
 - 2. Mr. Masakazu Takagi, Architect, Dept of Culture, Thimphu
 - 3. Mr. Naohito Matsumoto, IT Specialist, Dept of revenue and Customs
 - 4. Ms. Rie Kabata, Japanese Language Teacher, Dept of Tourism
 - Newly Arrived Senior Volunteers**
 - 1. Mr. Hiroshi Kanamori, Gong Casting, NIZC
 - 2. Mr. Hiroyuki Mori, Meteorologist, Council for RNR Research
 - 3. Mr. Tsuyoshi Miura, ICM Standardization, MoIC
 - 4. Mr. Katsuhiko Nishikawa, Seed Processing technologist, Druk Seed Corp
 - 5. Mr. Tsukasa Kawahata, Housing and Real Estate, NHDC
 - 6. Mr. Hideyuki Okuno, E-Governance, DIT
 - Recently repatriated JOCVs**
 - 1. Mr. Yasuhisa Sukanuma, Road Designer, DOR
 - 2. Mr. Katsuki Okaniwa, IT instructor, RIM
 - 3. Mr. Tadahiro Sasaki, Microbiologist, Public Health Lab
 - 4. Mr. Kenzo Nagashima, IT specialist, Ministry of Trade and Industry
 - 5. Mr. Makaoto Arai, System Engineer, RCSC
 - Recently repatriated Senior Volunteers**
 - 1. Mr. Hiroshi Kono, Road Pavement Engineer, DoR
 - 2. Mr. Shoichi Kutsukake, Standardization Expert, MoIC
 - 3. Mr. Yuzaburo Yamaga, Quality Control Expert
 - 4. Mr. Kazuyoshi Takemoto, Landscape Architect
- The Spring Music festival which was planned by JAAB and JICA to be held on March 26 at the Clock Tower square was cancelled due to the sad demise of Dasho Ugyen Dorji.

For more information

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