

## JICA HPE Festival, December 28-30, 2009

The first ever JICA HPE festival was successfully held from 28<sup>th</sup> till 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. The three-day HPE festival was organized by the JOCV PE Instructors and their Bhutanese counter-parts working in different schools in Bhutan. The festival comprised of various events such as HPE workshop; PE activities at Changlimithang ground with the students of Changankha Lower Secondary School, JOCV and Bhutanese P.E Instructors; and a thrilling PE performance at the Clock Tower.



The purpose of the festival was to raise awareness among the young people and the participants about the importance of Health and Physical Education and to encourage the enjoyment of accessible exercises and sports. Furthermore, to spread the belief that good health and physical fitness leads to Gross National Happiness.

JOCV PE Instructors, their Bhutanese counterparts, and other JOCV members worked tirelessly to make this festival happen. Mr. Kensaku Seki, JOCV PE Instructor, expresses "both the Japanese and Bhutanese participants were very happy to be a part of this festival." Also, "the festival sparked a lot of interest among the participants, and I hope that they take what they have learnt and take action," says Mr. Seki. He also appreciates the efforts of all the participants, both Japanese and Bhutanese in making this festival a success.

In his opening address, JICA Resident Representative hoped that "the lessons learnt will have multiplying effects once the PE Instructors return to their respective schools." He thanked the Ministry of Education for their generous support, and extended his appreciation to everyone involved with organizing this significant festival. He also said that "JICA will continue to support P.E in Bhutan by way of dispatching JOCVs and Senior Volunteers as long as the needs remain."

Honorable Lyonpo Thakur S Powdyel, Minister for Education, graciously agreed to be the Chief Guest at the Clock Tower event. The Chief Guest for the HPE Workshop was Mr. Tshewang Tandin, Director General, Department of School Education, Ministry of Education. In addition, many dignitaries and guests from various government agencies attended and actively participated in the festival.



### JICA schemes

- ◆ Grant Aid
- ◆ Loan
- ◆ Technical Cooperation Projects
- ◆ Training Programmes
- ◆ Development Studies
- ◆ Emergency Disaster Relief
- ◆ 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 2009

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16 (7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 8
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 13
- ◆ JOCVs: 38

# Grant Agreement for the “Project for Improvement of Machinery and Equipment for Construction of Rural Agricultural Roads (Phase 2)”



The Government of Japan agreed to extend a grant assistance of 597 million Yen (US\$ 6 million) to the Royal Government of Bhutan for this project. The Exchange of Notes to formalize the execution of the grant assistance were signed and exchanged between H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to Bhutan and H.E. Mr. Vestop Namgyel, Ambassador of Bhutan to Japan. As Phase 2 of the project, the Japanese government will support procurement of a range of machineries and equipment for construction of rural roads which were linked with the scattered and isolated farming settlements to Bhutan's nation-wide road network and meet growing socio-economic needs of the rural communities. The Government of Japan hopes that the grant assistance would help in the development of Bhutan as envisaged in the 10th Five-Year Plan, and will further strengthen the relationship between Japan and Bhutan.

## News in Brief

- ◆ Ms. Noriko Endo and Mr. Eiji Shibasaki, Volunteer Coordinators, successfully completed their assignments in Bhutan and left for Japan. Ms. Endo's successor is Mr. Naoto Masakane, and Mr. Shigehiro Mizuno is Mr. Shibasaki's replacement.
- ◆ Ms. Tshering Dolkar, Office Secretary and Ms. Yeshey W. Tamang, Technical Officer (Volunteer Program) have decided to leave JICA for personal reasons. In replacement Ms. Chenga Lham and Ms. Tshering Palden have been recruited respectively.
- ◆ Seven JOCVs completed their terms in Bhutan and left for Japan:
  - 1) Mr. Kohki Okada, IT Instructor, assigned to Jakar Higher Secondary School.
  - 2) Mr. Youichiro Okawa, Electronic Equipment, assigned to Rangjung Vocational Training Institute.
  - 3) Mr. Noriaki Matsumura, IT Instructor, assigned to Paro College of Education .
  - 4) Mr. Junya Sugawara, Vegetable Cultivation, assigned to RnR RC Khangma, Trashigang.
  - 5) Mr. Taihei Yasuda, Vegetable Cultivation, assigned to RnR RC Lingmethang, Mongar.
  - 6) Ms. Kasumi Ishida, Architect, Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Culture Affairs.
  - 7) Mr. Susumu Murase, System Administrator, PPD Ministry of Home and Culture Affairs.
- ◆ Five Senior Volunteers completed their assignments in Bhutan and left for Japan:
  - 1) Mr. Sunao Sato, Intelligent Network, worked in Bhutan Telecom.
  - 2) Mr. Yoshihisa Okubo, School Landscape Architecture, worked in SPBD, Ministry of Education.
  - 3) Mr. Kuni Matsuya, Field Crops Research, worked in RnR RC Bajo.
  - 4) Mr. Yutaka Jose, Physical Education, worked in Paro College of Education.
  - 5) Mr. Satoshi Seike, Food Processing, worked in Drak-Tsho Vocational Training Center for Disabled.
- ◆ Four Short-term JOCVs completed their terms in Bhutan and left for Japan:
  - 1) Ms. Emi Nakazawa, Youth Activities, worked in Department of Youth, Culture and Sports.
  - 2) Mr. Kazuya Kudo, Youth Activities, worked in Department of Youth, Culture and Sports.
  - 3) Ms. Nozomi Suzuki, Youth Activities, worked in Department of Youth, Culture and Sports.
  - 4) Mr. Kensaku Seki, PE Instructor, worked in Trashi Yangtse Lower Secondary School.
- ◆ Eight new JOCVs arrived in Bhutan for their two-year assignments:
  - 1) Mr. Hisashi Aoki, Architecture Utilities (Plumbing), assigned to Chumey VTI, Bumthang.
  - 2) Mr. Yasuyuki Kitahara, Water and Sewage, assigned to Public Health and Engineering Division, MoH.
  - 3) Mr. Futa Koyanagi, Electric Technician, assigned to Rangjung VTI, Trashigang.
  - 4) Mr. Ritsuo Takahashi, Welding, assigned to Khuruthang VTI, Punakha.
  - 5) Mr. Arata Higashino, Maths Teacher, assigned to Khuruthang Middle Secondary School, Punakha.
  - 6) Ms. Nobuko Ihara, Animal Husbandry, assigned to Jakar RnR, Bumthang.
  - 7) Ms. Kayo Iwamoto, Nutritionist, assigned to JDWNRH, Thimphu
  - 8) Ms. Mao Kuribayashi, Dialysis Nurse, assigned to JDWNRH, Thimphu
- ◆ One new Senior Volunteer arrived in Bhutan for his two-year assignment:
  - 1) Mr. Motoo Kuchiba, PE Lecturer, assigned to Paro College of Education.

### For more information

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