

Technical Cooperation project on “Study of GLOF in Bhutan Himlayas” under way



In response to the request for the Bhutanese government for Study on Glacial Lakes Outburst Floods (GLOF) in Bhutan Himalaya under the Science and Technology Cooperation on Global issues, the Japanese government dispatched a JICA and JST joint study mission to Bhutan from February 26 to March 8. The mission called on Lyonpo Minjur Dorji, the Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs and Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Minister for Economic Affairs and Dasho Nado Rinchen, Deputy Minister for National Environment Commission. The mission discussed with officials of the Department of Geology and Mines on the framework and detailed implementation plan of the research project. Through the joint assessment of the GLOF risk in Bhutan Himalayas, the capacity for conducting investigation and research on GLOF phenomena and making plans for effective disaster management are expected to be strengthened. The signing of the project is expected in May of this year.

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 February 2009

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16
(7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 9
- ◆ JOCVs: 27

Agriculture Research and Extension Support project in Lhuntse and Monagr comes to end

The terminal evaluation of the project “Agriculture Research and Extension Support Project in Lhuntse and Mongar” was conducted from February 23 to March 11, 2009. After intensive study and analysis of the activities and achievements of the project, the mission presented the Terminal Evaluation Report to the Joint Coordination Committee for further submission to the respective governments. The project is widely acclaimed as another success story of the excellent implementation of the Japanese technical cooperation project in the Ministry of Agriculture. The project began in June 2004 and will end in June 2009.

The government of Bhutan has since requested for a similar project for Horticulture Development



Kilu Music School Concert- A Fund Raising Event

Thimphu residents will have an opportunity to enjoy French, Japanese and Caribbean music at a fund-raising musical event. The concert is being organized by Kilu Music School and is scheduled to be held on April 4, 2009 from 4:30-6:00 pm at the Youth Auditorium, Youth Complex in Thimphu. Tickets are available at Kilu Music School. The event will showcase two talented international musicians: Ms. Hiroko Ito and Mr. Sylvain Diony. Ms. Ito is an accomplished accordion artist who has performed in Japan's major concert halls, and international festivals in France and Canada. She has three albums to her name, two of which have been entirely composed by herself. Mr. Diony is an experienced guitarist who has performed concerts in France, Canada and Japan. He is also a lecturer at the Marcoussis Arts School in France. Ms. Ito and Mr. Diony have graciously volunteered to come to Bhutan to perform in the fund-raising event. This will not be the first time for the musical duo to perform in Bhutan, they performed in a fund-raising event for Kilu Music School in 2007. The proceeds from the upcoming event will assist the operation of Kilu Music School.



Kilu Music School, a non-government organization, was established in March 2005. At the moment, there are 40 students enrolled in Kilu; 4 adults, and 36 children, and they are all being taught by JOCV Mr. Masayuki Nagano. Mr. Nagano, who has been working in Kilu since September 2007, is the only music instructor at the school. Hence, he has the tremendous task of preparing and conducting classes for all the students. However, instead of being overwhelmed by the responsibilities, Mr. Nagano said that he enjoys the challenge and is delighted to watch his students learn music. The students attend two classes a week; one individual (practical) and one group (music theory). Mr. Nagano said that he is also trying to prepare the curriculum for the different course levels offered at Kilu. The school offers a six year curriculum and also gives certification.

News in Brief

- ◆ The JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) organised the annual blood donation campaign at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital on 28 February 2009. More than 50 Bhutanese and Japanese contributors participated in the campaign.
- ◆ Nine JOCV members completed their assignments in Bhutan and left for Japan:
 - 1) Mr. Junichiro Matsuura, Architect, worked in Royal University of Bhutan.
 - 2) Ms. Megumi Kaneko, Veterinarian, worked in National Center for Animal Health.
 - 3) Mr. Yusuke Sugamoto, Environment Inspection, worked in Environment Unit, MoEA.
 - 4) Ms. Rie Akamine, Volleyball Coach, worked in Bhutan Olympic Committee.
 - 5) Mr. Kiyohito Ueda, Table Tennis Coach, worked in Bhutan Olympic Committee.
 - 6) Ms. Kumiko Kisu, Midwife, worked in JDWNRH.
 - 7) Mr. Noriyuki Nakatani, PE Instructor, worked in NID, Khaling.
 - 8) Mr. Dai Fujimaki, Computer Engineer, worked in Royal Audit Authority.
 - 9) Mr. Takanori Kawada, Computer Engineer, worked in CNR-Lobesa.
- ◆ Also, eight SV members completed their assignments in Bhutan and left for Japan:
 - 1) Mr. Tetsuya Momota, Hydrologist, worked in Department of Energy.
 - 2) Mr. Takeshi Hirota, Geotechnology, worked in Department of Roads.
 - 3) Mr. Toshiaki Kimpara, Architect, worked in NHDC.
 - 4) Mr. Kenji Moriyama, Building Construction Supervisor, worked in DUDES.
 - 5) Mr. Yukio Ueno, Building Interior Design, worked in Department of Human Resources.
 - 6) Mr. Akira Matsuno, Urban Planner, worked in Phuentsholing City Corporation.
 - 7) Mr. Hiroyuki Suzuki, Doll Making, worked in NIZC.
 - 8) Ms. Ei Yoshida, Souvenir Making, worked in NIZC.
- ◆ Meanwhile, two short-term JOCV members arrived in Bhutan for their 10-month terms:
 - 1) Mr. Kensaku Seki, PE Instructor, assigned to Trashigang Lower Secondary School.
 - 2) Ms. Ami Souda, PE Instructor, assigned to CAPSD, Paro.

For more information

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
P.O. Box 217, Doy-bum Lam, Above Memorial Chorten, Thimphu, Bhutan

Tel: (975) 2-322030, 323218, 328074, 324571, 324463

Fax: (975) 2-323089

E-mail: <newsletter@jica.org.bt>

Website: <<http://www.jica.go.jp/bhutan/index.html>>

Newsletter Team

Emi Doyle, Project Formulation Advisor
Kinley Dorji, Senior Programme Officer
Zangpo, Technical Officer (General Affairs)
Yeshey W. Tamang, Technical Officer