



## Dzongkhag-wise Electrification Master Plan Completed: Development Study Scheme

The Draft final report of “**The Integrated Master Plan for Dzongkhag-wise Electrification**” was received by JICA in September 2005 and is currently being reviewed. The final report will be submitted in November 2005.

At present, less than 40% of population in Bhutan has access to electricity. Under such a situation, the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB) has a long-term target of 100% electrification by the year 2020. In order to help achieve this target, JICA has provided the technical assistance in carrying out feasibility study for dzongkhag-wise electrification since November 2003. A Japanese Consultancy firm, Nippon Koei Co., Ltd. is entrusted with the work, in collaboration with Department of Energy, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd.

The diverse scopes of the study include extensive GPS survey of all the un-electrified villages in 20 Dzongkhags, socio-economic survey, mapping and drawing distribution lines using GIS, assessment of technologies, techno-economic evaluation using dynamic programming, environment impacts, cost estimation and provision of office equipment.

The study was carried in a participatory manner wherein counterparts were assigned hands on experience to take full ownership of the study with a series of meetings, three National Level Workshops and counterpart trainings, both in-country and abroad.

In summary, it has been found that 88% of the total un-electrified households are techno-economically feasible for grid extension and remaining 12% by off-grid through provision of Solar Home System or Mini/Micro Hydro plants. It has been estimated that US\$ 85 million would be required to electrify all and the ambitiously benchmarked, “electricity for all” can be achieved by 2017, three years ahead of the Vision 2020.

The final report will be distributed to all the Dzongkhags in line with the decentralization policy. The feasibility study for dzongkhag-wise electrification is a part of JICA's Development Study Scheme.

### JICA schemes

- Technical cooperation project
- Grant aid
- Training programme
- Development studies
- Emergency disaster relief
- Citizen participation
- Follow-up cooperation
- Volunteer programme

### 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 November)

- Office staff: 16 (7Internationals, 9 Nationals)
- Experts: 10 (2 short-time)
- Senior Volunteers: 27 (1 short-time)
- Senior JOCVs: 3
- JOCVs: 20 (1short-time)

### **C/P training of D/S**

Under Development Study, the Counterpart Training was organized twice in 2004 and 2005. Firstly, two counterparts participated in one-month training on Energy Technologies: Fuel Cell, Wind, Biomass and Gas, Solar and Hydropower. Secondly, five members attended another one-month theoretical and practical training; GIS, Database, Distribution System and Economical analysis using Mi-Power application. One of trainees, Mr. Karma P Dorji mentioned, “the trainings were influential in terms of capacity building and greatly enhanced the core competence of ourselves.”

## The Japanese Drama “ OSHIN ” will be broadcast in Bhutan

The most popular Japanese drama “Oshin” is coming to Bhutan on **11 November, 2005**, supported by the Cultural Grant Aid of the Government of Japan. “Oshin” is the heroine of NHK morning series drama which was broadcast in 1980s. It has been aired in 57 countries and regions.

The story centers on the life of its heroin Oshin, who was born in 1901 in a remote mountain village to a poor family of tenant farmers. She is sent by her father at the tender age of seven, to work as a servant girl for another family. The story unfurls with Oshin’s life and struggles, marriage, family issues, war and her eventual success. The drama is more than just a story of a Japanese woman: it is a story of the Japanese themselves.

“Oshin” will be aired from **6:30PM to 7:00PM every Tuesday and Wednesday** by the BBSC.



## JICA Bhutan News in Brief

- **Next month’s focus will be on Local Governance.**
- **Five new Senior Volunteers** have been assigned for the following ministries and institutions.
  - ◆ Mr. Sato, Construction Engineer (Dept. of Urban Development & Engineering Services, MoWHS)
  - ◆ Mr. Sugihara, Physical Education Advisor (National Institute of Education, MoE)
  - ◆ Mr. Tsuchiya, Phytochemist (Institute of Traditional Medicine Services, MoH)
  - ◆ Mr. Mizuno, System Engineer, Tele Medicine (JDW National Referral Hospital)
  - ◆ Mr. Wakabayashi, Automobile Engineer (Vocational Training Institute, Samthang, MoLHR)
- **Four Senior Volunteers** are leaving Bhutan on 19<sup>th</sup> November after completing their two years assignments.
  - ◆ Mr. Ito (Seed inspector), Mr. Suzuki (Geotechnical Engineer), Mr. Hayashi (City Waster Management Advisor) and Mr. Yamasu (Urban Planner)
- **Two interns**, who were assigned for Local Governance Project, left Bhutan on 13 October.
- **Mr. Takeda**, a short-term expert for BBSC, is supporting Transmission development from 21 November under the Enhancement of BBSC project.
- **Mr. Ishii**, a Regional Project Formulation Advisor will study on Health Sector in Bhutan from 20 November to 1 December.

### For more information

#### Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

P.O. Box 217, Doy-bum Lam, Above Memorial Chorten, Thimphu, Bhutan

Tel: (975) 2-322 030, 3218, 8074, 45710 Fax: (975) 2-323 089

Email: [newsletter@jica.org.bt](mailto:newsletter@jica.org.bt)

Websites: <http://www.jica.go.jp/b>

#### Newsletter Team

Emi Doyle, Project Formulation Advisor

Kinley Dorji, Senior Programme Officer

BB Mishra, Technical Officer (General Affairs)

Tshewang Rinchen, Technical Officer (Volunteers Programme)