

The 8th Japanese Film Festival and Japan Mini Fest in Bhutan



The 8th Japanese Film Festival was held by JICA Bhutan Office in collaboration with Embassy of Japan from 3rd to 7th Nov, 2007.

Mr. Hajime Matsumura (First Secretary) accompanied by two members, from the Embassy of Japan, presented the Japanese Film Festival from 3rd Nov till 7th Nov at Chhukha Higher Secondary School, Chhukha Hydro Power Corporation Limited, Motithang Higher Secondary School, Ugyen Dorji Higher Secondary School, and at Paro College of Education (NIE). The three films shown were

very educative in terms of understanding Japanese culture and traditions. Japanese film Festival is an annual event conducted by Embassy of Japan in India, aimed at furthering friendship between the peoples of Bhutan and Japan.

Simultaneously with Japanese Film Festival, Japan Mini Fest was also organized by a group of volunteers who are working in different parts of Bhutan. Japan Fest was held at Tsimalakha Lower Secondary School and Chhukha Higher Secondary School. The opening of the show was done by performing the tea ceremony, followed by different games of Japan and Japanese food preparation. There were many interesting games organized, such as Sumo wrestling, which was totally new to Bhutanese, water balloon, Yo Yo fishing that kept the crowd entertained. Toy fish dipped in water buckets provided imaginary fishing grounds for children. Some of the volunteers prepared rice cake, which was watched curiously by the spectators. Later in the evening the volunteers staged a music show and introduced Japanese culture at the school auditorium.

Japanese traditional and modern songs and dances echoed the valley, providing a new experience to the people of Chhukha.

On 4th november the volunteers presented sports festival at Wangchu Middle Secondary School.

The participants did a warm-up session, after which followed the sports events like physical education, high jump, races and many others. The children cheered and participated enormously along with the staff members.

Like in the past the Japanese Film Festival and the Japan Fest this year, achieved its intended goal of promoting Japanese culture and friendship amongst the Bhutanese. - *Karma Yuden*



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 June

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16
(7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 8
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 22
- ◆ JOCVs: 30
(Short-term 3)

Participants of “Training Programme for Young Leaders” leave for Japan

The “Training Programme for Young Leaders” 2007 is conducted by the Government of Japan under a technical cooperation scheme with a view to promoting human resource development for Bhutan.

The programme aims to provide young leaders who will become the nation-building leaders in the future with opportunities to develop their specialized knowledge and skills in Japan, and to contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship.

A total of 12 school principals from Community Primary Schools and Lower Secondary School in Bhutan are nominated to participate in the programme from 16 November to 3 December 2007- *Kinley Dorji*



JICA Support for Vocational Education Sector

Mr. Atsunori Kume, a Vocational Education Advisor is in Bhutana as a JICA short term expert to study the requests that JICA has received from Ministry of Labour and Human Resources for a Technical Cooperation in Vocational Education Sector. He will study the current situation of VTIs and recommend what interventions are required to strengthen the existing VTIs in the country. Mr. Kume arrived On 5th November and will stay till 27th December 2007. By mid December 2007 more mission members from JICA Head Quarter, accompanied by consultants will join Mr. Kume to carry out a detailed study of the request from RGoB in Vocational Education. JICA Bhutan has received two requests for assistance in 2007: a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) and General Grant Aid.

The Grant Aid Project titled Expansion of Access to Vocational Training Institutes is aimed at institutional strengthening of the vocational training institutes through vocational education and training. The MoLHR has requested for civil construction including classroom/workshops, principal's quarters, students' jostel, multi-purpose halls, furniture, training tools and equipment form classrooms and workshops, instructional materials and teaching aid for effective and quality training. The project request is aimed at benefitting a large number of Middle and Higher Secondary school graduates, unemployed youth, rural people through Village Skills Training Programmes and finally private sector which is in urgent need of skilled workers.



Choosing the blue collar job

Request for Technical Cooperation Project, titled Strengthening of Quality of Vocational Education Training Delivery is aimed at imparting Technical Skills and Knowledge of Vocational Training Instructors, enhancing the capacity of institutes to develop learning materials, pedagogy skills and knowledge and initiate training cum production activities at selected VTIs. JICA is now fielding missions to study the validity and feasibility of these requests.

Mr. Kume had, earlier in January 2007 come to Bhutan for 45 days. Then, he had visited all the VTIs including two National Institutes of Zorig Chusum in the country and gathered information on the current situation of VTIs.

JICA Bhutan also earlier funded a local study on "Preliminary Study Survey of Vocational Education and Labour Market in Bhutan", which recommends immediate policy interventions to strengthen the current VTIs to enable them to offer quality trainings. If the request for JICA support is considered, a Technical Cooperation Project might probably kick-start by mid 2008. A model VTI might be created which can then be replicated to other VTIs in the country - **B. B. Mishra**

JICA News in Brief

- Mr. Tetsuo Shioguchi, Senior Executive Director of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) accompanied by Mr. Keiji Katai, Representative JBIC New Delhi Office visited Bhutan from 15 to 17 November for discussions with officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan on the progress of the JBIC loan projects.
- Ms. Miki Asatani joined JICA Office on the 15 November as the new Health Administrator. She is replacing Ms. Sadako Meguro who completes her assignment at the end of November.
- New members of JOCV Mr. Kenichiro Komatsu, IT Lecturer at Royal Institute of Management and Mr. Masayuki Kajiwara, System Engineer, Chukha Hydropower Power Corporation are completing their assignment on 26 Nov.
- Mr. Hiroji Ono, Senior Volunteer on Farm Mechanization completes his term on 20 Nov 2007. This was his second assignment in Bhutan under the same organization.
- Ms. Noriko Endo, Volunteer Coordinator attended Regional Meeting on Gender issues at Bangkok from 14 to 16 Nov 2007.
- Mr. Youichi Wada, Volunteer Coordinator attended the Accounting Mangement Meeting at Bangkok from 20 to 22 Nov 2007.
- The JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) organized a Cultural excursion to Gasa from 10 to 12 November. A total of 17 Japanese and 8 members of JAAB visited Gasa on the occasion of the celebration of the Fourth King's birthday anniversary. They members also carried out social activities and enjoyed dipping in the famous hot spring during their visit. - **Kinley Dorji**

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

Mayumi Miyata, Project Formulation Advisor

Kinley Dorji, Senior Programme Officer

BB Mishra, Technical Officer (General Affairs)