

Monthly topic : Forest Resources



The First Bhutan-Japan Symposium on Conservation and Utilization of Himalayan Medicinal Resources was held at Thimphu from 29-31 August 2006 jointly organized by Institute of Traditional Medicine Services, Ministry of Health and Society for Conservation and Development of Himalayan Medicinal Research.

Mr. Jiyu Tsuchiya, JICA Senior Volunteer at ITMS, had contributed greatly in bringing the resources together. In addition to Thai and Nepalese experts, many participants came from Japan, those in pharmaceutical industry, research institute and universities to learn about traditional medicines in Bhutan.

Mr. Kiyoshi Nakano, the Senior Vice Minister of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

HE Mr. Kiyoshi Nakano the Japanese Sr. Vice Minister for Health Labour and Welfare made a 3 day official visit to Bhutan from 27 to 29 August 2006. During his visit he received an audience with His Majesty the King and also called on the Honourable Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Health Minister. Mr. Nakano expressed happiness over the excellent relationships that existed between Bhutan and Japan ever since the dispatch of the first Japanese expert to Bhutan in 1964. Mr. Nakano was pleased to meet some of the Senior Volunteers whom he found working and living very happily in Bhutan.

The government of Bhutan expressed its full appreciation for the technical assistance received from the Government of Japan for the socio-economic development. Many young volunteers assigned to Bhutan return home as “ambassadors” of Bhutan to spread the good will and friendship. Japan’s commitment to continue its support to Bhutan after 2008 is seen as proof of trust and faith the Japanese government has in the new system of government that Bhutan will have after 2008.

Mr. Nakano expressed that many visitors to Bhutan have become immediate fans of Bhutan and he too would like to join the already growing fan club in the Japanese parliament.

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 September 2006

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16
(7 internationals; 9 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 23
- ◆ JOCVs: 25
(Short-term 4, Senior JOCVs 1)



August means Matsutake season

Japanese enjoy the strong aroma and flavour of Matsutake mushroom (*Tricholoma Matsutake*). There has been a long tradition of eating as a great delicacy on special occasions and many cooking habits have developed along with many myths over its eating value.

On 26th of August, the members of JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) organized an informal get-together at the RIHS ground to try their culinary skills at grilling matsutake. About 40 Japanese members from JICA and other international organizations in Bhutan joined for an evening of Matsutake Barbeque, fresh roasted *yak-sha* and generous flow of *Ara*.



JICA News in Brief

Mr. Eijiro Morii, a photo journalist from Asahi Newspaper in Japan was in Bhutan from 21 to 31 August to cover the life and activities of Mr. Katsuhiko Nishikawa, Senior Volunteer at Druk Seed Corporation. There is growing interest amongst Japanese public, on how the retired people could use their knowledge and skills for benefit of society and people round the globe.

Ms. Mayumi Miyata (Project Formulation Advisor), Mr. Bishu Bhakta Mishra and Mr. Tshewang Rinchen (National Officers) attended the JICA Procurement Workshop held at Bangkok from 6 to 7 September 2006.

Mr. Hisashi Sakata, First Secretary from Embassy of Japan in New Delhi, and Mr. Takahiro Tanaka from JICS arrived on 12 September for discussions with the Government about the project for "Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers 2006".

Mr. Teruhito Sakuma JOCV System Analyst and Ms. Yayoi Takada, Short term JOCV Architect completed their terms and left on 24 September and 26 September respectively.

Welcome to Japan Fest 2006

JICA and JAAB (JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan) are organising a one day event on 15 October 2006 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Bhutan and Japan.

Time	Swimming Pool Hall	Swimming Pool Ground
10:30	Quiz	Games, Food Stall, Tea Ceremony (10:30-15:30)
13:00	◆ Bhutan Dance ◆ Recorder (Flute) ◆ Japanese Song	
14:30	◆ Japanese Dance ◆ Yosakoi Dance	
16:00	◆ Band ◆ Chorus ◆ Group Japanese Song ◆ Group Bhutanese Song	

Official celebration for the 20th Anniversary of establishment of Japan-Bhutan diplomatic relations will be held from 20 to 30 October 2006.

For more information

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