

## Workshop on Townscape Conservation and Management

"It is timely to have this workshop on Townscape Conservation..." Dasho Penden Wangchuk, Honorable Secretary of Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs emphasized on the importance of conservation of cultural and architectural heritage in Bhutan, addressing the opening ceremony of Workshop on Townscape Conservation and Management organized by JICA Osaka. Two professors, Dr. Masafumi Yamasaki and Dr. Kanefusa Masuda from Ritsumeikan University, have given lectures on experiences of historic townscape conservation mainly in Japan to 20 participants from 8 Dzongkhags, Ministry of Works and Human Settlements, Thimphu City Corporation, and Division for Conservation of Architectural Heritage, Department of Culture. The workshop also included disaster mitigation and fire protection in the context of preservation of historical sites. The second day of the workshop was the field trip around Thimphu where they exchanged views and ideas on the townscape of Thimphu City as well as restoration works of Dechenphu and Semtokha Dzong (see photo).



### 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)

## Grassroots Projects Handed over to the Government of Bhutan



Mr. Hisashi Sakata, First Secretary from the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi represented the Embassy of Japan at the hand over of two Grassroots projects to the Government of Bhutan. The Government of Japan extended a project for "Project for Strengthening of News Reporting Capacity from Every Part of the Country to Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation". The grant included equipment for Broadband Global Area Network System (BGAN) which will enable

telecast of news reports from other parts of the country on the same day (see photo). The other project was donation of a used bus for Samthang Vocational Training Institute for the transport of students to school and for industrial tours of trainees to various industries in the country.

### JICA members in Bhutan as of Oct. 2007

- ◆ JICA office staff: 17  
(7 internationals; 10 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 23 (Short term 1)
- ◆ JOCVs: 32 (Short-term 3)

## Alumni Association organizes Cleaning Campaign

JICA Alumni Association of Bhutan (JAAB) organized a Cleaning Campaign of Thimphu town on 29 September 2007 in collaboration with JICA Office, Royal Institute of Health Science and Thimphu City Corporation. More than 150 participants comprising of JICA volunteers, JAAB members and students from the RIHS took to the streets of Thimphu town in an effort to give our town a new look. This was the first clean-up campaign and inspired by such success, JAAB plans to organize more similar activities in the future. Other activities that JAAB holds are Spring Flower Festival, Tree Planting on Social Forestry Day, Blood donation campaign, cultural visits to historical places, Matsutake mushroom festival and other social functions for Japanese community and JAAB members.



## JOCV Activity: Group Teaching at Trashiyangtse



The JOCV Physical Education (PE) Teacher have made Group Teaching as part of their annual activity. This year it was organized at Trashiyangtse Lower Secondary School (TYLSS) on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2007. Three JOCVs, Ms. Kaori Hayashi of Khaling Lower Secondary School, Mr. Noriyuki Nakatani of National Institute for Disabled (NID) Khaling and Ms. Miwako Higaki of Kanglung Primary School gathered at TYLSS to join Mr. Kensaku Seki, JOCV and Tshewang Namgay (Bhutanese PE teacher) of the same school for the group teaching. The group teaching was aimed at:

- Observation and exchange of ideas among the instructors.
- Sharing the experiences and teaching methodology amongst PE teachers.
- Highlighting the importance of PE to others teachers of TYLSS
- To develop the appreciation for PE as a whole.

One of the instructors focused on health as an integral part of PE and taught how to wash hands for PP students. They introduced many new exercises and stressed on the importance of cooperation among friends in skipping rope exercises. Mr. Tshewang carried out his lesson in different style as compared to the JOCVs. He explained sports, detail of rules and difficult techniques in a simple way. The presentation through team efforts were mostly practical lessons, and enabled learning in a fun-filled manner.

The staff of TYLSS and the DEO, who was the chief guest, too attended a mini PE exhibition cum presentation. There were many improvised PE equipment displayed in the hall like, garbage rings, garbage hurdles, bamboo ladder, bamboo sticks, bamboo batons, etc. which were made by the PE teachers and their students. PE teachers introduced every equipment with demonstrations to the teachers and guests but also clarified many doubts through questions and answers. It was possible to use local resources to produce effective teaching-learning material to teach Health and Physical Education. At the end of the two days program, the instructors came up with many good ideas and suggestions for teaching PE in lower and primary level.

The group teaching coordinator Mr. Seki said, "I learned so many new things from the group teaching". The coordinator Mr. Tshewang said..."unexpected things happened and the program was knowledgeable".

Trashiyangtse LSS has a JOCV PE teacher who works closely with his Bhutanese counterpart. With Health and Physical Education being taught formally in primary and secondary curriculum, the duo is determined to spread the importance of PE to a wider community in Trashiyangtse.

The dispatch of JOCV PE teachers to Bhutan started back in 1990s. Currently there are six JOCVs teaching Physical Education to Bhutanese children.

## JICA News in brief

- At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Hideyuki Kanamori, Regional Project Formulation Advisor, conducted a Training of Trainers by Process Description (PD) Method for the Extension Officers in the Ministry of Agriculture from 10 Sep 2007 to 17 Sept 2007 at Thimphu. This method can be applied to make manuals and photo slides to disseminate a method by which we can train trainers for extension officers thorough teaching a way of making a poster. A total of 12 participants took part in the training.
- Mr. Keiji Katai, Representative, from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, New Delhi visited Bhutan from 15 October to 24 October for discussion with Bhutan Power Corporation on the progress and schedule of activities for the JBIC loan project.
- Mr. Koji Yamada, Deputy Resident Representative, JICA India Office visited Bhutan from 15 October to 24 October for situation observation of the current projects and also survey of new projects submitted by the Royal Government.
- Mr. Ken Noguchi, Committee Member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit arrived in Bhutan on 19 October 2007 to call on officials of the Royal Government to discuss issues of protecting the natural environment especially global warming.
- Six members of Senior Volunteer and one JOCV member completed their term of assignment successfully and left Bhutan on 16 October and 25 October respectively.

### For more information

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