

**Monthly topic : Agriculture**

**Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan visits Bhutan**

Agriculture sector in Bhutan has the longest history of Japanese government collaboration starting with late Dasho Keiji Nishioka. Dasho Nishioka who started his activity in Bhutan as a Colombo Plan Expert for Agriculture Development in 1964 till his untimely death in 1992.



As of today, agriculture sector has received 27 Grant Aid Projects and 10 Technical Assistance projects, 9 Experts, 2 Senior Volunteers and several JOCVs. Amongst the General Grant Aid Projects, the Project for Increased Food Production (known as KR2) is the most popular and demanding project which has recently completed the 19 projects since the first of its kind in 1984.

The Japanese Government has gradually limited this project to selected few countries and Bhutan is one of them. According to Mr. Hidenao Yanagi, Minister, Embassy of Japan who recently came to hand over the latest project said that the “in Bhutan the project was utilized very properly”. The handing over ceremony for the current project took place at AMC Paro on 15 July in the presence of officials from Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Aid and Debt Management, Dzongkhag Administration of Paro and Dzongkhag Yargye

**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**

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



Mr. Yanagi visited Central Machinery Unit at Bumthang on 17 July to hand over the equipment for the project “Improvement of Machinery and Equipment for Construction of Rural Agriculture Road”. In an elaborate ceremony under clear sunny day the officials from the Dzongkhag Administration, Dzongkhag Court, RNR-RC and members of the public attended the handing over ceremony which was received by Mr. Sherub Gyaltsen, the Director General, Department of Agriculture. It is hoped that equipments supplied under this project will greatly enhance the construction of farm roads which will further facilitate the optimum utilization of KR2 project to help realize the triple gem policy of Agriculture Ministry.

## Paro Airport receives Fire Fighting and Rescue Equipment



The Department of Civil Aviation, Fire Fighting Division at Paro Airport received its first JICA Senior Volunteer (Fire Fighter), Mr. Masaaki Momma in April 2005 for teaching fire fighting techniques to the Bhutanese staff at the Paro International Airport. Fire fighting is a very specialized skill and requires specialized equipment in case of any fire disaster at the airport. Immediately after his arrival, Mr. Momma initiated the provision of used fire fighting engines from Japan. The Japanese Embassy in New Delhi agreed to provide the shipping cost of the equipment to Bhutan under the scheme Grant Assistance for Grassroots project. Mr. Hidenao Yanagi Minister graced the handing over ceremony to Mr. Phala Dorji, Director of Civil Aviation on 18 July at Paro.

### JICA News in Brief

Ms. Nami Iihoshi from JICA Regional Office in Bangkok visited JICA Bhutan Office from 1 to 4 Aug 2006 to conduct workshop on JICA procurement system.

Ms. Kinley Wangmo, National Staff visited JICA Singapore and JICA Malaysia Offices from 4 Jul to 16 July to learn about the JICA's accounting system.

### For your Information

The year 2006 is the 20th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries of Bhutan and Japan. In order to commemorate the occasion, both countries are holding several events in each other's country to rejoice and reinforce the friendly relations. The Japanese events in Bhutan will start with a pre-event show organised by JICA and JAAB on the 15 October at Swimming Pool Complex. The official program will start on 22 October. Amongst the events are included introduction of Japanese traditional archery, musical concert, photo exhibition and Film Festival. The schedule of events are as below and all are welcome to attend:

**15 October (Sun) (Pre-event organized by JICA and JAAB)**

**Quiz, Japanese dance, Band, Bhutan Exercise dance, Food, Games, Japanese Tea Ceremony at Swimming Pool Complex, Thimphu**

**22 October (Sun)**

**Opening Ceremony, Japanese Traditional Archery demonstration at Changlimithang Archery ground, Thimphu**

**24 October (Tue)**

**Japanese Film Festival at Chumey Community Centre, Bumthang**

**26 October (Thu)**

**Photo Exhibition and Japanese Film Festival at Swimming Pool Complex, Thimphu**

**27 October (Fri)**

**Photo Exhibition and Japanese Musical Concert at Swimming Pool Complex, Thimphu**

**28 October (Sat)**

**Photo Exhibition and Japanese Film Festival at Swimming Pool Complex, Thimphu**

**30 October (Mon)**

**Japanese Film Festival at NIE, Paro**

#### For more information

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