

Third Review Meeting between Japan and Bhutan held at New Delhi



The Third Consultative Bhutan-Japan Meeting was held at the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi on 26 August, 2008. Mr. Keizo Takewaka, Minister (Economic and Development), Embassy of Japan and Leader of the Japanese delegation welcomed the Bhutanese delegation and also commended the Bhutanese government on the successful transition to democratically elected government. Mr. Lhatu Wangchuk, Director General of the Department of Bilateral Affairs Department and leader of the Bhutanese delegation thanked the Japanese government for the traditional goodwill, friendship and technical assistance extended for the achievement of Bhutan's development goals especially in the light of the newly installed democratically elected government in Bhutan.

The Meeting reviewed the progress of the on-going projects and discussed on the need survey of the new projects requested by the Bhutanese government. The Japanese delegation informed that the area of cooperation from the Japanese government shall remain same as Agriculture and Rural Development, Balanced Infrastructure Development, Improvement of Social Services and Improvement of Government Functions in line with the development themes of the draft 10th Five Year Plan.

The Consultative Meeting is held once in a year and hosted alternatively by the Bhutanese Government and Embassy of Japan. The next meeting is prosed to be held in Thimphu in the first half of 2009.

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 Aug

- ◆ JICA office staff: 16
(7 internationals; 7 nationals)
- ◆ Experts: 7
- ◆ Senior Volunteers: 22
- ◆ JOCVs: 31

Kick-off Meeting for Rural Power Supply Project

The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting for the Technical Cooperation Project "Improvement of Efficiency for Rural Power Supply System" was held at Tala Project Conference Hall in Thimphu on 10 September, 2008. JCC members include Director General of Department of Energy(DoE), Managing Director of Bhutan Power Corporation (BPC), other related officers from DOE and BPC, an officer from Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC), experts from the JICA Headquarters, and Representatives of the JICA Bhutan Office. This project was currently implementing in cooperation with DOE and BPC. The short term experts and JICA study team had a series of discussion with related agencies and prioritized the necessary training program for Capacity Development. The JCC members exchange ideas and share the mutual direction of the project.



A collaborative effort: a fund raising opera concert in Thimphu



No one enjoys teaching more than Masayuki Nagano, a JICA Volunteer music teacher at the Kulu Bhutan Music School, who is adored by all his students. He teaches students the language of music, listening skills, and to play the piano. He has been teaching at the school for the past one year and currently is the only teacher in the school. The school is a non-profit organization set up in 2005 with the main objective of promoting music in Bhutan.

Masayuki Nagano is from Fukuoka, Japan. He studied at the Musashino Academia Musicade, specializing in piano and music education. He also has a Masters degree in education from Jyuetu University of Education. The funds to run the school are raised through enrollment fees, donations and through fund raising activities. The most recent fund raising concert organized by the school was on 24th August 2008, a light classical opera concert performed by Mrs. Michelle Chang, a professional opera singer of international repute and currently based in Zurich- Switzerland, accompanied by Masayuki Nagano on the piano.

The fund raising concert was graced by HRH DASHO JIGME DORJI WANGCHUK, HRH ASHI DECHEN YANGZOM WANGCHUK, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Education Minister, and other distinguished guests.

News in Brief

- ◆ All 20 districts of Bhutan are provided with LANs and 37 communities have information centers (CICs) established. All the 205 gewogs will have such a centre each by the end of the 10th Five Year Plan. However, there are shortage of engineers of ICT security and ICT security guidelines. JICA founded to upgrade existing CNAAC academy to become a Cisco certified testing center and Red Hat Linux at Royal Institute of Management, and to produce a comprehensive guideline for network and information security for adoption by the whole country through DIT. The two ICT faculty of RIM were trained by Red Hat Linux 5.0 at the Linux Learning Centre, Bangalore, India from 1st – 23rd August 2008.
- ◆ On August 28, 2008, Mr. Tomoaki Tsugawa, Project Coordinator for Local Governance and Decentralization Project was awarded the JICA Presidential Award for his great contributions to JICA's activities in Bhutan. Mr. Tsugawa first came to Bhutan November 1983 as a UNV civil engineer with Department of Industries and Mines, Ministry of Trade and Industry. Later he served in varying capacities as JICA Expert, JOCV Office Coordinator before taking up the present post as Project Coordinator for the Local Governance and Decentralization Project.
- ◆ A twelve member group consisting of Planning officers from GNH Commission, Dzongkhag Administrative Officers and Gewog Administration Officers attended the 16 days training program on "Training Programme for Young Leaders" in Japan from 25 Aug to 11 September 2008. It was a part of JICA's technical cooperation program to invite young leaders to enhance their administrative skills and capacities by observing the Japanese experience.
- ◆ Four new volunteers arrived on 23rd September 2008 for two year assignments in Bhutan in various fields:
 1. Mr. Masakazu Fujimoto, JOCV IT Instructor, assigned to Department of School Education, MoE.
 2. Mr. Hitoshi Suzuki, JOCV IT Instructor, assigned to Chhukha Higher Secondary School
 3. Mr. Norio Onjo, SV Road Management Advisor, assigned to Department of Roads, MoWHS

For more information

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