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PRESS RELEASE

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**The Third Country Training Programme for Iraq
on TIG Welding Technology**

P O I N T

JICA in cooperation with NEPCO start the Third Country Training Programme for Iraq on TIG Welding Technology on 30th November.

- 1. Training Title: TIG Welding Technology**
- 2. Jordanian Counterpart: NEPCO**
- 3. Duration: 28th November 2004 to 6th March 2005**
- 4. Number of Participants: 40 from Ministry of Electricity**
- 5. Objectives: To update TIG welding technology and obtain internationally accredited certification to enable Iraqis to facilitate rehabilitation works of power plants and other relevant facilities by their own capacity.**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) carry out the training programme, under the agreement with the government of Japan and Jordan, focusing on TIG Welding Technology for 40 Iraqi Engineers from Ministry of Electricity, Iraq.



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Power facilities in Iraq have been seriously deteriorated due to conflicts, lack of investment and maintenance, and looting after the last conflict. Though installed power capacity was 9,295 MW in 1990, about 70 percent of total capacity was damaged during the 1991 Gulf war. It recovered to 4,000 MW through the Oil for Food Programme by United Nations but it dropped to 3,300 MW after the last conflict.

Although reconstruction programmes have been started last year, available generating capacity is still under the actual demand because of sluggish reconstruction works attributed to the deteriorated security situation on the ground. Eventually, people are suffered from frequent electric power cut throughout the country.

Rehabilitation of existing facilities or replacements by foreign aid might take longer time compared to rehabilitation of existing power plants, transmission lines, substations and other auxiliaries by Iraqi nationals.

Therefore, in order to meet immediate electric power demand, it is of most importance to enhance abilities of Iraqi engineers to revitalize power supply quickly and efficiently. It is also of vital issue to have them acquire internationally recognized qualifications so that they can prove that they are well qualified to join rehabilitation projects funded by international donors.

The Course has been designed with a view to provide Iraqi welding technicians with up-to-date welding technologies along with certification which is based on internationally accredited standards (i.e. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)).

After the completion of the Course, Iraqi participants with certifications are expected to disseminate their acquired knowledge and get more involvement in reconstruction and rehabilitation works with donor funded projects as well as their own.

It is the goal of our activities to develop their capacities so that they can carry out actual reconstruction works by their own initiatives, and support their sustainable development.



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JICA, as technical cooperation agency, has conducted capacity development programmes in various fields in cooperation with Jordan and other neighboring countries in line with Japanese Government's Iraq reconstruction programme.

So far, training programmes in health, electricity, statistics, for totaling 400 Iraqi participants have been successfully implemented this year. We plan to organize these training programmes in many other sectors as such as IT, cultural heritage, water supply and sewage in order to support reconstruction of Iraq. The total number to be trained within this Japanese fiscal year will be approximately 600.

(END)