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PRESS RELEASE

24 February, 2005

**The Third Country Training Programme for Iraq
on Cable Jointing and Optical Fiber Splicing**

P O I N T

JICA signed an agreement with NEPCO on the Third Country Training Programme for Iraq on Cable jointing and Optical Fiber Splicing.

- 1. Training Title: Cable Jointing and Optical Fiber Splicing**
- 2. Jordanian Counterpart: NEPCO**
- 3. Duration: March 2005 to May 2005**
- 4. Number of Participants: 30 from Ministry of Electricity**
- 5. Objectives: To let participants understand the basic theories, practical skills and safety rules on cable jointing and optical fiber splicing works, so that they can carry out rehabilitation and reconstruction works smoothly and safely especially in expanding, rehabilitating and replacing the power lines and sub-stations.**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) signed an agreement, Record of Discussion (R/D) to carry out the joint training programme, under the agreement with the government of Japan and Jordan, focusing on Cable Jointing and Optical Fiber Splicing for 30 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 lower than pre-war level because of sluggish reconstruction works and repeated destruction due to serious 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 importance to enhance abilities of Iraqi engineers to rehabilitate facilities in order to revitalize power supply quickly and efficiently.

The Course has been designed with a view to provide Iraqi participants to acquire latest skills in cable jointing and optical fiber splicing. They will learn how to use the equipment and how to maintain safety during the works.

To update skills of Iraqi participants in cable jointing and terminating is very much of importance for extension and rehabilitation of power lines and substations.

To learn about optical fiber splicing is also no less significant. MOE is installing optical fiber cables along transmission lines to secure much reliable high-speed and big volume communication. This enables them to communicate and control main substation and to transmit and receive necessary electrical and electronic data which is necessary to control SCADA system they are introducing.

Japanese government is strongly committed reconstruction of Iraq since the end of the war. Electricity sector accounts for the biggest share of its reconstruction effort. So



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far it has decided to supply mobile sub stations and small generators (Samawa), to rehabilitate Taj Gas Turbine Power Station and Mosul Gas and Hydro Power Stations through direct assistance, and to rehabilitate Hartha Power Station and National Dispatch Center through UNDP, and to fund 121.8 MUSD for International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) for rehabilitation of power plants and other facilities.

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, ICT education, cultural heritage, water resources management and water supply & sewage have been successfully implemented and 325 Iraqi participants have been trained this year. For electricity sector, 45 engineers received training in Power Network System and 16 welders are receiving TIG Welding training in cooperation with NEPCO.

JICA is planning to organize those training programmes not only in these sectors but also in other sectors in order to support socio-economic development in Iraq.

The total number to be trained within this Japanese fiscal year will be approximately 600.

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