



JICA JORDAN OFFICE

P.O.Box 926355
Amman , 11190, Jordan

Tel : 06-5858921/3 Fax : 06-5858924
E-mail : jicajd@jica.go.jp

PRESS RELEASE

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**The Third Country Training Programme for Iraq
on Effective Operation & Maintenance
of Water Supply System using GIS**

P O I N T

JICA will start the Third Country Training Program for Iraq on Water Supply.

Training Contents:

- 1. Jordanian Counterpart: Water Authority Jordan (WAJ)**
- 2. Duration: 18 Sep 2005 to March 2007 (in six stages)**
- 3. Number of Participants: 15 participants from Baghdad Mayoralty.**
- 4. Objectives: The purpose of this course is to introduce effective O&M system of water supply using GIS to a priority area in Baghdad Mayoralty. The course consists from six stages, and GIS database will be constructed at the end of the course.**

Participants will learn following issues through the course:

- (1) how to design a GIS for effective O&M for water supply**
- (2) how to establish and update GIS database.**
- (3) how to reduce non-revenue-water (NRW) and to utilize GIS for effective O&M system.**

Participants, with support from Japanese expert, will draft a manual for effective water supply O&M system using GIS and an action plan for reducing NRW. They will carry out pilot projects in Baghdad according to an action plan formulated thorough the course.



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Water sector in Iraq needs an urgent and intensive assistance in terms of facilities and human resources.

Long lasting conflicts and successive economic sanctions caused water supply and sewage systems in Iraq obsolete and dysfunctional.

Compared to the situation before the Gulf War, unit water supply amount was declined by 30% in the urban area and half in the rural area. About 500,000 cubic meter of waste water per day is discharged directly to the river without due treatment. This is affecting a lot to the health of people around the region, causing dramatic increment of the mortality rate of diarrhea by 20% for the children under five years old.

The major problems this sector is facing are reported as follows:

- Lack of proper institutional system including policies, development plans, regulations, tariff system and etc.
- Dysfunction of management and technical abilities
- Deficit in water quantity and quality
- Ineffective operation and maintenance system
- Lack of skilled human resources and etc....

The Government of Japan has supported Iraq reconstruction in this field, i.e. provision of compact water treatment units, water tankers, special vehicles of garbage disposal and sewage cleaning and so forth.

JICA, in cooperation with WAJ, has been extending wide range of technical assistance to BM. “Operation and maintenance for water supply”, “Policy and development planning for water and sewage” and “Solid waste management” training courses have been implemented from last November to May.

Several urgent issues were raised and discussed throughout those previous training occasions. The topics mutually recognized as highest priority issues are, effective operation and maintenance system in water supply, un-accounted-for water, institutional issues including policy, regulation, tariff system and water quality management.

The purpose of this course is to introduce GIS to a priority area in Baghdad Mayoralty. Participants will learn how to develop effective Operation and Maintenance (O&M) system using GIS. Japanese experts will facilitate the process of developing GIS,



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effective O&M system and action plan. Participants are expected to collect GIS data and exercise system modification and data updating in practice stages in Baghdad (between training programmes in Amman).

Also, participants will practice an action plan on effective O&M system in Baghdad which is to be developed through stage-1 to stage-6, and feedback lessons from the practice results for further improvement.

- Participants are expected to:

- (1) Understand and get familiarized with GIS for effective O&M for water supply
- (2) Understand how to establish and update GIS database.
- (3) Understand how to reduce non-revenue-water (NRW) and to utilize GIS for effective O&M system.
- (4) Set up a manual for effective water supply O&M system using GIS and an action plan for reducing NRW.
- (5) Practice an action plan formulated thorough the course.

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 solid waste management and cultural heritage have been successfully implemented this year. We plan to organize these training programmes in many other sectors as such as water supply, water resources, health, education and so forth.

(END)