



JICA's Activities in Bhutan



Photo by Takanobu Asano

Fifty years ago in May 1964, Japan started extending its support to Bhutan by dispatching the first Japanese expert, late Dasho Keiji Nishioka as an Agriculture Development Expert. After 50 years JICA is pleased to continue to support the Royal Government of Bhutan in the following sectors.

Development in Agriculture Sector

■Agriculture Mechanization

Farm mechanization in Bhutan is aimed at ending drudgery, saving costs, improving yield and enhancing productivity through the use of suitable farm machinery, tools and equipment.

●Current projects:

Grant Assistance 「Food Security Project for Underprivileged Farmers (Former Project for Increased Food Production)」

Technical Cooperation 「Strengthening of Farm Mechanization」

■Cash Crop Development and Extension

Horticulture development can play a crucial role in poverty alleviation, improving food security and income generation of the farming community. In addition, since horticulture crops are rich source of minerals and vitamins it has also potential to improve the nutritional status of the populace.

●Current project :

Technical cooperation 「Horticulture Research and Development Project」

■Agriculture Infrastructure Development

The development of agriculture as a national goal of reducing poverty has been very high priority, thus given the fragile mountainous environment under which farming is practiced, agriculture infrastructure development is seen as a critical input.

●Current Project:

Grant Aid 「Rehabilitation of Taklai Irrigation System in Sarpang District」



Improvement of Infrastructure

■Road Connectivity

In the vision for "Peace, Prosperity and Happiness", rural electrification and road construction are important policy agenda in order to fill the gap between rural and urban and to achieve poverty reduction.

●Current project:

Grant Aid 「Reconstruction of Bridges」 (Phase I – Phase III)

Technical Cooperation 「Master Plan Study on Road Slope Management in Bhutan」

■Rural Electrification

Access to electricity for un-electrified households and other institutions by constructing distribution lines and related facilities in the rural areas of Bhutan hopes to improve the living standards of the local residents and promote economic and social development.

●Current project:

ODA Loan 「Rural Electrification」

Technical Cooperation 「Improvement of Efficiency for Rural Power Supply in Bhutan」



Support for Democratization

■Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation

Bhutan has low literacy rate of 60% and wide disparities between urban and rural districts.

Broadcasting services has a vital role in tackling this issue by being able to transmit nationwide objective, real-time information on the status and progress of Bhutan's democratization process based on news gathered independently by BBSC.

●Project Implemented :

Grant Aid 「Project for Improvement of Equipment of Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation」

Technical Cooperation 「Capacity Development of Bhutan Broadcasting Service」



■Local Government and Decentralization

Local Governments are encouraged to involve communities and Community Groups in matters of local governance and develop community ownerships of various public infrastructures and installations.

JICA through its three phases of LGDP projects has been instrumental in not only building the capacity of our local government officials but also in identifying and designing various training curriculums through its ICBP initiative.



●Current project: Technical cooperation 「Local Governance and Decentralization」(Phase I – Phase III)

Cooperation for Climate Change

■Policy Based Assistance for Climate Change Policy

Bhutan is experiencing an increase in the number of disasters related to hydro-meteorological hazards, such as flash floods and rainstorms including cyclones that were brought about by global warming and climate change phenomenon, making it an urgent environmental and economic issue.

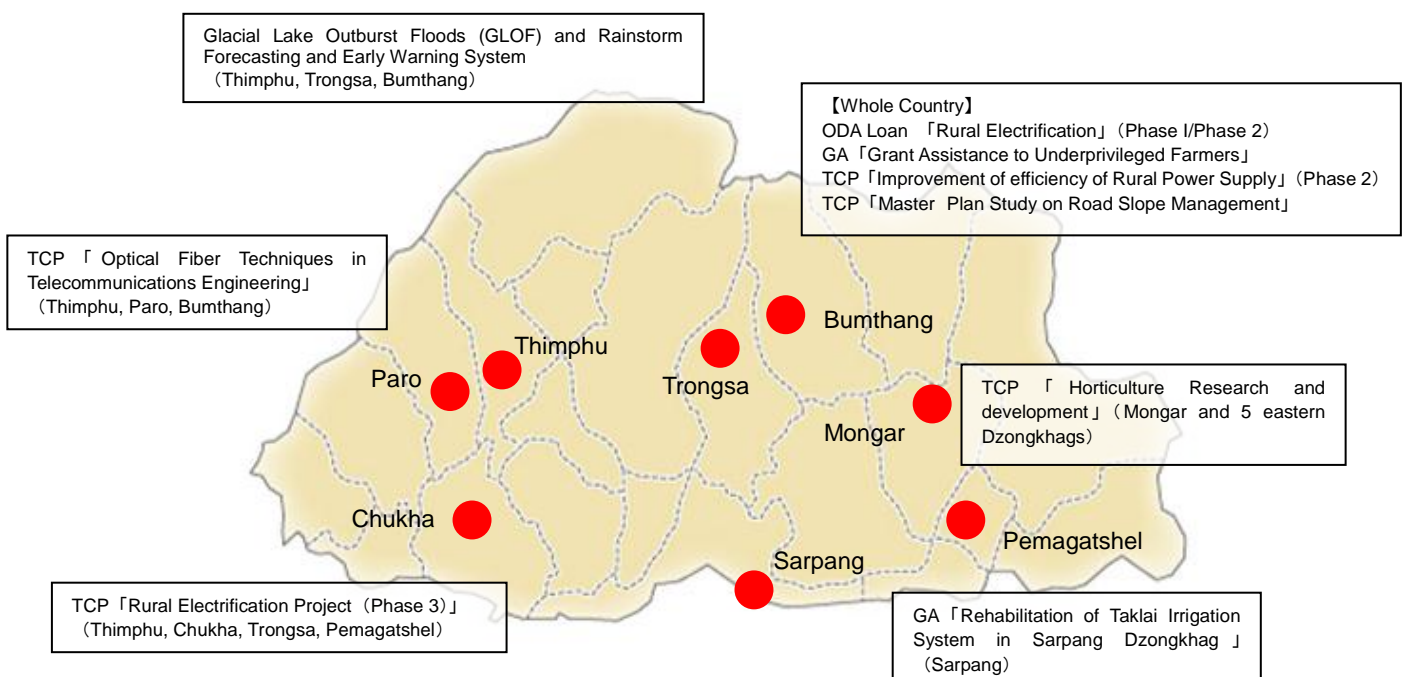


●Current project:

SATREPS 「Study of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in Bhutan Himalayas」

TCP 「Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF)and Rainstorm Forecasting and Early Warning System」

On-Going Projects' Sites (As of July, 2014)



JICA Volunteers

In July 1988, the first volunteer, a farm machinery engineer was dispatched to Bhutan based on the notes exchanged between the Royal Government of Bhutan and Government of Japan in April of 1987. Today 26 years later, a total of 503 volunteers (Senior Volunteers and JOCVs) have been dispatched to contribute to the development of the kingdom and exchange of friendship.

During the initial stages of the JOCV program in Bhutan, agriculture and infrastructure mainly in civil engineering were the main fields of assignments. From 1992 onwards, request expanded in other several technical fields like telecommunication, system engineering, commerce and finance. Even the places of assignments began to spread to all over the country. The trend suddenly moved on towards the Health and Education where JOCV's were requested as Laboratory Technologists and Physical Education Instructor.

At present, there are 24 JOCVs (total 354) and 21 Senior Volunteers (total 118) serving in the kingdom. Bhutan has requested JV's and SVs in several technical and other fields. These include Environmentalist, Agriculture Machinery Advisor, Architects, Handicrafts Advisor, HVAC Engineer, Telecommunication, Automobile Engineer, Waste Management Advisor, Bridge Design & Implementation Advisors, Disaster Management, National Accounts, water resource engineer, Physical Education Instructor, Primary School Education (Math's Teacher) etc.



JICA Partnership Program(JPP)

The JICA Partnership Program is the program supported by JICA which aims to implement development projects in developing countries planned by Japanese development partners, mainly NGOs local governments and universities, based on their accumulated experience and technologies in development at grassroots level.


JPP project aims to be directly benefiting the lives of the people in developing countries.

- Current Projects (as of 2014 July)
 - The Social Inclusion Project for Differently-abled Citizens
 - Industrial Promotion of Handmade Paper in the Kingdom of Bhutan
 - Technology Transfer Operations Regarding the Environmental Pollution Control Measure resulting from the Wastes in Thimphu City,
 - Community-Based Sustainable Tourism Development Project in Phobjikha



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