

# BALKAN NEWS

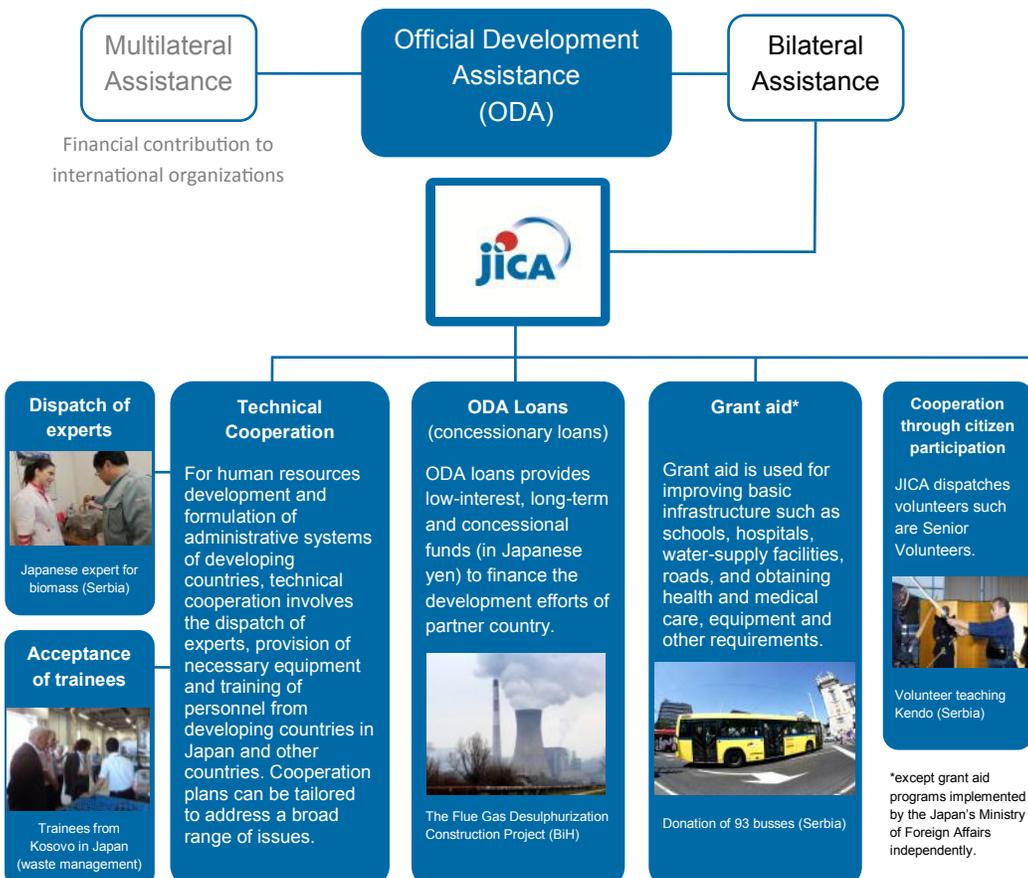
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## INTRODUCTION

- What is JICA?

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assists and supports developing countries and countries in transition as the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). In accordance with its vision of “Inclusive and Dynamic Development”, JICA supports the resolution of issues of developing countries by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional-, country-, and issue-oriented approach. JICA is in charge of administering ODA such as technical cooperation, ODA loans and grant aid in integrated manner, except contributions to international organization. JICA, the world’s largest bilateral aid agency, works in over 150 countries and regions and has some 100 overseas offices.

Formally established in 2006 in Belgrade, JICA Balkan Office now covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. JICA aims to provide assistance for growth and stability in countries of this region, working mainly in the areas of environmental conservation, private sector development and the consolidation of peace.



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\*except grant aid programs implemented by the Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs independently.



## SERBIA

### • Institutionalization and Promotion of Mentoring in SME (SRB, BiH, MNE)

In May 2013, with the plan to last for 3 years, the regional project started in Western Balkan region, with goal to educate “Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) management instructors”, known as Mentors, in order to strengthen the capacities of SME. Mentoring of SME is a system, developed out of “Management instructor system” in Japan, with aim to establish the SME diagnostics and advisor activities. JICA has implemented the project of establishing of this system in Serbia from 2008 to 2011. This time, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro has been included, besides Serbia, and the goal is the further promotion of Mentoring system in region.

Mentors from Serbia, who has gone through the education during the previous project, will be dispatched to other two countries as instructors. They will extend the advisor services to management of SME aiming at reinvigoration of the

West Balkan’s economy as a whole, and it is expected that this project will contribute to better mutual understanding among the participant countries. At the workshop in July, partners from all three countries gathered and Serbian experience was presented to all the staff responsible for project implementation.



Gathering of representatives of all three countries at workshop



## BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA

### • Herzegovina International Tourism Corridor Development and Environmental Conservation

Besides the old town of Mostar inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List, in Herzegovina, there are many others internationally known destinations. Along with cultural heritage, being rich with nature, this region has huge potential for many types of tourism, such are adventure or agricultural tourism.

The most popular destinations in Balkans are Dubrovnik or Split on Adriatic coast, but with this project JICA aims to increase the appeal of Herzegovina region, and to attract the tourist from Adriatic coast. It is not well known that before and after the heat wave in July and August, are the most attractive periods in Herzegovina: “spring season of fresh green” from April to May and “autumn, the crown of the year” from September to October. JICA is working on this project to open up the new tourism market.



Stari Most in Mostar, the landmark of tourism in Herzegovina

### • Presentation Ceremony of Instruments to Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra



Playing Japanese athen on donated instruments

On May 28, a presentation ceremony of musical instruments to Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra was held in the Sarajevo National Theatre. Seriously affected by the hard times during 90’s, the orchestra’s budget shrank and it became largely inactive as many members left the country. Nearly two decades have passed, but the environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina does not yet enable orchestra members to purchase professional instruments. Having problems with funding, orchestra members have had to rely on borrowing instruments from other organizations or play old instruments. Orchestra is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

Objectives of this cooperation project include providing musical instruments to the orchestra to enhance the quality of their performances, boost their musical work and contribute to peace through music in this country.

The concert with Japanese conductor is planned for February 2014.

<http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/topics/topics130528.html>



# ALBANIA

## • Project for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Divjake-Karavasta National Park

Divjake-Karavasta is a national park, spreading on 222 km<sup>2</sup> on Adriatic coast. JICA is implementing technical cooperation project in this park since April 2012. Having the diverse landscape, this park is a habitat for variety of species, including the rare ones, such are Mediterranean Pine and Dalmatian Pelican. The goals of the project are sustainable use of natural resources and development of ecotourism, through the capacity building of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, and elaboration and implementation of national park management plan. The project have established the website this May to provide the details on JICA's activities in Divjake-Karavasta. <http://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/albania/001/index.html>



Mediterranean Pine and Dalmatian Pelican



# MACEDONIA

## • Development of Integrated System for Prevention and Early Warning of Forest Fires



The atmosphere on seminar

Forest fires are frequent in Balkan region and the damage caused by it presents serious issue. In Macedonia, 38% of the total land area is woodland and in past 10 years around 2,400 forest fires occurred, leaving 96,000ha of damaged area. The total financial damage was about 46.7 million euro.

JICA has been supporting the Crisis Management Center (CMC, established in 2005) and the development of GIS system for prevention and early warning of forest fire has been completed. On July 5th, a seminar was held to announce the start of the test operation of the system. This system integrates the map of temperature of land surface and vegetation dryness, based on the data collected by satellite with infrared; the map which shows temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction, based on information of the Meteorological Observation Authority; forest vegetation map, as well as fire history and suppression resource map.



Forest fire in Macedonia (Photo www.inpress.com.mk)

The improvement of the system is planned in this year. It is expected that the system will be efficiently used for prevention and early warning of forest fire, which is the most serious issue among disaster in Macedonia, and that the number of forest fires will decrease in the future. <http://www.jica.go.jp/macedonia/english/index.html>

## • Improving the Lake Ohrid Environment and on Sewer System Rehabilitation Technology

Regardless of being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, lake Ohrid is facing the problem of deterioration of water quality caused by inflow of rainwater and domestic wastewater from surrounding areas. In 2012, JICA has implemented the information gathering and identification survey. On July 2nd, the summary of results of this survey and new technologies for solving the problem of influx of the water of unknown origin to sewage were presented at the seminar in city of Ohrid.

Rehabilitation of the sewer pipes would involve many areas where excavation is difficult such as under roads and in historical protected districts, so a lecturer invited from a Japanese company (Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd.) introduced methods on rehabilitating pipes that do not require digging. It is expected that this seminar will serve as the beginning of Japanese technology being adopted to in Balkan region.

<http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/topics/topics130719.html>



non-excavation repair technology



# KOSOVO

## Capacity building for Solid Waste Management in Municipality of Prizren

The waste management in Kosovo is a serious environmental issue. Above all, waste collection is not catching up with the rapid urbanization and increase of population in two biggest cities of Pristina and Prizren. Since 2011, along with the grant aid of 43 waste collector trucks, JICA has been implementing technical cooperation on capacity building for waste management. The project related training program was held in Japan, from May 16 to 26. 10 people from Kosovo partner organizations participated in training program. Visits were made available in many different cities, were participants had a chance to learn the whole process of waste management, as respected bone motto: "throw waste, turn into raw materials". This project will last until August next year, and JICA will continue to support the participants of the training course so they can transfer the Japanese technology and knowledge to Kosovo.

<http://www.jica.go.jp/kosovo/english/activities/activity01.html>

### TRAINING NEWS

Jun 30–July 13

Water Supply Administration for Better Management of Water Supply Services



1 participant

Jun 19 - July 27

SME Development Policies



1



3



2

Jun 15 - Jun 26

Informatics Curricula Modernization



6 participants



## OTHER TOPICS

### The First Japanese Martial Arts Fair

On June 2, "The First Japanese Martial Arts Fair" was held, organized by the Embassy of Japan in Serbia and JICA Balkan Office, as a part of the "Japanese Culture Week" in Serbia. This event was held in Center for Sports and Culture "Sumice", Belgrade. Around 80 martial artists presented Kendo, Aikido and Karate, in front of 350 Japanese martial arts fans. Audience had a chance not only to see the demonstration but also to try out presented martial arts. In October JICA will dispatch Senior Volunteer to Kendo Federation of Serbia. This will be the 3rd time for JICA to dispatch high ranked Kendo instructor to Serbia, with goal to contribute to the enhancement of quality of training and further promotion of Kendo.



Martial artists from Serbia



Kendo presentation



Karate presentation

## HUMAN STORY



Check out the heartwarming story of Ms. Yamagishi Maki, JICA long term expert of the Project for Confidence Building in Srebrenica on Agricultural and Rural Enterprise Development, on JICA Balkan Office web site.

<http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/topics/topics130711.html>

### Announcement

Aug 1-16 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Divjake Karavasta National Park counter part training program in Japan

Sep 1-10 Institutionalization and Promotion of Mentoring in SME (SRB, BiH, MNE) counter part training program in Japan

Oct 18 JICA Balkan Office Security Seminar

Red and Green. The colors of tomatoes and cucumbers are pretty in markets of Belgrade. In hot days with temperatures above 30 degrees, I want to eat something refreshing. In this period, in countries of Balkan region most of the salads have tomatoes and cucumbers in it. I'm enjoying the freshness of the salad, thinking of articles for the next Balkan News that will be published in autumn.

### Message from the Editor