What is JICA’s Technical Cooperation?

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assists and supports developing countries and countries in transition as the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). Technical cooperation is an all-embracing term used to describe JICA’s practical assistance to developing countries and countries in transition. Depending on the specific project, technical assistance can include the dispatch of experts, the training of local officials for ‘capacity development’, the supply of equipment or financial assistance. Technical Cooperation plans can be tailored to address a broad range of issues like: Education, Health, Environmental Management, Private Sector Development, Social Security and Governance, etc.

Technical cooperation is one of JICA’s three major areas of development assistance, the others being provision of grant and concessionary loans.

http://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/index.html
**SERBIA**

- **Grass-root Cooperation Project - ACC Psycho-social Support to Children**

The time has passed since the conflict in Yugoslavia ended, but this break up has left problems of refugees. With addition of effects of recent economic crisis, this region was left difficult situation to cope with this issue. There is a large population of refugees in Serbia, and most of them are living at collective centers and social housing in suburbs of big cities. Started in 2011, the Grass-Root Cooperation project supports refugees that are isolated from society and are struggling in hard straits. Meant for the children with traumas of past and bleak hope for future, the project aims to revive the hope, creativity and sociability through psychological workshops and social events. In cooperation between Japanese NPO ACC Hope and Serbian NGO Zdravo Da Ste, the project is being realized in Ralja of Smederevo Minicipality and Kaludjerica in City of Belgrade.


- **Welcome to Serbia**

In October, 3 new Senior Overseas Volunteers (SV) arrived in Serbia. Starting with Japanese language and Kendo, people in Serbia are showing great interest in Japanese culture or Japanese style of business so the expectations of SV’s activities are high.

- Mrs. Haruko Asatsuke (Volunteering field: Japanese language teacher; Institution: Belgrade Philology Gymnasium; Dispatch period: 2 years)
- Mr. Mikio Kashiwagi (Volunteering field: Kendo Instructor; Institution: Kendo Federation of Serbia; Dispatch period: 2 years)
- Mr. Tadaaki Tanaka (Volunteering field: Food processing Engineer; Institution: Vojvodina Investment Promotion; Dispatch period: 6 months)

**BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA**

- **Environmental Remediation Support Project**

Have you ever heard of ‘legacy pollution’? Generally companies have to take responsibility to recover the environment degradation by pollutants occurred due to their activities. The pollutants on which the polluter principle cannot be applied retrospectively are called legacy pollutant. After the breakup of Yugoslavia, many companies could not respond to change of economic environment and bankrupted, leaving unattended pollutants behind. These regions or sights with unattended pollutants, called “hot spots”, are threat to the environment. Therefore urgent measures are needed to be taken. JICA is supporting the improvement of hazardous waste management system as a legacy pollution measure, through hazardous waste management plan and establishment of road map for future resolution of the problem.

- **Confidence Building in Srebrenica on Agricultural and Rural Enterprise Development**

Since 2006, JICA has been supporting development of agriculture in Srebrenica, municipality heavily affected by Bosnian conflict, by dispatching the Japanese experts. Later on, from September 2008, JICA has expanded the project as a Technical Cooperation. This project will end in November 2013. Steady activity of Japanese experts has bear fruits such are orchards, production of raspberry and blueberry, reviving pastures, small-scale irrigation constructions, contributing to economical independency and stability to people’s livelihood. Also, this project aimed to strengthen the bond between locals through group work, indispensable part of agriculture, and to support building their confidence and relation of mutual trust.
ALBANIA

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

From August 1st to 16th, Albanian counterparts engaged in the project management visited Japan to attend the training course organized by Japanese project team. 9 training participants are staff of Ministry of environment forestry and water administration Albania and related municipalities. Content of the training program included: (1) environmental education and dealing with ‘wise use’ of Lake Biwa, the wetlands are registered under the Ramsar Convention; (2) branding of environmentally friendly agricultural products as “Stork Dance” in Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture; (3) resource management and local development in Kuroyama; Park management in Shiroyama National Park; waste collection and environmental beautification in Kanazawa City, Ishikawa Prefecture. Training program delivered crucial information and approaches for management of Albanian national parks. Regardless of the humid and hot weather the training program was well-received. It is expected from participants to realize the action plan created during the training course in future. http://www.jica.go.jp/project/albania/001/index.html

The atmosphere on training course

KOSOVO

• Capacity Development in Waste Water Treatment Sector

From October 14th to November 1st, the training program was realized, in Kita-Kyushu City, for counterparts from Kosovo. 8 people from the Government of Kosovo, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Water and Waste regulatory Office and water authority (Priyren, Djackova, Skendelai Region) participated on training program. Training participants learned about sewage policies, conduct of activities, operation and maintenance, sewage pipe maintenance, sludge treatment, efficient use, through classes, inspections and practical activities. It is planned for participants to make presentations for related staff after coming back home, to discuss and to sort issues that are related to local sewage. Based on this discussion, it is planned to realize the opinion exchange in order to set the content of the next training program.

Participants from Kosovo in sight inspection

MONTENEGRO

• Project on Establishment and Promotion of Mentoring Service for SME in the Western Balkans

Training course for staff related to the “Project on Establishment and Promotion of Mentoring Service for SME in the Western Balkans” which is being realized in 3 countries, including Montenegro, took place in Japan from September 1st to 10th. This time, for the related staff of governments of 3 countries, the inspection of Japanese SME, classes in SME University, Chamber of Commerce and Industry and SME Management Consultant Association were organized. Participants could realize the current state of the mechanism of support to SME in Japan. Now, the possibilities to adapt the Japanese models in own countries should be investigated.
OTHER TOPICS

BALKAN THROUGH THE EYES OF JICA STAFF

MACEDONIA - I have visited tourism destination Ohrid, Macedonia, in mid of September. With old churches and a lake, surrounded by mountains, city of Ohrid is protected as the UNESCO World Heritage site. I stayed in an inn overlooking the lake, and enjoyed freshwater fish dishes with such a great relish. I visited house of Mihailo Pupin, famous scientist, and also tasted young wine. Later I visited capital city, Skopje. In Skopje, with population of 500 000 people, there are Orthodox churches, Mosques and Synagogues, with communities of different religions live together. The fact that Catholic nun Marija Teresa, Nobel Peace Prize winner, was born here tells that Catholics and Orthodox used to live together in Skopje. Macedonia is a small country with population just over 2 million and mix of diverse culture. But the greatest impression of my visit was warmhearted and pristine mentality of the people. (text and photos by Mr. Fujinuma)

KAIZEN THE WISDOM OF IMPROVEMENT

In business and industry world Kaizen, Japanese word for “Improvement” or “Good Change” is mostly related to Toyota’s philosophy for car factory management. Post-War Japan. The whole society was giving it’s best to rebuild the country. Devastated by effects of the WWII, with new political and economy structure, Japanese society was coping with scarce and poverty. During the time when ordinary people (and ordinary meant ‘not so poor’) started to seek for solutions to raise the quality of livelihood, by utilizing only what they had (and it was not much). Starting with rural areas, this painstaking but positive attitude towards betterment of daily life, soon became a ‘movement’ widely practiced individually and collectively. The livelihood improvement attitude of society, soon enhanced quality of nutrition, education, medical care and improved physical and mental condition of the people. Kaizen, as a wisdom of continuous improvement, soon started to be implemented into management of business and engineering and manufacturing process from small and medium enterprises to heavy industries. Once a developing country, striving to stand on its feet, 19 years after the end of the WWII, Japan became fast growing economy, with strong private sector. Symbolically Japan launched the bullet train from Tokyo to Shin Osaka, and welcomed tens of thousands of people from around the world to 1964 summer Olympics. Eliminating the overly hard work, waste of time and resources in production process, nowadays, Kaizen became known worldwide, as a mean of business development without investments of large scale. Kaizen got the status of philosophy in organizational sciences, and since it’s being introduced to many countries which are in need of strengthening of private sector.

TRAINING NEWS

- 2 Sep - 2 Nov: Promotion of Energy Conservation in Commercial and Residential Sector (1 Person)
- 8 Sep - 19 Oct: Tourism Promotion and Marketing (1 Person from each Country)
- 7 Oct - 9 Nov: Financial and Technical Support for SME (1 Person)
- 13 Oct - 26 Oct: International Terrorism Investigation (1 Person)

Announcement

- Nov. 3: Kosovo Local Election
- Nov. 9: UNIQLO&ACC Clothes for Smiles in Belgrade
- Nov. 28: Speech Contest Belgrade Philology Gymnasium
- Jan. 2014: Tourism Promotion Training Program

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