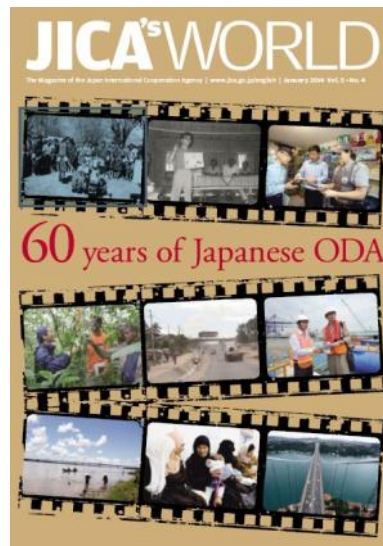


## 60 Years of Japan's ODA

In year 2014, Japanese government and JICA celebrate 60 years of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). Japan's ODA began in 1954, when Japan became a participant in the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific.



Originally positioned as part of the country's war reparations, ODA came to function as foreign policy instrument. During the first 20 years of ODA, Japan settled peace treaties with many countries and worked its way to be recognized as a responsible partner. By the mid 70's Japan had become the second largest world economy. Japan's economic boom was reflected in increase of ODA expenditure. In 1989, Japan becomes the world's top donor of ODA. Same year Japan began to provide assistance to countries of Eastern Europe. As Japan marks 25th anniversary of ODA to Eastern Europe, it has supported the transition to market oriented economies, strengthening of private sector, enhancement of education and healthcare, as well as improvement of environmental protection.

Japan has taken different forms of assistance in it's rich history of international cooperation. Through technical cooperation, grant aid and ODA (Yen) Loans, it has contributed considerably to progress in developing countries, and countries in transitions.

As the governmental agency, responsible for implementation of ODA, JICA set it's sights on ODA approaches that would revitalize and reenergize, all the partners involved - not only the recipients of ODA but also the Japanese Partners. With vision of "Inclusive and Dynamic Development" in 2014 JICA is entering the new phase of international cooperation. Invigoration for all, is the keyword.

See details on: [JICA's World - 60 Years of Japanese ODA](#) (PDF 4,16 MB)

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[www.jica.go.jp/balkan/office/](http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/office/)



[www.youtube.com/user/JICABalkan](http://www.youtube.com/user/JICABalkan)



## SERBIA

### Shopping Experience-Joint Charity Event of UNIQLO and NGO ACC Hope

“To deliver smiles to children who live in refugee collective centers”. Under this motto, Japanese clothing company UNIQLO, and Japanese NPO Action for Children and Communities Hope (ACC Hope), have realized the “Shopping Experience”, on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in Belgrade. UNIQLO, well-known as sponsor of Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic, set the clothing store for two days, in which children could choose and coordinate clothes according to their own sense, and discover experience of shopping. The store was fulfilled with cheerful spirit and smiles, but the seriousness of children while selecting the clothes, tells they don't take this experience for granted. With hope that the event was an opportunity to provide the children with dreams for the future, clothes that children chose were donated. NPO ACC Hope supports refugees in Serbia through JICA's Grass-root Cooperation project since 2011. For details on their activities visit our website: [link](#)



Performance with smile

### Grass-root Cooperation Project – Environmental Enhancement, Creating the City with Safe Future

The project environmental enhancement of the City of Pancevo started in March, in cooperation with the Hyogo Environmental Advancement Association, the Faculty for Chemistry of Belgrade University and JICA. Pancevo is a city located 15 km northwest from Belgrade. This city on Danube, used to develop as the only petrochemical industry center in former Yugoslavia. In 1999, during the NATO bombing, the city was targeted many times, causing the chemical spill to Danube. There is even a possibility that the agricultural fields which use river water are affected. The project aims to strengthen the analytical system of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and to work out measures for emission reduction.



## KOSOVO

### 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Assistance to Kosovo - ODA Seminar

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, under the organisation of JICA Balkan Office, the ODA seminar took place in Pristina. As the Government of Japan recognized the independence of Kosovo in March 2008, it started to provide the ODA in 2009. In 2014, JICA celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This seminar provided an excellent opportunity to look back on the cooperation that Japan has provided to Kosovo over the past five years, as well as to exchange opinions with key Kosovo personnel on the direction going forward. The Government of Japan and JICA will continue to realize the assistance focused on foundation of Kosovo growth, which is including development of human resources, socioeconomic stabilization and protection of environment. For the details on the seminar, visit our website: [link](#)



The atmosphere on the seminar

### Presentation Ceremony of Instruments to Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra



The atmosphere on the ceremony

The presentation ceremony to conclude the Cultural Grant Aid, “the Project for the Improvement of Musical Instruments of the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra”, was held in Pristina on March 19<sup>th</sup>. During the conflict, the orchestra stopped its activities. It started to be active from year 2000, but was dependant on support of colleagues from surrounding countries, due to the lack of instruments. It is expected for the orchestra to contribute to development of cultural life in Kosovo and to raise new generations of musicians.



# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## Confidence Building Project in Srebrenica



Strawberries made in Srebrenica

During the conflict in BiH, the Town of Srebrenica became the frontline, where Bosnian Serbs and Muslims crossed the fire. In 1995 it became the place where tragic genocide happened. Many took refuge to surrounding countries or other region. Since March 2006, JICA painstakingly continued to provide assistance, to bring the refugees and IDPs back to their homeland. The goal of the project was to support the means of livelihood through agriculture and to rebuild the local community and confidence between ethnicities. During the project 19 activities were realized some of which are herb production and processing, fruits and vegetable cultivation, bee keeping, grass production and management of kindergarten. Project ended in November 2013. However on request of the Government of BiH, "The Project for Confidence Building through Rural Development" started in January 2014. Based on our experience and knowledge gained in Srebrenica, we will implement the project to neighboring towns of Bratunac and Rogatica. Check out the documentary movie about the project: [link](#)

## Former Japanese National Football Team Player visits Mostar Gymnasium

In February the former Captain of Japanese national team, Mr. Tsuneyasu Miyamoto visited football clubs and gymnasium in Mostar. In 2013, Mr. Miyamoto graduated from FIFA Masters academy, where he was doing research on sports academy that promotes ethnic reconciliation. He visited the City of Mostar to assess the possibility to organize the academy, that will promote, fair play, tolerance, mutual understanding and other important social values to children who will play vital role in future.

JICA has been contributing to reconciliation in Mostar Gymnasium, since 2005. JICA is implementing the project which promotes mutual understanding in gymnasium, which used to be segregated, where students used to learn separately from different curriculum. Through the JICA's project, students gathered in one classroom to learn IT, regardless of their ethnicity. Mr. Miyamoto visited the IT class, and participated in presentation ceremony of 15 new computers.

Mr. Miyamoto held the football class in the gym of Mostar Gymnasium. The students, Croats and Bosniak, as well as girls and boys, played together against him and former players of BiH national team. Students along with Mr. Miyamoto, Mr. Music, Mr. Konjic, Mr. Bolic and Mr. Papac played small tournament, and the gym was fulfilled with positive energy and joy.

Check out the documentary movie about the IT project: [link](#)



Arigato (thank you) on poster of new IT classroom



Mr. Miyamoto, showing the final results of tournament

## First Concert with Instruments Donated by Japan – Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra

On February 13, in the National Theatre in Sarajevo, Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra held the concert. The conductor on concert was Mr. Hisao Yanagisawa, known in this region and Japan as conductor of the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Balkan Chamber Music Orchestra. Last year in May, the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra received the donation of 73 new instruments worth 334,214 euros, and this concert was held as sign of appreciation. Mendelssohn's "Symphony No.4 in A-minor", commonly known as Italian symphony, led to Andre Jolivet's "Concerto for flute and strings" and to Tchaikovsky's "1812 overture". New instruments performed by the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra sounded in perfect harmony at theatre in which history can be felt, evoking the admiration of audience.



Conducting the first concert Mr. Hisao Yanagisawa



# OTHER TOPICS

## Japanese Speech Contest 2013

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, "Japanese Speech Contest 2013" was held in the Belgrade Philology Gymnasium, in organization of the Embassy of Japan in Serbia. Students from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade participated. They have made their speeches on "introduction of Serbia", with help from JICA's Senior Volunteer, Ms. Asatsuke. Students spoke about various Serbian customs, National Park Tara, how to make Palacinke (Serbian crape) or famous building. They delivered speeches, reflecting their daily effort in Japanese language study. Ambassador of Japan to Serbia, Mr. Kuroki, Lector on Department for Japanese Language and Literature of Belgrade University, Ms. Miyanoya, and Resident Representative of JICA Balkan Office, Mr. Abe, judged the event. The winner of the contest was 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student, Ms. Lola Vaskovic. She delivered a nice speech about Rakija (Serbian brandy). Even though she is still 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, the content, pronunciation and expression were of appropriate for any winner of the contest. For the activities of Ms. Asatsuke check: [link](#)



Lola, the winner of 2013 contest with flawless speech about Rakija

### TRAINING NEWS

- Jan 8th ~29th  
Tourism Promotion  
AL (1person)  
MNE (1p) SRB(1p)

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- Feb 11th ~24th  
Tourism as a core of sustainable regional development (1p)

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- Jan 6th ~26th  
Environmental Managing Process in Mining sector (10p)

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- Jan 13th ~26th  
Strategic Empowerment of Organizations for E-Government Promotion (B) (3p)

## Cherry Blossom - Transient Beauty of Flower



"Courageous Warriors" by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi 1885, (photo, ja.wikipedia.org)

What drives Japanese People, to go out in spring sit beneath the cherry tree and admire the beauty of flower in full bloom? They would walk along side the trees, or they would sit, eat, drink, sing, dance under the cherry tree.

Yet Japanese know that in few days, all the pink petals will fall like a snow. *Hanami* (flower viewing), is a century old custom to enjoy transient beauty of flower.

From the last week of January in Okinawa to mid of May in Hokkaido, *sakura* (cherry tree) is blooming while *sakura zen sen* (cherry blossom front) moves from south to north. When the blossom period comes close, Japanese would keep watching TV news or read news paper as they have the blossom forecast on daily basis. The custom was originally limited to the elite of the Imperial Court, spread to samurai society and, by the Edo period (1603-1867), to the common people as well.



End of January and cherry blossom in Okinawa

Announcement

- May - Termination of Forest Fire Early Warning and Prevention Project End
- May 28th -2nd Japanese Martial Art Fair
- July - Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra Concert 100 year commemoration of WWI

As the cherry is blooming in northern Japan, Balkan region has welcomed the elusive spring. On weather forecast you can see the icons for Sun, cloud, and umbrella changing in one day. With new fiscal year we will start the edition of news letter for each season. We will steadily bring you the news from the field: Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring...

Message from Editor