



## JICA INTRODUCTION

### CABINET DECISION ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CHARTER

As 60 years of Official Development Assistance (ODA) was commemorated in 2014/15, the Government of Japan established the Development Cooperation Charter in February 2015. During these 60 years, Japan as well as the international community has indisputably gone through the huge transformation.

In the course of transformation the challenges that developing countries and countries in transition are facing became more diverse, complex and widespread. The Government of Japan and JICA were in need to extend the scope of cooperation in order to face new range of issues, Also increasing role of funds and activities other than ODA and globalization brought out the necessity of collaboration between public and private factors, as well as on international level.

#### MAIN POINTS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CHAPTER

##### Philosophy of Japan's Development Cooperation



Japan will promote development cooperation in order **to contribute** more proactively **to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community**. Japan will attach importance to building the foundation of **self-help effort and self-reliant development** by collaborating with developing countries in **equal partnership**.

##### Development Cooperation in a New Era



Japan will refer to its own experience, expertise, technology and lessons learned in order to provide **"quality growth"**, an inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth, and poverty eradication through such growth. Japan will **assist ODA graduated countries** with special vulnerabilities; such are "middle income trap", climate changes, etc.

##### Development Cooperation as Catalyst



Japan will promote development **cooperation through public-private partnership and partnership with local governments**, in order to support economic development of partner countries as well as growth of Japanese economy.

##### Participation of Diverse Actors in Development



In order to realize inclusive and equitable development Japan will **promote women's participation** as well as promotion of **concerned actors including vulnerable groups**.

## CONTENTS

- Introduction P1
- Serbia P2
- Macedonia P2
- Montenegro P2
- Albania P3
- Kosovo P3
- Bosnia and Herzegovina P3
- Other Topics P4



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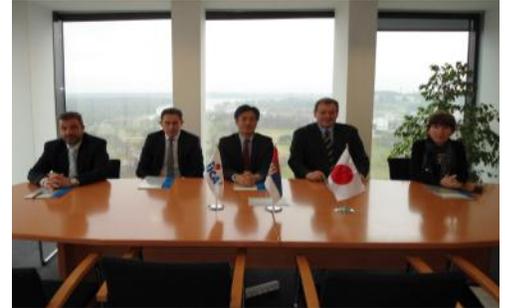
[www.youtube.com/user/JICABalkan](http://www.youtube.com/user/JICABalkan)



## SERBIA

### Research on Metal Recovery to Ensure Sustainable Resources Development

JICA signed the Record of Discussion of the “Project for Research on the Integration System of Spatial Environment Analysis and Advanced Metal Recovery to Ensure Sustainable Resources Development” in November, 2014. Now the Serbian institutions and JICA are ready to implement this technical cooperation project with Japanese experience. The project officially starts from June, 2015 for 5 years. The purpose of the project is to develop an environmental evaluation and reclamation system in order to solve the environmental problem caused by mining activities in Serbia. Serbia is now negotiating to integrate to the EU. The environment filed is very important issue and one of the most difficult parts to adopt EU standard. JICA believes that JICA can support Serbia in order to realize smooth integration to the EU in the environment filed through this project.



Project partners on signing ceremony

### Capacity Building for Analysis and Reduction Measures of POPs in Serbia



Japanese and Serbian researchers on the site visit

Danube is an international river that passes through 10 countries and where it is used as a water resource. However, various harmful chemicals have continued to be discharged as wastewater to Danube at Belgrade and nearby cities. Furthermore, the petrochemical factories in Pancevo City adjacent to Danube were destroyed at the time of the NATO bombing, and serious chemical pollution has been confirmed. Based on the above circumstances, in this project, Hyogo Prefectural Institute of Environmental Sciences and the University of Belgrade jointly work on the analysis and monitoring of such persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that cause serious environmental pollution. This project started in March 2014. So far, new chemical analytical instrument has been installed to the Belgrade University and technical guidance has been carried out by the Japanese experts. It is expected that full-scale investigation and analysis will be conducted on the sites in this year.



## MACEDONIA

### Follow-up Cooperation for the Improvement of Road Maintenance Equipment

In 2001 and 2002, the Government of Japan provided road maintenance equipment such as bulldozers, motor graders, etc. (41 units) and one asphalt plant through “the Project for Improvement of Road Maintenance Equipment”. Though almost 13 years have passed the Makedonija Pat Public Enterprise has utilized the equipment doing appropriate maintenance by itself. Nevertheless, some types of spare parts are not available in Europe. Considering the situation, JICA decided to support by providing necessary spare parts and exchanged an agreement with Macedonia on February 4, 2015. It is expected that the spare parts will arrive at Macedonia in September 2015 after a tendering for procurement in Japan.



## MONTENEGRO

### Regional Meeting of JICA Alumni and Reactivation of Montenegro Alumni

In November 2014, JICA Alumni Organizations from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo gathered in Podgorica, Montenegro for the regional meeting. It is decided for each alumni to realize the joint event with regional partner in 2015. Also on the regional meeting with support of JICA Balkan Office, founding members of the Montenegro alumni gathered and held the meeting to restart its activities.



## ALBANIA

### JICA Delivers Emergency Relief Goods to Flood-affected Albania

On February 26, emergency relief supplies (blankets and sleeping pads worth approximately 6.1 million yen) from JICA arrived in Tirana for flooded areas of Albania. The southern part of the country was hit by torrential rains that started on January 31, affecting some 1,000 families, of which 850 had to evacuate. In response to a request from the Government of Albania, Japan decided to provide emergency assistance and sent goods to Albania. The handover ceremony was attended by the general director of the Department of Civil Emergency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Albania, who noted that despite being one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters in Europe, Albania was encouraged by the assistance from Japan. The ceremony was reported by media, with message of "support from the distant friend on the other side of the globe".

For details visit: <http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/topics/150226.html>



Delivered emergency aid



## KOSOVO

### Seminar on Waste Management toward Sound Material-Cycle Society

This project has entered into the 4th year. On March 10, the Prizren municipality and JICA expert team organized the seminar to share the gained knowledge with other municipalities in Kosovo. 58 participants learned the progress of Prizren municipality such as the establishment of the waste management unit in the municipality; formulation and assessment of effectiveness of the municipal waste management plan through implementation of several pilot projects; introducing the waste tax, and contacting waste collection business by the municipality. For details on seminar visit: <http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/topics/150310.html>

### Capacity Development of Radio Television of Kosovo



Signing ceremony

On March 16, RTK and JICA concluded the project agreement (Record of Discussion, R/D) for the new project for Capacity Development of RTK. Kosovo aims to establish the multi-ethnic society; and under the aim, RTK has its social responsibilities such as fair broadcasting, formation of traditional culture and consideration for socially vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and the role for promoting communication and reconciliation among different ethnic groups. The first Japanese ODA for RTK was provided in 2000, and at that time, a series of the state-of-art TV broadcasting equipment was provided. In 2015, with the new project, JICA will assist RTK to enhance its technical capacity for better programming and equipment maintenance.

For details visit: <http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/topics/150316.html>



## BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA

### 2nd JCC Meeting for Confidence-building through Rural Development

On March 5, 2015, the second Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) for the "Project for Confidence-building through Rural Development" met in Bratunac, a town in the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project aims to further resident reconciliation through the inclusive strengthening of a fair regional development system, including in Bratunac and Rogatica. JICA had locally disbursed funds amounting to approximately 1.5 million convertible marks (100 million yen) for fiscal year 2014 project activities. The mayors of Rogatica and Bratunac, and the deputy mayor of Srebrenica expressed their gratitude for JICA cooperation. The chief advisor of the project noted that the three cities had common development challenges, many of which could be solved by further strengthening their partnership, and the participants agreed to work together. For details on JCC visit: [http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/topics/150305\\_02.html](http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/topics/150305_02.html)



# OTHER TOPICS

## Senior Volunteer NEWS

On March 14 and 15, the 6th Balkan Kendo Cup, was held in Belgrade. Some 130 kendoka from seven of the Balkan countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey) entered the tournament.

In the individual competitions for the juniors, women and men categories, the Serbians won. The team competitions, Serbian first and second string team took first place and third place, while mixed Montenegrin and Turkish team won second.

The Serbia was victorious in every category, accomplishing a complete domination of the tournament. It seems that the results of coaching by JICA's Senior Volunteer, Mr. Kashiwagi are getting visible from year to year.

On May 29, the 16th World Kendo Championship will be held in the Nippon Budokan in Tokyo, and six of the countries that participated in the Balkan Cup (all but Macedonia) will be present. For details visit: <http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/>



Serbian men's team won the 1st place



Golden medals went to Serbian women

## TRAINING NEWS

January 12 - March 7

Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System

1 participant

1 1

January 27 - February 21

Hospital Management

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## TIME TO PACK KOTATSU

From February to late May, the spring is bringing cherry blossom and warmer days from Kyushu to Hokkaido. It is time to pack *kotatsu*. What is *kotatsu*?

Unlike the urban area of European cities which has powerful and cheap system of central heating, in winter time people of Japan are generally relying on electricity for heating. Since the electricity is an expensive commodity, Japanese are still relying on old fashion, economical ways to warm the body (not entire room) at home.



Nowadays elegantly designed *kotatsu* (Photo: matome.naver.jp/odai)

*Kotatsu* is a wooden table frame covered by a *futon*, or heavy blanket, with heat source underneath, often built into the table itself. Not only that it saves energy cost, it has great social significance for Japanese people. Families may choose to concentrate their activity around *kotatsu*. Having a meal or a conversation with family members while the legs are under the table and the blanket is draped over the lower body, the *kotatsu* is becoming a heart of domestic life.

Spring has come and *kotatsu* will be stored until next winter.



Heating source of *kotatsu* (Photo: sampeifanclub.forumcommunity.net)



One can enjoy *kotatsu* train ride (Photo: hellosandwich.blogspot.jp)



Inside *kotatsu* train (Photo: www.goldenjipangu.com)

### MESSAGE FROM EDITOR

Dear readers. I've been in charge of editing the Balkan News for last 2 years. We have started this news letter in order to provide you information for better understanding of JICA, it's activities in region, as well as Japan and its culture. Since I'm leaving the office, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for showing interest for Balkan News. JICA Balkan office will continue to deliver you new issues. With hope you are looking forward to it, please remain with best regards. Yamasaki