

SERBIA

PROJECT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN BELGRADE STARTS

On August 7, JICA signed a Record of Discussions (R/D) with the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the technical cooperation “Project for Modernization of Public Urban Transport in the City of Belgrade”.

The purpose of this project is to improve the operational efficiency of public buses, trams and trolleybuses, which are the primary means of transportation for Belgrade citizens. The project aims to reduce the financial burden of the public transportation sector and to promote the updating vehicle facilities that meet environmental standards. It also aims to build an environmentally friendly public transportation system that the city is targeting, thereby contributing to the SDGs Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities).

In this project, JICA will not only provide the many years of Japanese know-how in the operation and management of public transportation, but will also consider the utilization of knowledge in public transport projects in neighboring European countries.



At the R/D signing ceremony

REGION

SME PROJECT MENTOR SYSTEM ESTABLISHED AND PROJECT COMPLETED

The Project on Establishment and Promotion of Mentoring Service for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Western Balkans (Phase 2)” is to establish a Mentor Service System, which is a system for developing SMEs through “Mentors”. In cooperation with SMEs, Mentors diagnose business status and create an action plan. As the Project ended at

the end of August, the Project team created a PR brochure and a PR video on the outcome of the Project. The brochure introduces the outline of the Standardized Mentoring system and the best practices in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and North Macedonia. The video includes presentations by beneficiaries in those countries.

Link for the brochure: <https://ras.gov.rs/uploads/2020/07/jica-mentoring-brochure-13072020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2a4JAWvvyoGuoHSjGgMxOfZwtqtAuBqylHmaV8ou23Keu6XMfUQERsnAg>

Link for the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b276LkPtZYI>



Project on Public Transportation in Belgrade starts



Project on RTK phase 2 starts



Trainings for PE teachers resumed



Small-scale Follow-Up Project in Serbia

COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROJECT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH NFFIS AND ECO-DRR PROJECT

R/D Signing Ceremony for Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through NFFIS and Eco-DRR Project

On October 2, Record of Discussions (R/D) for “Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Eco-system Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR)” Project was signed by Mr. Fadil Kodra, General Director of Kosovo Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Mr. TAKEICHI Jiro, Chief Representative of JICA Balkan Office.

This 5-year technical cooperation project has been designed as a regional program between Kosovo and Montenegro with an aim to strengthen the capacities of Emergency Management Agency and relevant government agencies of the Republic of Kosovo for prevention and reduction of forest fires and other natural disasters.



Mr. Kodra and Mr. Takeichi signing the R/D

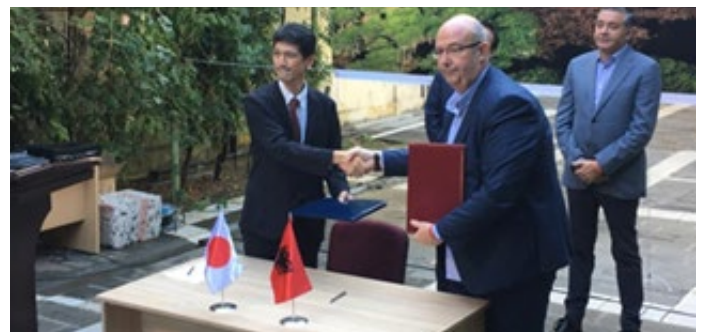
PROJECT ON RTK PHASE 2 STARTS

On September 23, Record of Discussion (R/D) for the technical cooperation “Project for Capacity Development for Radio Television of Kosovo Phase 2 was signed in Prishtina”. The R/D was signed by the General Director of RTK, Mr. Ngadhnjim Kastrati, and the Chief Representative of JICA Balkan Office, Mr. TAKEICHI Jiro. Through this Project, two regional TV studios will be established in two towns of Kosovo and RTK will become more accessible to the wider audience. Furthermore, the professional capacities of the public broadcaster of Kosovo will be increased and RTK will be able to offer wide and neutral program for all the citizens in the country. Project will be implemented between January 2021 and January 2024.



Mr. Kastrati and Mr. Takeichi after signing the R/D

BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT FOR DIVJAKA KARAVASTA NATIONAL PARK



Mr. Dedej and Mr. Takeichi after signing R/D

On October 8, the Record of Discussion (R/D) for the “Project for Capacity Building for Improving Ecosystem-Based Management on Divjake-Karavasta National Park in the Republic of Albania” was signed in Tirana. The R/D was signed by the General Director of NAPA, Mr. Zamir DEDEJ, and the Chief Representative of JICA Balkan Office, Mr. TAKEICHI Jiro. Through this Project, an Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approach will be adopted. This approach recognizes the interactions among ecosystem components including species, habitats, ecosystem services and humans and also promotes the integrated work manner across sectors, including conservation, fishery, agriculture and tourism. Project will start in January 2021 and continue until January 2024.

MANGA ON PROTECTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH DURING PANDEMIC

Japanese manga illustrator, Ms. INOUE Kimidori, created a manga on protecting children's mental health during COVID19 and shared it on social media. Through the col-

laboration with JICA, the manga has been translated into various languages with an aim to raise the awareness of this aspect of pandemic in different countries. Ms. INOUE has

already contributed to better understanding of different complex social issues using her manga as a tool to achieve it.



English version



Serbian version



Albanian version

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

TRAINING FOR PE TEACHERS RESUMED

After nearly three months of social distancing measures, imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JICA's "Project for Confidence Building through Physical Education

(PE)" in Bosnia and Herzegovina resumed organizing its professional development training for the PE teachers from all primary schools in the City of Mostar. On June 4 and

5, the Project organized the last set in the series of three rounds of such training and the teachers became fully familiar with novel PE teaching practices.



PE teachers attending the last set of professional development training

ALUMNI SERBIA

SMALL SCALE FOLLOW-UP PROJECT ECO CAMP

On October 24, "Eco camp" was organized in children's resort "Suplja stena" on Avala mountain, with the aim to bring together children with and without disabilities to compete, socialize and gain new knowledge and experiences through inclusion. JICA Alumni Serbia and Sport Union for persons with disabilities proposed this SFU with an idea to promote healthy lifestyle, Japanese culture and environmental protection to the persons with disabilities. Due to the current circumstances and limitations imposed by epidemic, all necessary prevention measures were taken, and masks, visors and gloves was provided to all the participants. Three main activities included sport activities, supervised and led by coaches, Origami school, supported by special educators and Eco treasure hunting. For this event, Sport Union for persons with disabilities invited children from two special schools and from one regular school to participate in the activities. Sports equipment, procured by JICA for this event, has been donated to the Sports Union with persons with disabilities and will be used for their activities in the future. After all the activities were completed, the children received diplomas, medals and sweet gifts from Atlantic Stark Company, which supported this event.



Sports activities with coaches and educators

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF AT JICA BALKAN OFFICE

My name is Hirashima Jun, newly assigned Project Formulation Advisor at JICA Balkan Office from October 2020. Due to the current circumstances, I have started my work from Japan on remote basis and expect to arrive at the Balkan Office in late December.

Though "newly" assigned, I have been working with JICA in the Western Balkans since 2011. I worked at JICA Balkan Office as a Project Formulation Advisor from 2011 to 2017 and worked as a Coordinator for "the Project on Establishment and Promotion of Mentoring Service for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Western Balkans (Phase 2)" from 2017 to 2020. It is my great pleasure to continue working for JICA and the region.

In this assignment, I am covering the cooperation for Albania and Kosovo. Since I had limited chance to work for Albania and Kosovo before, I am very excited to have new opportunities to engage in the projects in these countries. Although we have been experiencing the unprecedented time with COVID-19 pandemic, I believe the toughest time will come to an end soon, and I will have a chance to visit Albania and Kosovo and meet our cooperation partners in person as well.



Mr. Hirashima, Project Formulation Advisor for Kosovo and Albania at JICA Balkan Office



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