The 4th Technical and Vocational Education and Training Conference

The 4th Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Conference took place from 17th to 19th September 2012. In relation to JICA's support to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources through technical cooperation for "Strengthening of quality of vocational education and training delivery", the annual TVET conference is the very pertinent moment to measure the achievements in this field.

A meeting to discuss ToR for the Institute Advisory Body (IAB), a first ever sectoral forum by MoLHR, Technical Training Institutions (TTIs) and industry/private sector was followed on 20th September 2012. JICA will continue to contribute in the pilot projects under the IAB in Electrical sector which is one of the core agenda of attracting vocational training to public.

The Procurement Procedure Survey Mission in Bhutan

As part of the “Public Procurement System and Capacity Assessment Study” being implemented by JICA headquarters, three consultants from Crown Agents (contracted by JICA) ; Mr. Masafumi Yatabe, Mr. Douglas Fraser, Mr. R. Tsujimoto visited the capital to carry out the study from 3rd -14th September 2012.

The objective of the study is to provide JICA with a better understanding of the public procurement systems of the Kingdom of Bhutan, as well as to assess procurement capacity of the Executing Agencies to which JICA is supporting or planning to support, in order to make capacity development plan for each Executing Agency. The output of this study including training programmes and materials is expected to be used to develop procurement capacity as well as more effective and efficient implementation of Japanese ODA programmes and projects, which JICA is planning or managing.

The consultants made series of visits to governmental and corporate institutions in order to review public procurement systems in these institutions and to undertake a procurement capacity assessment of institutions, who may in the future receive support from JICA.

Contributed by:
Mr. Krishna Subba
Admin Officer (Procurement)
JICA Bhutan Office

JICA schemes
♦ Grant Aid
♦ Loan
♦ Technical Cooperation Projects
♦ Training Programmes
♦ Development Studies
♦ Emergency Disaster Relief
♦ Follow-up Cooperation

JICA target areas in Bhutan
♦ Agriculture and Rural development
♦ Infrastructure development
♦ Local governance
♦ Social services development (health, education and IT)

JICA members in Bhutan as of September 2012
♦ JICA office staff: 16
  (7 internationals; 9 nationals)
♦ Experts: 9
♦ Senior Volunteers: 13
♦ JOCVs: 24

Contributed by:
Ms. Miharu Furukawa
Project Formulation Advisor
JICA Bhutan Office

JICA Bhutan Newsletter is a monthly newsletter published by the JICA Bhutan Office and updated electronically on the JICA Bhutan website. It serves to better link all JICA Bhutan partners by offering briefs and current news on different sectors of JICA and the RGoB. It is for information purposes only and is not an official document. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of JICA. To join our e-mail based subscription, please contact at <bt_oso_rep@jica.go.jp>. Your comments and feedback are welcome.
Mr. Masayuki Hasegawa’s (Volunteer Coordinator) first visit to East

Mr. Masayuki Hasegawa is our new volunteer coordinator and in the first week of September 2012, he visited Eastern part of Bhutan to meet with the volunteers and experts living and working in the eastern Bhutan and to familiarize himself with Bhutan. Mr. Hasegawa shares his experience of first visit to East....

A trip to the east… Before I arrive to Bhutan, my trip has already been scheduled thanks to warm-hearted JICA staffs! I have heard lots about an eastern-trip beforehand; how wonderful its scenery is and how adventurous its road condition is, especially in a rainy season, etc... And, yes, I have found those were all true. Seen the Black Mountain, encountered a road-block, passed through the highest road pass, done a circumambulating of Chorten Kora...

However, the best part of the trip for me was, of course, to meet JICA volunteers and experts. By seeing the activities and having a conversation, I found myself to be more confident about what we are doing here in Bhutan. I am sure that every tiny step they are taking in each places will lead to the bright future for this country someday. I can’t wait for the next trip to the East and to meet them again.

Contributed by:
Mr. Masayuki Hasegawa
Volunteer Coordinator
JICA Bhutan Office

What time do you want to be here?

News in Brief....

1. JICA HQ dispatched three mission members to Bhutan for Procurement Procedure Survey from 2nd to 15th September 2012.

2. Mr. Kenichi Sasaki and Mr. Seiichi Moriya, Experts for Horticulture Research and Development Project, Wengkhar, Mongar have arrived in the country on 10th September 2012 for two years and one month respectively. Mr. Kenichi Sasaki is the successor of Ms. Yoshiko Hagiwara.

3. Mr. Masanori Shintani, an expert for Eco-Tourism was in the country from 14th September 2012 and will be here till 10th October 2012, to conduct a guide training for eco-tourism.

4. JICA HQ dispatched four mission members to Bhutan for the second time, to explain the Draft Report of Taklai Irrigation Project.

5. Mr. Fujio Mawatari, JOCV working with Bumthang Dzongkhag as an IT Engineer, left to Japan on 22nd September 2012, after completing his tenure of one year with Royal Government of Bhutan.

For more information
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
P.O. Box 217, Doy-bum Lam, Above Memorial Chorten, Thimphu, Bhutan
Tel: (975) 2-322030, 323218, 328074, 324571, 324463
Fax: (975) 2-323089
Website: <http://www.jica.go.jp/bhutan/index.html>

Newsletter Team
Kinley Dorji, Senior Programme Officer
Tshering Palden, Program Officer
Chenga Lham, PR Officer

www.Facebook.com/JICABhutan