President Visit in Bhutan

The President of JICA Mr. Akihiko Tanaka visited Bhutan from 17-20 June 2014. During his visit, the president received audiences with Their Majesties the Fourth King and the Fifth King of Bhutan. He also called on several other ministers and key government officials of the Royal Government including the Hon'ble Prime Minister. During his stay the president also met and observed activities of several senior Volunteers and JOCVs dispatched in Bhutan.

On 17th June, the President visited the memorial stupa built in the memory of Dashi Nishioka, in Paro at the National seed Center, which was established 20 years ago through grant aid. The President visited the center and observed the center’s activities, with its facilities and machinery being used even today.

The President visited the Agriculture Machinery Center, where he inaugurated Dashi Nishioka Memorial Museum, which is established inside the center. The museum holds photographs, video and documents from the past that illustrates Dashi Nishioka’s achievements in the field of agriculture in Bhutan.

On 18th June, the President addressed the 50th anniversary commemorating the Japanese cooperation in Bhutan. The event was jointly hosted by the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi India and JICA Bhutan Office. Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje, the Hon’ble Foreign Minister, as the guest of honor presided over the ceremony and it was also attended by over 80 senior government officials, including related cabinet ministers, secretaries and representatives of development partners. The President mentioned some of the JICA’s achievements also announced that JICA would support in conducting the third Gross National Happiness Survey. The event was an opportunity for the two countries to affirm their intention to deepen their cooperation.

During the call on the Hon’ble Prime Minister, His Excellency expressed his gratitude to JICA for long cooperation in the field of agriculture in particular, and expressed hopes for future cooperation.

In addition, the President also observed the activities of Senior Volunteer at the National Post Harvest Center, Paro which was developing food processing using surplus agricultural produce. The President also met with JOCV's at the National Mushroom Center and the JWDNRH hospital.

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In the month of June, a group of 3 JICA midwife volunteers had conducted a "mothers' class" for pregnant women on safe delivery throughout the country. The class started on 5 June, 2014 from Paro, JDWNHR, Trongsa, Mongar, Trashigang and ended in Trashiyangtse on the 20 June, 2014. The idea to conduct a mother's class was born a year ago, and since then, the JICA volunteers have been trying to find a way, with the strong back-up of the Ministry of Health, to distribute information more easily and effectively to future mothers. In collaboration with the Health Ministry, they are also trying to set standard by making a health education guideline for mother’s and child. Once the guideline comes out, it will help all medical staffs who are in charge of mother and child care in many ways. Although there are still many challenges to get over with, we are forwarding step by step and expecting to see all the mothers and children in Bhutan are safe and healthy in the very near future.

News in brief

- DCSI, McEA is going to send 15 Bhutanese for OVOP training in Japan and Thailand which is supported by JICA from 30th June to 31st July. This training "Community Entrepreneurial Capacity and Rural Enterprise Development" is aims to help participants work to help implement Cottage, Small and Medium Industry Policy, Development strategy and Action plan that promote the local economic development of the overall industrial/Agricultural capacities of their respective local communities. And Training is offered to central / local governmental organizations and development service providers involved in the planning, promotion, service provision and evaluation of local economic development, and local communities/enterprises.
  Participants will learn the concepts and philosophy related to the development of local communities, planning, implementation and evaluation mechanisms of local economic promotion programs, and understand the mechanisms and measures involved in the capacity development of local communities through looking at specific examples of local industry promotion projects, such as the One Village, One Product program (OVOP) and Decentralized Hands on Exhibition (DHOE) implemented in Oita Prefecture in Japan and Thailand OTOP case. Then they will suggest measures to enhance the effective implementation the CSI action plan that can promote the capacity development of local communities in Bhutan.

- One senior volunteer and four JOCVs have completed their two years assignments in Bhutan and left for Japan today. We wish you all the very best in all that you venture.

√ Mr. Takuhsa Nakaya, SV served as an HPE Lecture at Paro College of Education in Paro,
√ Mr. Taisei Tsuzuki, JOCV, served as an Architect at Engineering Section, Dzongkhag Administration in Paro,
√ Ms. Mizuhko Ito, JOCV served as a Nutritionist at JDWNHR in Thimphu,
√ Ms. Tomomi Enoki, JOCV served as Midwife in CHU at Paro Hospital and
√ Ms. Ayumi Kuramasu, JOCV served as a Graphic Designer in ICS, Ministry of Agriculture an Forests in Thimphu.

For more information

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