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Workshop on Paper Conservation for Grand Egyptian Museum



Japanese Expert with Egyptian participants in the workshop

Japan International Cooperation Agency [JICA] organized in collaboration with conservation center of Grand Egyptian Museum a workshop on Paper Conservation in the period from Feb,24 to Feb,28, 2008 at the premises of the new project site.

The workshop contributed to the capacity development for conservators by delivery of both practical measures and theoretical background on paper conservation. The Japanese experts introduced a wide range of the latest concepts, materials and techniques of conservation of cellulose-based materials, which employ both traditional Japanese and western paper conservation with fibrous artifacts.

The workshop is one of the activities of the technical cooperation project between Grand Egyptian Museum and JICA to provide capacity development of the conservation center.

The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) is scheduled to be opened by November 2011 with tens of thousands artifacts. To that aim, documentations and conservations of those artifacts have been already carried out, and to be conducted in a full scale after the opening of the conservation center in the spring of 2008. With technical cooperation by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), this center will target to become the biggest center in the Middle East.

The Grand Egyptian Museum Project is physically composed of two buildings; one of which is the main building of the museum, another building is the conservation center of the artifacts, the key technical staff of which are expected to benefit from the technical cooperation project.

The GEM project is listed among the government's national development plan, which aims to establish a state-of-arts museum in 21st century, alleviating the crowds of Egyptian Museum in Tahrir with its 167,000 artifacts, and to exhibit Pharaonic masterpieces as the world biggest Egyptology Museum. About half of the total budget for establishment of the GEM will be assisted by a loan support of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

During the preparation stage before the center opening, JICA has already started its technical cooperation for the key conservation staff of the GEM. In December, JICA organized the pest-control and fumigation workshop for the staff having several experts in its field to share the most up-to-date methodologies and techniques in Japan.

Third Country Training Program Team Conducts Survey in African Countries

Third Country Third Program (TCTP) team conducted a survey in African countries accompanied by counterparts of implementing Agencies. The team visited Ghana, Ethiopia and Gabon from 11th to 23rd of March to assess training needs of counterparts in JICA Projects in beneficiary countries in order to make necessary amendment in the training program to suit more to their needs. The number and qualifications of potential participants and the annual number of accepted participants was also discussed.

The team visited rice processing projects in Ghana, irrigation projects in Ethiopia and aquaculture projects in Gabon.

This visit comes as a step to implement the

recommendations of the evaluation of the impact of TCTP between Japan-Egypt and Africa on Africa development which JICA Egypt Office conducted in 2007 to maximize the output of the program.

Based on these recommendations, the courses implemented during 2007 witnessed change in strategy of accepting participants where bigger number from the same country were selected rather than expanding the accepted participants horizontally to cover a wide spectrum of countries. Also during the formulation process the invited countries were selected according to the priority given to the field the training is addressing in JICA policy towards that country.



Director of Rice Technology Training Center observing farmers threshing rice in a field in Ghana.

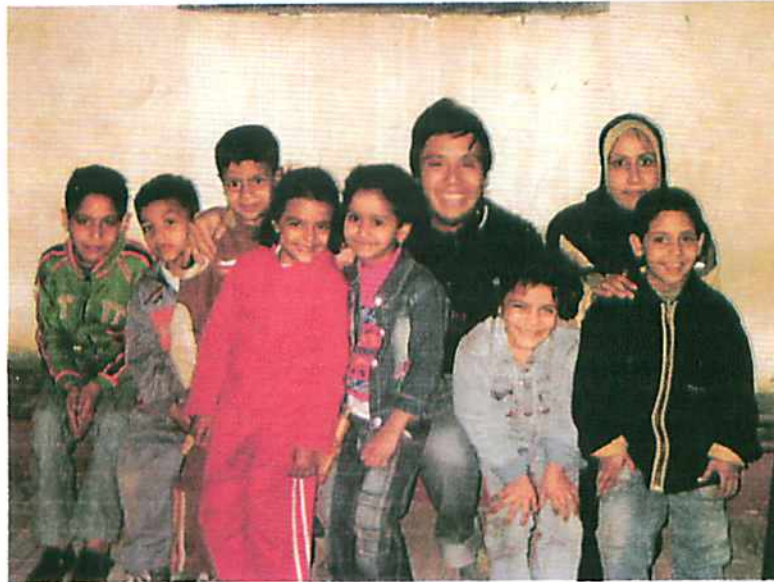
Palestinian Doctors Completed Their Training in Cairo University

6 Palestinian Doctors from West Bank completed their 2 months training in the Faculty of Medicine of Cairo University. The doctors were trained on Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Dialysis in an attempt to create pediatrics sub-specialties in Palestinian territories. The training will focus on different sub-specialties every year such as neurology, surgery, endoscopies and others to

establish the base of specialized pediatric medicine in order to provide self-sufficiency tertiary care.

Participants from Gaza were unable to attend the course due to current circumstances; meanwhile they will join this training as soon as the situation is settled.

Farewell Mr. Akimitsu Kawashima



Mr. Kawashima surrounded by children in his work place

At the end of March one of the most active volunteers who came to Egypt as a volunteer in the youth activities field through Japan overseas cooperation volunteers program left Egypt and back home to Japan. He is not very popular Only between Japanese, but also among his Egyptian fellows and for his remarkable and proficiency of the Arabic language, which Helped him to communicate with the Egyptians. Mr. Akimitsu Kawashima still a Student in languages Section and world culture at Osaka Setunan University, Japan.

During his presence in Egypt for two years, he played big role in the performance of the "city of dreams" done by the volunteers to please Egyptian children and they love it a lot. It was presented many times in many Associations in Egypt.

In an interview with Mr. Akimitsu Kawashima before going back to Japan, he responded to us the following: system, but I found that through the youth

activities, we can learn some more, in addition, The youth activities is close to my studies in which we can exchange knowledge and culture with others.

Where was your business in Egypt and what nature?

I worked in Boulak Social Development Association; during my stay I did concerts for cultural exchange, as daily activity I taught Egyptian Children sports, songs, dance, folklore, arts and I coordinate some lectures to teach the art of caricature which was presented to us by caricature artist Mr. Effat Mohamed from Akhbar Al Youm.

During your stay in Egypt for two years which things you wants Egyptians to maintain?

There are a lot of good points that advantage by the Egyptians, such as the kindness and generous hospitality and fun but I learned much from Egyptians either advantages or disadvantages. In fact I love Egyptians as they are.



Mr. Kawashima during the performance of MADINAT AL-AHLAM

What was your plan to help Egyptian's children?

Before joining the volunteer program I didn't have any motives to help children or cooperate with them, but the thing we learned from each other is to admire life and not to forget the work we have done together whatever happens, wherever we are. On the other side I learned from the ten years old children more than what I learned during my life.

What is your feeling after the success of your Performance MADINAT AL-AHLAM (city of dreams)?

MADINAT AL-AHLAM transmitted the fatigue and suffering of the volunteers to great pleasure. I love the faces of children and adults smiling after the show ends and every day I was enthusiastic. This performance was one

of the best thing happened to me so far. I'm happy to participate in this performance until the last day in my mission as a volunteer. I thank everyone who was involved in this show. I wish to complete this performance which gives hope to many people.

What is your advise to your volunteer friends coming to Egypt?

I have learned much from my fellow volunteers. But the point that I want to draw their attention that it is not only educating children, supervising and teaching them your skills, but we learn from each other into the base for their activities and accept people who work with you without going in the reasons of the differences between you and them enjoy your job and have fun with them while smiling.

The Training Courses for 2008

Since April month is the First Quarter of Japanese Fiscal Year therefore JICA EGYPT OFFICE will offer the courses that Egyptian candidates could benefit by participating and joining the training in Japan as one of main factors for the continuation for friendship and cooperation between both Governments of Japan and Egypt. We have 2 courses in different fields as follows;

1. Advocating a Law-Oriented Infrastructure to Promote Foreign Direct Investment, the training period is about 33 days from the 7th of July 2008 to the 8th of August 2008.
2. Water Supply Management for Middle Eastern Countries (This Course is for Middle East Region Countries), the training period is about 48 days from the 8th of July 2008 to the 24th of August 2008.