



SERBIA

## JICA CHAIR: 2 ONLINE LECTURES HOSTED BY THE FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY AND INSTITUTE FOR PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL THEORIES, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

JICA Chair Program with the University of Belgrade was officially opened in March 2022, with a special lecture of Professor Takahara.

On May 27, University of Belgrade and JICA organized the second lecture of JICA Chair Seminar on modernization of Japan. The lecture titled “Educational Development in Japan’s Modernization” was held by Dr. KAYASHIMA Nobuko, Senior Research Advisor at JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development. Professors Divna Trickovic and Marina Jovic-Djalovic, from the Faculty of Philology, moderated the lecture and led the discussion afterwards. About 40 participants from the Faculty of Philology and The Institute for Philosophy and Social Theories followed the lecture online.

On October 27, third lecture of JICA Chair Seminar titled “From ‘Japan and Asia’ to ‘Japan in Asia’” was held as hybrid event, online and at the Institute for



Professor AIZAWA Nobuhiro holding an online lecture

Philosophy and Social Theory, University

of Belgrade. The topic of the lecture focused on the path Japan has taken in its foreign politics toward Southeast Asia and explained its position now. The event was moderated by Cedomir Markov, Ph.D., Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, and it started with video lecture by Professor SHIRAIISHI Takashi, Rector of the Kumamoto Prefectural University, from DVD “7 Chapters of Japan’s Modernization”. It was followed by an online lecture by professor AIZAWA Nobuhiro, Kyushu University, in which he explained the current political position of Japan in Asia and answered the questions from the audience. More than 70 participants attended the lecture.

The next online lecture of JICA Chair Seminar will be organized in December.

<https://www.jica.go.jp/dsp-chair/english/chair/case/europe.html>



Professor Kayashima Nobuko holding lecture on „Educational development in Japan’s Modernization“



JICA Chair: Handover of books to the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade



Alumni MAK-JAMS organizes Cultural event



Disaster Risk Reduction school drills carried out successfully



Japanese volunteer in Judo visits Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina

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# JICA CHAIR: HANDOVER OF BOOKS TO THE FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

On September 30, within JICA Chair program, a handover of books was held at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. On this occasion, 64 books on Japanese history, language, literature and culture, in English and Japanese, were handed over to the Faculty of Philology with an aim to deepen the knowledge and understanding of Japan. The books are stored at the library of the Department for Oriental studies and will be used by the students, professors and researchers of this department. The hand-over ceremony was attended by head of the International Cooperation at the Faculty of Philology, Prof. Annette Djurovic, head of the department for Oriental studies, Prof. Ema Miljkovic-Petrovic, professor of Japanese language Divna Trickovic, as well as the Chief Representative of JICA Balkan Office, Mr. UEKI Masahiro and Assistant Resident Representative, Mr. NAGATA Yoshiaki.

JICA Chair program officially started at the University of Belgrade in March this year



*Mr. Nagata, Mr. Ueki, Prof. Petrovic, Prof. Djurovic and Prof. Trickovic*

and through the series of video and online lectures students of different faculties will have an opportunity to learn about Japa-

nese-style development and modernization in different fields, such as education, health-care, management, economy, politics etc.

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# JICA BALKAN AT “SPLET TECH CONFERENCE”

On October 12, mission members of the JICA's survey on the Start-up ecosystem in Serbia participated in the SPLET Tech Conference, held at MTS Hall of Belgrade.

At the event, there was a series of panels related to new technologies and start-ups in the West Balkan region. During the event, the JICA mission members and its partner in Serbia, Serbia Digital Initiative, jointly organized a seminar introducing JICA's NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan) project in Serbia.

Mr. FUKUDA Hajime, Senior Representative of the JICA Balkan Office, gave welcome remarks to the panel's audience and expressed JICA's eagerness to commit to a new field of cooperation. Following the panelist's discussion, several questions were raised by the audience.



*Mr. Fukuda, addressing the audience*

# ALUMNI SERBIA ORGANIZES CULTURAL EVENT ON 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



*Pupils of "Starina Novak" teaching the participants how to make an Origami butterfly*

On October 26, Alumni Serbia organized a cultural event to mark 140 years since establishing diplomatic relations between Serbia and Japan in the multi-

purpose hall of the Embassy of Japan. The Ambassador of Japan to Serbia, H.E. Mr. KATSUMATA Takahiko opened the event by reminiscing important occasions when the

people of Japan and Serbia demonstrated empathy, appreciation and gratitude to each other. Mr. UEKI Masahiro, Chief Representative of JICA Balkan Office also gave the opening remarks on the cooperation between Japan and Serbia through JICA. After the official opening of the event, there were presentations on Alumni activities in the past and Japanese volunteer's experience in Serbia. Students of Philological High School presented Japanese Poetry with translation in Serbian while the pupils of elementary school "Starina Novak" demonstrated their Origami skills.

The event was closed with a video compilation of photos taken in Japan by the ex-participants of JICA KCCP. After the closing remarks by the President of Alumni Serbia, Ms. Aleksandra Vucinic, the participants stayed at a cocktail.

## NORTH MACEDONIA

# ALUMNI MAK-JAMS ORGANIZES CULTURAL EVENT

On October 27, JICA Alumni from North Macedonia MAK-JAMS organized cultural event for promotion of Japanese culture and tradition. The event was held at the new building of the Faculty of Mechanical Engi-

neering in attendance of around 30 people, mostly Alumni members and their family. Ms. Chie Nagashima, who was the lecturer, introduced useful Japanese phrases, the Tale of Tanabata and Origami to the partici-

pants. They learned how to make Samurai helmet and sword with origami technique and tried on Japanese festival coat happi. The event ended with tasting Japanese food.



*Ms. Chie Nagashima presenting The Tale of Tanabata*

# WORKSHOP ON RESULTS AFTER COMPLETION OF FU PROJECT IN AGRICULTURE

On June 7, National Federation of Farmers (NFF) and JICA Balkan Office organized a workshop on results of Follow-up cooperation for JICA KCCPs “Developed Market-oriented Export Promotion Strategy/Marketing Strategy” JFY2017 and “Development of Agricultural Cooperative and Management Capacity” JFY2016. Through this project, which was implemented from October 2020 to January 2022, cooperatives and associations of small-scale farmers from 7 regions in North Macedonia received equipment which added value to the local products, mainly through improved packaging and labeling. The farmers also attended online training sessions on cooperative principles for producers, marketing

and sale, held by the ex-participants of JICA KCCPs from the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE).

The attendees of the workshop were the representatives from 7 regions, representatives from NFF, MAFWE and JICA Balkan Office. The representatives of the cooperatives shared the results they achieved since the project was completed, presented new products developed with the new equipment and discussed the current challenges and measures needed to overcome them. After their presentations, Ms. Biljana Petrovska Mitrevska, Project manager at NFF and ex-participant of JICA KCCP, held a presentation about Japanese experience of branding and marketing of local products.



*Attendees at the workshop*

# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION SCHOOL DRILLS CARRIED OUT SUCCESSFULLY

In October, Kosovo Red Cross in partnership with JICA Balkan Office and cooperation with the Emergency Management Agency have carried out five (5) disaster risk reduction school drills within the final cycle of the “Follow-up Cooperation for “Strategy for Resilient Societies to Natural Disasters (KCCP Programme)” activities. Pupils of five schools from Podujeve, Fushe Kosove, Viti, Prishtina and Vushtrri participated in the drills, while guest students from neighboring schools participated in the exercise as monitors and monitored the actions of the drills. The purpose of the drills was to evaluate the capacities and knowledge of the staff and students trained in first aid, extinguishing fires, evacuation and incident command leadership procedures from the schools themselves after staged incidents. School drills have been evaluated as useful strategy for increasing the resilience of the community against various natural or man-made disasters.



*First Aid in the classroom*

# JAPANESE VOLUNTEER IN JUDO VISITS ALBANIA AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**M**r. NISHIMAKI Yuto, Japanese volunteer in Judo who has been dispatched to Serbia for 2 years, visited Judo Federation in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina in October.

From October 10 to 16, Mr. Nishimaki visited Judo club Tirana to see their practice

and he also had a chance to attend Japanese Ambassador's Cup 2022 organized on the occasion of 100 years of friendship between Albania and Japan.

The following week, from October 17 to 23, Mr. Nishimaki coached at Judo training

camp, which gathered 150 participants, and attended the seminar in Sarajevo.

It was a great opportunity to share his knowledge, experience and techniques, not only with the Judo players from Serbia but also from other Balkan countries.



Group photo with Albanian National Olympic committee president, Judo federation President and Japanese Ambassador



H.E. Ambassador Makoto ITO (first from the left) and Mr. Yuto NISHIMAKI (third from the right) at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence with BiH JUDO Federation representatives

## NORTH MACEDONIA

# JICA RECEIVED A PLAQUE FROM AGENCY FOR REAL ESTATE CADASTER (AREC)

**F**rom October 12 to 14, Agency for Real Estate Cadaster (AREC) celebrated anniversaries of 95 years of Geodetic Survey and 75 years of Geodetic Administration.

On October 12, the Prime Minister of North Macedonia, Mr. Dimitar Kovachevski, and the Director of AREC, Mr. Boris Tundzev opened a ceremony of the international conference at Aleksandar Palace Hotel. On this occasion, JICA received a memorial plaque together with the representatives of donor countries – the Ambassador of Sweden, Acting Ambassador of Netherlands, as well as representatives of EU Office, World Bank. Mr. SAIGA Masahiro, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in North Macedonia, received the Plaque for JICA.

The following day, JICA project “Study for Establishment of State Base Maps for GIS” (2004-2006) was introduced by Mr. TSUDA Kaoru, former JICA expert on the project, within the session of international cooperation and donor support.



Memorial Plaque given to JICA by AREC



Handover of plaque for JICA to Mr. Saiga

# INTRODUCTION OF NEW VOLUNTEERS

I am Toshihide Arai and I arrived in Serbia in August 2022. I am working at NGO “Decije Srce”, which supports people with developmental disabilities in Belgrade. My position is related to marketing and I am working on promotional activities which will make more people aware of the reality of persons with disabilities. I am mainly at the office, where I collect data and create materials. Then, based on the completed materials, I hold meetings with the manager and the president, grasp an understanding of the current problems, and plan events to improve them. I would like to deepen my understanding about people with disabilities and make a full use of the work know-how I have cultivated in Japan.



Mr. ARAI Toshihide (on the right)

Nice to meet you, my name is Saki Matsuse.

My workplace is Municipal Special Needs School in the city of Jagodina. My main activities are assisting students with disabilities and advising and supporting my colleagues. In Japan, I have worked as a teacher at a special needs school in Kyoto.

I would like to make use of my experience as a teacher to work with my colleagues to help students grow.



Ms. MATSUSE Saki at her workplace

# FROM JICA BALKAN OFFICE

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

### YOSHIAKI NAGATA

ASSISTANT RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO BALKAN OFFICE

Hello, Dobar dan,

I am Yoshiaki Nagata, newly appointed Assistant Resident Representative to Balkan office. I will be in charge of or related to every type of cooperation in Serbia except Yen Loan. Also, my other responsibility is office administration, including security and PR matters.

For me, the West Balkan region is one of the most unexpected destinations as an oversea officer; this office is one of the two JICA offices in the European region. In graduate school, I researched conflicts in Africa and worked for East Asia, African, and Latin American Countries as a JICA Officer since 2016.

However, I found that something undoubtedly led me to the region. For example, Japanese kids, including me, may meet the region in secondary school history textbooks and are impressed by the diversity of this area. Moreover, my family member went to a school that offers Serbian language classes and has several students from Serbia as exchange students.

Living here is a truly precious moment for my family. Everyone's kindness and integrity so move us every day.

I am very eager to contribute to promoting mutual prosperity between the Balkan region and Japan.

Thank you, Hvala.



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