

# Trends



Tajikistan

## JICA President's First Visit to the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic



This June, JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka paid his first visit as JICA president to the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic from June 23rd to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Two of the least developed of the former Soviet republics, these countries are, however, situated at a strategic point near Asia, Europe, Russia, and the Middle East. In both countries, JICA is mainly cooperating in the areas of industrial diversification, creation of transport infrastructure, and promotion of agriculture and business to address issues such as job creation and the deterioration of social infrastructure.

In Tajikistan, Mr. Kitaoka met with Prime Minister Rasulzoda and various dignitaries, and attended the handover ceremony of the grant aid project for the improvement of Dushanbe International Airport. Following this, he was invited as an honored guest to the celebration of National Unity and Reconciliation Day, where he met with President Rahmon and received expressions

of appreciation for Japan's development cooperation. The following day, Mr. Kitaoka visited a number of JICA projects in the south of the country, including an award-winning water supply system.

He spent his first day in the Kyrgyz Republic in the eastern part of the country visiting a One Village One Product project and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The next day, he went to the capital city Bishkek, where he met with President Zheenbekov and Prime Minister Abylgazyev, and attended a signing ceremony for a grant agreement, as well as a handover ceremony for the grant aid project for the improvement of equipment at Manas International Airport.

The two countries are important for the stability and connectivity of the Central Asia region. Building on this visit, Mr. Kitaoka said JICA will redouble its efforts to improve the stability of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, and to strengthen its relationships with them.

JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka listens to the stories of the people who live near the water supply project in the Panj district.



Senegal

## Humanized Maternity Care Gaining a Foothold in Senegal



In Senegal, the number of pregnant women giving birth in health facilities is increasing; and, consequently, maternal and neonatal mortality rates are dropping. Health facilities, which in the past were feared and avoided by expectant mothers because of unsanitary environments and unreliable medical care, are being transformed into places where mothers can give birth with peace of mind.

Aiming for a gentle, safe birth for mother and child, JICA has been carrying out the Project for Reinforcement for Maternal and Newborn Health Care in Senegal since 2009. In partnership with regional health centers, JICA is supporting the improvement of health facilities and training human resources for health. Based on the survey conducted in the Tambacounda region, and in cooperation with Senegal's Ministry of Health and Social Action, JICA created an apposite model of caring for mothers, newborns, and childbirth. The model introduced in Senegal is

in operation in all 14 regions, of Senegal at approximately 100 health facilities today. The ones working to spread knowledge related to safe childbirth based on this model are the women with childbirth experience in each village; they are called "Bajenu Gox" and are known as "the mothers of the community." Bajenu Gox, along with local midwives, hold classes in various villages to give women correct knowledge related to childbirth. They counsel women on pregnancy and birth and accompany them to examinations at health facilities.

About 20 years have passed since JICA started its "humanized maternity care" initiative in Brazil, establishing there the standard practice of protecting the safety and dignity of mothers and babies at birth. JICA is currently implementing this highly successful initiative in eight countries including Senegal, Mozambique, and Cambodia.

A mother looks into the eyes of her healthy newborn baby boy.



Nepal

## 3,500 Enumerators Travel Around Nepal for its 1st Economic Census



The field operation of the first ever national economic census commenced in Nepal this year between the months of mid-April to mid-June. The National Economic Census 2018 is responsible for collecting data on establishment numbers, and the amounts of their sales, in order to clarify the structure and scale of the national economy. The preliminary results, published on the 13th of September, show that there are 922,445 establishments employing 3,408,746 people in Nepal, and the government can now utilize this data to comprehend the economic structure of the country accurately, and formulate effective policies to promote economic growth.

JICA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Statistical Information Institute for Consulting and Analysis, and the Japan Economic Research Institute Inc., has been providing technical support to Nepal's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). The support

covers the planning of the census from operation to implementation, data processing, analysis and dissemination of results, as well as the training and equipping of approximately 3,500 enumerators in different stages. Simultaneously, the CBS economic census officials participated in the training program in Japan, where they acquired the competency to become instructors capable of training CBS central officers. Later the CBS central officers trained local CBS officers throughout the country, and eventually the enumerators worked under their guidance.

The results derived from this survey can be used by the government of Nepal as a supporting data when planning industrial and economic policies, and by private industry for business strategy and planning, which will lead to more new business opportunities and contribute to the overall economic growth of Nepal.

Economic Census enumerators hold a banner informing people that the Economic Census is now underway.