ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR NPA ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS

JICA has focused its efforts on providing assistance to the country’s energy sector as a vital ingredient to revitalize socio-economic activities in the capital and also improve the living standards of the people.

In 2010, a 10MW plant was commissioned at the Kingtom Power Station with the installation of two units’ 5MW diesel engine generators to help with the growing problems of electricity in the country.

In order to proffer proper training to NPA engineers and technicians on how to operate and repair the engines, JICA instituted the project “Capacity Development for Maintaining Power Supply Facilities”.

The aim of the project is to build the capacity of engineers/technicians of the National Power Authority (NPA) and develop their skills and knowledge to operate and maintain Diesel Engine Generators (DEG) and Transmission and Distribution facilities effectively.

Periodic overhauling of the generators has started at the Kingtom Power Station with NPA engineers/technicians taking full responsibility supervised by JICA experts.

The maintenance implementation started third week September and it is expected to finish by the second week of October.

Engineers and technicians will disassemble the engines cleaned and overhauled in accordance with engine manual specifications and subsequently reassembled.

During this exercise, continuous training will be transferred to the engineers and technicians by JICA expert engineers to keep them abreast of new developments and appropriate technologies.
From 7th to 15th September 2012, a series of handing over ceremonies of Model Ward Project Phase 1 were conducted in Port Loko and Kambia districts with great success. In the ceremonies, the commitments for the Operation and Maintenance were stated by the community based on the support from the District Council and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

Based on the results obtained from capacity assessment to Ward Committees through the implementation of 32 Pilot Projects in Kambia and Port Loko districts, well-performed 12 wards have been selected as "Model Wards" to implement the Model Ward Projects which were divided into two phases.

Although all of the six projects in Phase 1 are construction/rehabilitation works selected through due procedure in collaboration among the District Councils, MDAs and Ward Committees, it is not goal itself. Rather its processes are to be emphasized in relation to the objectives of Model Ward Projects, such as (1) Verify the essences for successful rural development based on lessons learned, obtained through the Model Ward Projects, and reflect those essences in Rural Development Handbook; (2) Support District Councils and Ward Committees to improve their skills and techniques for rural development: (3) Provide feedbacks contributing to policy development of MLGRD based on the findings of lessons learned from Model Ward Projects.

The following projects have been successfully completed and handed over to the communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Project</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kambia</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>Construction of Children’s Welfare Jr. Secondary School in Katic Village, Thalan Section, Ward 124, Masungbala Chiefdom (with a 4-seater VIP Latrine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kambia</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>Construction of Community Health Post in Yebaya Village, Yebaya Section, Ward 129, Tonko Limba Chiefdom (with 4-Seater VIP Latrine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kambia</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Construction of Rogberay Community Center, Rogberay Village, Rogberay Section, Ward 135, Gbinleh Dixon Chiefdom (including 4-Seater VIP Latrine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kambia</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>Completion of Community Centre, Kassirie Town, Kassirie Section, Ward 140 Samu Chiefdom* (Community Center and 4-Seater VIP Latrine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Loko</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of UMC Primary School in Mamalikie Village, Mamalikie Section, Masimera Chiefdom (Consisting of rehabilitation of 2 school building and existing Toilet, protection of an existing hand pump in the premise of the school, and construction of a 4-Seater VIP Latrine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Loko</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Construction of One DEC Primary School in Makera Village, Maconteh Section, Ward 200, Masimera Chiefdom (Consisting of construction of One DEC Primary School with 3-Classroom, Office and 4-Seater VIP Latrine)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The introduction of the basic Excel has been materialized in order to equip the core officers with the skills of using Excel for more effective work in the Council.

Sessions are consisted of a sequence of lectures and practices. It is expected that through a systematic learning process District Council Officers are able to capture the basics of Excel.

To be more meaningful, the participants must take an examination at the end of sessions and must score minimum 75% points to be qualified!

A 8-day basic Microsoft Excel 2007/2010 training for the District Council Officers has been in progress. Tailor-made sessions organized by an IT institution are targeting the core officers of both Port Loko and Kambia District Council respectively (12 participants were nominated from each Council).

JICA and Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) have started the Technical Cooperation Project namely Improving Quality of Mathematics and Science education in Junior Secondary School (IQMAS) in the beginning of December, 2011.

The objective of the project is to improve teachers’ teaching ability and students’ achievement in Mathematics and Science (M&S) in Junior Secondary Schools (JSS) through teachers training (INSET).

JICA has dispatched two Japanese experts to this project: Mr. Ken Furukawa, expert of Mathematics and Science Education: Mr. Kyo Yoshida, Project Coordinator, and they have been working together with the counterparts in MEST.

Since starting the project, first important event was Baseline Survey (BS). The objective of the BS is to analyze the current situation of M&S education at JSS level especially preparing for INSET for M&S teachers at JSS which contribute to the improvement of student’s performance on M&S.
The programme was both practical and theoretical, and was very much interactive.

Lectures were given by experienced employees from Yokohama Waterworks Bureau and Yokohama Waterworks Company.

We had the opportunity to visit several water works plant with different technology.

It was a well taught though training programme with subjects ranging from leaks detection and repair to the development of a Water Safety Plan.

During the training we were taken through the 150 years’ experience of the water supply in Yokohama in order for us to appreciate that Japan was once at the position where we are now, and that it is possible for us to reach their current level. It was quite an exciting history with a lot to learn.

All this took place eight months after the people of Japan experienced the worst earthquake disaster in Fukushima. It was an opportunity for us to witness the demonstration of the inner strength of the Japanese people which I believe is the main cause for their rapid and highly sophisticated technology. They demonstrated a sense of oneness and respect for each other.

With the knowledge gained during the programme we were requested at the end to do an Action Plan that could be implemented in our situation back home.

I want to personally thank the Government and people of Japan for such an opportunity to share experiences with other stakeholders in the water industry which I believe is timely as the world is rapidly becoming a village.

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