

Message from the Head of Office



Mr. Masahiro Yoshikawa
Head of Office, JICA Sierra Leone

It is a great honor and pleasure for us to issue this JICA newsletter on the fifth anniversary year since the inception of JICA Sierra Leone Field Office (SLFO) in January of 2005, based upon efforts by national staff as well as the predecessor a Japanese staff.

The government of Japan and JICA are extending assistance activities in such important development sectors as power in the Western Area, community development in the Northern Province(Kambia and Port Loko), agriculture, water, rural health management in Kambia which is a model District for decentralization, for

improvement of social welfare and economic development in Sierra Leone.

In addition, JICA puts high priority on human capacity building (economic development, public servant ethic training, education etc) based upon Japanese development experience after the 19th century.

JICA has been giving training opportunities to Government of Sierra Leone in Japan or third countries related to JICA's assistance. So far, the number of ex-participants who have benefited from JICA trainings amounted to more than Two hundred and fifty.

The year 2010 is also a commemorative year of a successful implementation of FIFA World Cup in South Africa and all of you have good memories of the exquisite performance of the Ghanaian team on behalf of the African continent.

This shows that Sierra Leone as a member of African countries has also high potential with high spirit and motivation in its development strides as well as in sport (football).

The keywords are human capacity building, self-reliance/sustainability, mutual trust (warm heart-to-heart)/responsibility/fair play/sportsmanship, good strategy, quality of training and the utilization of available resources including preventive maintenance approach composed of daily good operation and maintenance (O&M).

As you keep cogitating on the above keywords, JICA will continue to work in collaboration with Sierra Leone counterparts and other development partners for the primary objective of social and economic development in Sierra Leone.



Water Supply Management for Rural Towns

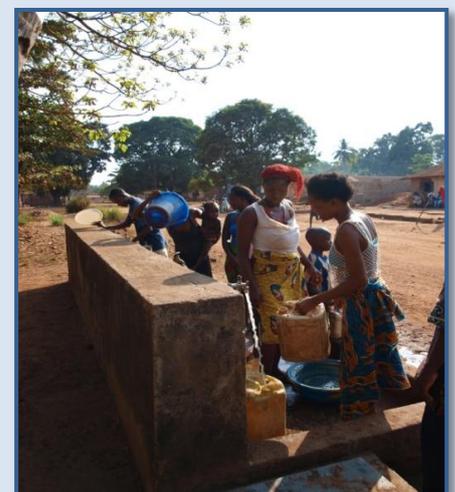
JICA in collaboration with the Water Supply Division (WSD) of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR) implemented a technical cooperation project for "Establishment of Water Supply Management System in Kambia District (2006-2009)".

The purposes of the project were to rehabilitate the existing water supply facilities in Rokupr which were constructed under Japanese Grant Aid in 1989 and to establish a water supply management system aiming at organizing autonomous and self-reliant operational and managing body.

The achievements of the project are

- 1) rehabilitation of the existing water supply facilities and conversion of the present treatment system into slow sand filtration system,
- 2) establishment of a public entity (Rokupr Water Supply and Sanitation Board: RWSSB) based on the bye-law and
- 3) development of a fair, affordable and self-sufficient tariff system.

The managing body of RWSSB is at present providing reliable and sustainable water services to about 14,000 residents of Rokupr.



Residents of Rokupr now enjoy clean and safe drinking water

US\$ 16.9M POWER PLANT IN GRANT AID COMMISSIONED



Newly constructed 10MW Power Plant and the installation of two unit 5MW Diesel Engine Generators

The president of the Republic of Sierra Leone H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma on Tuesday 30th March, 2010 officially commissioned the newly constructed 10MW Power Plant at the Kingtom Power Station which is the country's largest power station.

The US\$16.9M Power Plant in Grant Aid which also includes the installation of two units 5MW diesel engine generators adds 10 MW to the current generation capacity at the Kingtom Power

Station and will further allow the National Power Authority (NPA) the institution charged with the responsibility for the management, production and distribution of electricity in the country to reduce production costs and improve supply reliability.

The plant has vital significance at this crucial point in time when the country needs additional power supply to overcome power shortage due to continuously rising demand of energy.

Testimony of an ex-participant



In August 2008, I participated in a three months post graduate training program which includes six weeks attachment training on Electric Power Systems Engineering (excluding distribution) at Tohoku Electric Power Company in Sendai, Japan. The training in Japan includes:

Planning and operations of power generating stations such as coal fired thermal power stations and hydroelectric power stations (including pumped storage);

Planning, construction and operation of high voltage transmission networks (154 kV, 275kV and 500kV);

Substation maintenance; and

Operations of Load Dispatch Centres.

The training program was well structured and some of the knowledge and skills I acquired in Japan made me to contribute immensely in the upgrading of our transmission networks in Freetown from 11 KV to 33KV. This project is now being implemented and it required the construction of a new 33kV transmission line. The pylons construction has been completed and stringing from Kingtom to Blackhall Road (teeing-off at Tengbeh town to Wilberforce) is in progress.

The knowledge and skills acquired in my training in Japan was very meaningful and productive. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to officials concerned of Tohoku Electric Power Company for providing the training and I am deeply grateful to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for funding and facilitating the training program. I hope that more Sierra Leoneans would continue to benefit from the same or similar training programs for the improvement of our operations and the development of our country's electric power systems.

Ing. John A. Kabia
System Planning Manager
National Power Authority

Speaking at the ceremony, Japan's provisional ambassador to Ghana, Mr. Hisanobu Mochizuki, said that this project constitutes the second phase of the project "Urgent Improvement of Electric Power Supply in Freetown" The aim of the project is to contribute to creating stable power supply system with a view to revitalizing socio-economic activities in the capital, and to improving the living standards of the people; a stable electric power supply will lead to stable operation of public facilities and stimulate vital industrial and economic activities.

It is expected that approximately one million residents in Freetown and surrounding areas shall benefit from the project.

Water Supply Management for Rural Towns

Further, it has been proven that the Rokupr water supply system developed in the project is well appropriate and applicable to other rural towns in Sierra Leone. Therefore, in 2009, WSD and JICA conducted a survey on the 37 existing water supply facilities in rural towns and examine the feasibility and potential for disseminating the Rokupr system.

Based on the survey, the MEWR recommended the Kambia town as one of the potential towns for dissemination of the Rokupr system and then requested a new Japanese Grand Aid "Establishment of Rural Water Supply System in Kambia Town" for rehabilitation and improvement of the existing water supply facilities in the town.

The JICA's preparatory survey team conducted a one-month field survey in May 2010 to examine feasibility and problems for the materialization of the project based on the experience of Rokupr.

For a next step, JICA will submit a survey report to the MEWR by October 2010, meanwhile continue to recommend the Government of Japan to appraise the implementation of this Grand Aid within 2011.

Kambia Health day Celebration in collaboration with JICA

The Kambia District Health Management Team (DHMT) in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other local stakeholders, on Thursday 27th May 2010 celebrated the Kambia Health Day at the Government Hospital, Kambia.

Participants from all walks of life including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) staff, the Military, Police, Bike Riders (Okada), Drivers Union, School Children, Politicians and medical workers, all lined up from Kambia II (Check-Point) to the Kambia Government Hospital, dressed in T-Shirts with Project Logo and writings like: "Kambia Health Day", "Mami En Pikin Well Bodi Week" (Mother and child health week) and "Well Bodi Na Genti" (Health is wealth).

The Kambia Health Day is an annual health sensitization exercise adopted by Kambia during which awareness on various health issues are raised and a way forward initiated to address them. This day is celebrated like a Trade Fair where health officers interact with the community people to explain to them about activities carried out at their respective Health Units.

For this occasion, eight booths were constructed for exhibition and were occupied by medical teams dealing with EPI/Birth Registration, Reproductive health, TB/Leprosy, HIV/AIDS, Environmental Health, Malaria/Onchocerciasis, Nutrition and Blood Bank/First Aid.

In each of these booths, pictures and health charts were displayed with resource persons to address any health query raised by visitors.

The Theme for this year's Health Day focuses on the prevention of Polio and Malaria, Free Health Care and an exclusive six months breast feeding by nursing mothers. On this same day, a campaign was launched for "Mami En Pikin Well Bodi Week".



Participants from all walks of life marched through the Streets of Kambia Town

This is the period of integrating the various child survival interventions like acquiring health information, sensitization, administering of Oral Polio Vaccination (OPV) for children between 0-59 weeks, giving out bed nets for children under 6 months, de-worming through the use of Albendazole for children under five years and surveillance of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) by health officers.

During the occasion, statements were made by representative from the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, District Medical Officer, representatives from JICA, WHO, NGO, District Council Chairman and Paramount Chief. The occasion was climaxed by the distribution of awards for the 7 Best PHUs in the district by Dr. Francis Jayah, the District Medical Officer, Kambia District.

Progress on CDCD Projects

The project for Capacity Development for Comprehensive District Development in the Northern Region (CDCD Project), is working in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs Local Government and Rural Development to strengthen the system to implement district development effectively and efficiently in Kambia and Port Loko District.

The CDCD project is presently supporting community-based development programmes with the district councils as pilot projects in eleven (11) wards in Kambia and Port Loko districts. At the same time, the CDCD Project commenced preparation of Feeder road and culvert rehabilitation programme, which ensures accessibility to multi-sector services in Kambia and Port Loko districts.



The water well in Macoth in Ward 141 after rehabilitation.



Construction for a store is ongoing in Ward 198.

Agriculture development project in Kambia District

JICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) implemented a technical cooperation of "Agricultural Development Project in Kambia (2006-2009)" aiming at strengthening a farmers-oriented agricultural technical support system in Kambia. The project developed the Technical Package on Rice Production (TP-R) with targets of 1.0 to 1.5 ton/ha of grain through conducting pilot projects in 7 villages.



The project terminated with the achievements of acceptance of TP-R by the farmers of the pilot project sites as well as strengthening capacity of the MAFFS Kambia District Office (MAFFS-K). On the other hand, JICA and the MAFFS-K recognized the necessities of a) further improvement of the TP-R mainly in fertilizer management techniques and on-farm water control measures such as bund and drainage construction in inland valley swamp and b) broad dissemination of the TP-R in Kambia.

Therefore, in 2008, MAFFS requested "Sustainable Rice Development Project" as the next phase of technical cooperation for further achievements.

The purpose of the project is to establish rice production techniques and its extension method which are applicable throughout Sierra Leone. The components are 1) improvement of TP-R through on-station and on-farm verification and 2) expansion of TP-R in line with the Farmer Field School method to 15 Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) in Kambia.

During the JICA's preparatory survey in March 2010, both MAFFS and JICA agreed on the importance of alignment with the National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (NSADP) for realizing more effective and efficient agricultural development in the country.



The NSADP targets at commercializing agricultural commodities through financial and technical support to FBOs and establishment of Agricultural Business Centers (ABCs) in nationwide. Therefore, JICA's next four-year technical cooperation is expected to support this MAFFS initiative in rice sector development through demonstrative trials mainly by improving technology of fertilizer management and its cost benefit analysis in lowlands and post-harvest techniques.

Promote and further strengthen the bond of friendship between the governments and peoples of Sierra Leone and Japan especially, and the world over.

Strengthen the capacity of Alumni members to work towards actualization of exchange programmes between Japan and Sierra Leone,

To create opportunities for increased sponsorship for more Sierra Leoneans to benefit from JICA sponsorships,

As an association we have already drawn up a plan of action for this year. We plan to visit the Project for Capacity Development for Comprehensive District Developments in the Northern Regions of Kambia and Port Loko District and eventually other interventions made in the energy sector by JICA.

Thereafter we shall organize a symposium in Freetown and Bo to appraise our people with interventions made by JICA in our development efforts in consonance with the agenda for change.

On this note, I want to thank the JICA field office in Freetown for their collaboration and invaluable assistance to JAASIL from the inception to date.

Message from the President of JICA Alumni Association S/L



President of the JICA Alumni Association Sierra Leone
Mr. K. O. BAH

The JICA Alumni Association Sierra Leone was officially launched on the 8th March 2010 at the Country Lodge, Hotel, Hill Station at an impressive Ceremony. The joy of this occasion was shared by dignitaries from all facets of the Sierra Leone Society including members of the association.

Like other JICA Alumni Associations in Ghana and Kenya, JAASIL aims and objectives are:

To promote understanding, friendship and cooperation among JAASIL members and strengthen Socio-cultural ties between Sierra Leone and Japan.

Bring together JICA ex-participants in Sierra Leone.

Develop and maintain friendship among members.

Maintain contact with JICA (Japan) and, other institutions of Japan with a view to exchanging information and Materials and with a mutual interest for the development of friendly cultural ties and cooperation between the people of Japan and Sierra Leone.

Create mutual Friendship and cooperation with other JICA Alumni Associations throughout the world.