Demand for electric power has been rapidly increasing in recent years, mainly in the capital due to population density and increase economic activities. However, due to the civil war and other factors, most of the power facilities are now aging and deteriorating consequently causing significant technical inefficiency during the transmission and distribution process.

To contend with this challenge and improve the situation to achieve a sustainable power supply, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted a grant aid request, the minutes of meeting (MM) has been signed between JICA and the government of Sierra Leone represented by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the National Power Authority (NPA) for a Technical Cooperation project on “Capacity Development for Maintaining Power Supply Facilities”.

In order to enhance and improve the technology for maintaining and managing the ability to supply energy to cope with further expansion of demand in the future, the Government of Sierra Leone requested support from JICA for the development of a sustainable power supply plan and operation and maintenance technique for Diesel Engine Generators, a substation at Regent and the rehabilitation and improvement of the distribution network.

The aim of the project is to build the capacity of NPA engineers and develop their skills and knowledge to operate and maintain Diesel Engine Generators, a substation at Regent and the rehabilitation and improvement of the distribution network.
The purpose of the JICA Health Project in Kambia is to strengthen the management capacity of the District Health Management Team (DHMT) through supportive supervision, Peripheral Health Unit (PHU) reporting system and the formulation of a better Local Council Health Plan (LCHP).

As one of the project’s activities, a study tour to Ghana was conducted to further enhance supervision of the management team.

A similar JICA project at the Upper West Region in Ghana was visited from 18th to 23rd July 2010.

The objective of the visit was to learn the whole system of supportive supervision including feedback and monitoring, respond to the identified problems and share the manuals and tools of supervision. The visit also enabled participants to exchange ideas about the lessons learnt through conducting supportive supervision.

Some of the good practices learnt from Ghana could be observed in the systems of health information, supportive supervision and community approach.

The Director of Primary Health Care and the Principal Health Economist both from the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), the District Medical Officer (DMO) and seven Zonal Supervisors from DHMT in Kambia including two Community Health Officers formed the entourage.

Capacity Development for the Comprehensive District Development in the Northern Region of Sierra Leone (CDCD Project) is a project seeking to strengthen the service delivery capacity of the Port Loko and Kambia District Council personnel in the bid to enhance efficient and effective District development model as stipulated in the local government act of 2004.

Capacity Development of Kambia and PortLoko District Council officers and Ward committee

Through implementation of pilot projects, the JICA experts and program officers of the CDCD project support the Port Loko and Kambia District Council officers in synthesizing the district development model through pilot project formulation workshops with the ward committees of the twenty five wards in the Kambia district and seven wards of the thirty.

The development planning officers and the Monitoring and evaluation officers of the two district councils in concert with the councilors led the workshops, identifying the resources, problems and needs of the wards. Feasible pilot project are selected to address ward development needs. Interesting lesson learnt is that the Kambia and Port Loko District councils’ officers are in the process of discovering how to have the District development plan working to meet the socio-economic needs of the communities in the Districts.

The project brings the council closer to the people and the people to the council so that development activities can be undertaken and JICA team is functioning as a catalyst to realize this.
The Sierra Leone Association of Science Teachers (SLAMAST) was founded in September 1970 and renamed the Sierra Leone Association of Mathematics and Science Teachers (SLAMAST) in July 2005, incorporating Mathematics and Technology Teachers and Educators. SLAMAST is dedicated to public service by complementing the effort of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and other Development partners in improving on the teaching and learning of Mathematics, Science and Technology in our educational institutions. It has a registered membership of 620; with 18 district and sub-district branches right across the country.

The main aim of SLAMAST is to popularize Mathematics, Science and Technology among pupils and students in the country by showing its relevance to Commerce, Agriculture and the overall development by later producing middle-level manpower and technocrats at the tertiary level.

SLAMAST came into contact with JICA in July 2005, and since then has facilitated the trainings of 35 teachers of the association in Activity-oriented, Student-centered, Experimentation, Improvisation and Plan, Do, See and Improve (ASEI/PDSI) Approach; an improved method of teaching Mathematics and Science at the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTE) based at Keren, Nairobi South, Kenya.

Some of these ex-participants from CEMASTE are now facilitators who have been carrying out SMASE (Strengthening Mathematics and Science Education) follow-up seminars for Upper Primary, Junior, and Senior Secondary Schools.

The association is involved in the writing of textbooks. At the moment, we are completing the JSS Mathematics and Integrated Science Pupils Books.

SLAMAST is also a stakeholder in the establishment of the proposed INSET Center along with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and JICA.

AGRICULTURE

JICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) has just commenced a new project “Sustainable Rice Development in Sierra Leone (2010-2014)” to establish rice production techniques and its extension method which will be applicable throughout Sierra Leone.

The project is in deed prepared as a part of the MAFFS initiative Smallholder Commercialization Program (SCP) of the National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (NSADP) to promote of commercialization in rice sector.

The project team will be improving rice technologies by carrying out both on-farm and on-station trials in close collaboration with the Rokup Rice Research Centre (RARC) while providing extension staff and farmer facilitator training on rice. Taking in consideration that improved technologies should be profitable and environmentally adaptive, we aim to promote commercialization of small rice farmers through increasing productivity, intensification, value addition and post-harvest technologies.

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**JICA AND SLAMAST**

In mid-October, JICA and the Water Supply Division (WSD) of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR) completed the preparatory survey of a new Grant Aid “Establishment of Rural Water Supply System in Kambia Town” for the purpose of rehabilitating the existing water supply facilities in the town.

As results of this survey, we’ve signed on the MoU among the MEWR and the Kambia District Council reconfirming the service areas, the locations of principal facilities, and the route of distribution network etc.

The access to clean drinking water in the rural area has been extremely low due to deterioration of water supply facilities and lack of maintenance etc. The objective of the project is to improve water supply condition in the Kambia town through rehabilitation of water supply facilities as well as establishment of water tariff system.

JICA plans to install a slow sand filtration system which is less use of chemical and mechanical devices. Not only this sustainable system, but we also plan on establishing a tariff system under the leadership of Kambia Water Supply and Sanitation Board (KWSSB).

The KWSSB will be responsible to sensitize the people for water tariff system for sustainable management of the facilities. We believe that this approach which combines hard and soft cooperation will be applicable to other rural areas for improving water supply condition.

For a next step, JICA will submit the final report of this survey to the Government of Japan in December 2010 to commence this project within the first half of 2011.
Two day Training Workshop for Council staff and Junior Officers of MOFED in Kenema

A two day training workshop targeting council staff and junior officers of the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Energy and Water Resources and Education, Youth and Sports was held at the Kenema City council conference hall between the 28th and 29th September, 2010.

The training was organized in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED). The aim of the training was geared toward improving the capacity of council staff and junior officers on the basic principles of project identification, management and monitoring and evaluation, followed by the concept of resource mobilization for councilors to grasp the rudimentary aspect on how to generate revenue for their councils instead of heavily depending on government resources and foreign donors.

The first day lecture on Project Planning, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation was done by Mr. Benson Lahai of MOFED, which was closely followed by a field visit to a project site at Damba Road in Kenema.

Professor Motoyoshi Suzuki, JICA Expert attached to MOFED offered lecture on statistics for young bureaucrats including computer training on how to calculate GDP growth rate, GDP per capita etc.

Also present at the workshop were the Resident Minister East, The Mayor, Kenema City Council, Deputy Mayor, Deputy Chairman, Kenema District Council.

Testimony of an Ex-participant

I attended group training on the reduction of Child death and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, in Japan May 2007 for six weeks. During our training we covered topics on child health like Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, Neonatal Resuscitation and Maternal health with special reference to the factors contributing to maternal morbidity and mortality and how they can be prevented. We were trained to develop Activity plan for our individual countries for Five years.

Based on my report and Activity plan that I developed, I received support from JICA Office Sierra Leone to implement part of what was in the plan. I was able to conduct two major trainings, one in Freetown and the other in Bo. A total of ninety four participants from all over the country were trained on Child Survival Interventions and how we can reduce maternal and Child mortality in our country.

I have trained a team of core trainers for the ministry of Health that is not only involved in training health workers but also involved in supporting district supervision of Maternal and Child health Activities. JICA has provided me with teaching Aides that the team is currently using for Family Planning Trainings (Kangaroo Mother Care). With their support we were able to develop community Health Workers manual that my colleagues are now using to train community health workers.

SR. Patricia Abu
Public Health Sister Directorate of Primary Health Care
Ministry Of Health and Sanitation

Long Term Training for Capacity Development of Economic Officer

JICA is helping the government of Sierra Leone rebuild itself by training public officials and making sure the administrative structure they inherit is effective and efficient. Over the years approximately 300 government officials have been sent to various JICA training programmes in Japan.

Mr. Abdran Deen-Nyarkoh, Economist of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in the Economic Policy and Research Unit was nominated in June 2010 to participate in a two year training course on “Capacity Development of Economic Officers of MOFED” at the International University of Japan under the aegis of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The course is public policy oriented and it is designed to educate future leaders in formulating and implementing economic as well as public policies geared for social and economic development.

JICA already helps to run what is reputedly the world’s biggest training program of its kind, annually inviting more than 8,000 people from developing countries to Japan to attend a variety of courses ranging from medicine and education to climate change and agriculture.