PIPE BORNE WATER FOR KAMBIA TOWN

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Resident Representative of JICA Ghana office exchanging documents

The Government of Japan has decided to extend grant aid to the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone for the Project “Establishment of Rural Water Supply System in Kambia Town” in the Kambia District. Notes to this effect were exchanged on January 20, 2011 between Mr. Keiichi KATAKAMI, Japanese Ambassador to Ghana and Mr. Joseph Bandabella DAUDA, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The Kambia waterworks was established in the 70’s but was destroyed during the war. Also, due to the lack of sewer facilities, the source of the river has been polluted with influence from underground infiltration of sewage, causing undue suffering on the people with chronic water-related diseases.

This grant aid carries out the detailed design for the water supply project including the rehabilitation and improvement of water supply facilities in collaboration with the Water Supply Division (WSD) of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MEWR) for a population of approximately 20,000 in Kambia Town. At the completion of the project in November 2012, it is expected that health hazards caused by unsanitary water and the amount of labor required from women and children to bring water from remote existing water facilities will decrease.

The entire town suffers from a persistent water shortage and about 60% of the population depends on rivers or spring water while others use the traditional hand pump wells.

Since water wells easily dry up in the late dry season, there is no guarantee to access safe water.

Agriculture

JICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) implemented a Technical Cooperation project “Sustainable Rice Development Project (2010-2014)” for establishing rice production techniques and their extension method, which are applicable throughout Sierra Leone.

Ever since the launch of the project in October 2010, the project team has been conducting baseline survey of Inland Valley Swamp in the Northern area, interviewing Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) about their activities and giving farmers training on rice cultivation.

MAFFS in support with JICA has prepared the manual on rice production “Technical Package on Rice Production (TP-R)” in 2009. Since it’s a manual of technical value, we decided to reprint 1,000 copies of the TP-R and distribute them to all the extension workers of MAFFS, NGOs and other concerned parties across the country for better understanding of the rice production techniques and rice physiology.

We hope that TP-R will be widely utilized by the MAFFS extension workers, etc for realizing the rice productivity enhancement in the country.

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The Terminal Evaluation was jointly conducted by Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) between 15th January and 6th February 2011 and evaluation covers the entire project period (2008-2011).

Sierra Leone as a whole has some of the worst health indices in the world and has been suffering from terrible health status after a protracted civil war. Its infant and under five mortality rates: 165 and 283 / 1000 at live births in 2004 respectively were recorded among the highest in the world.

The purpose of the project was to provide quality and equitable health services by strengthening the management capacities of District Health Management Team (DHMT), Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) and District Council in Kambia District to address health needs of the community.

Management in Kambia in order to make best use of the significant support from DPs to consolidate these activities.

The joint evaluation Team which comprises JICA and MOHS found out that capacity building outcomes are definitely the most positive achievements of the project and individual capacities of Kambia DHMT have significantly improved. However there is still room for improvement.

Therefore each of the key actors, such as Kambia DHMT, MOHS and Kambia District Council, required playing their own role correctly so that the effects produced by the Project will not be lost. Later, the team made several recommendations for each of the key actors, which were finally agreed by the Joint Coordination Committee of the Project.

The Project has been implemented appropriately in general and the Project Purpose is being achieved in spite of some minute encumbrances. Project implementation process was promoted by strong commitment of the Ministry. As a result, the capacity of the DHMT, PHUs, and District Council has been significantly increased and it is expected that they will be able to continue their tasks on their own to some extent.
Visit of the Senior Vice President of JICA

A high-profile delegation led by Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited Sierra Leone from 22nd - 25th February, 2011 to attend the Coalition for Africa Rice Development (CARD) fifth steering committee meeting at the Country Lodge in Freetown and to discuss future cooperation with the government of Sierra Leone and JICA Alumni Association. Mr. Oshima was accompanied by Mr. Kumashiro Teruyoshi, Director General, Rural Development Department, Mr. Hiroyuki Kubota, Executive Advisor to Director General, Mr. Vo Tong Xuan, RECTOR, Tan Tao University, Mr. Jun Saotome, Representative, JICA Vietnam and Mr. Takahiro Nakamura, Assistant Director.

Mr. Kenzo Oshima offered his full support and assured of JICA’s continued involvement through various comprehensive programs with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS).

He said that CARD will boost rice production in Africa in effort to fulfill growing demands.

Capacity Development for Comprehensive District Development (CDCC/Project MLGRD/JICA)

Twenty one Pilot Projects for phase 3 and 4 are currently in the implementation process in Port Loko and Kambia districts (17 in Kambia and 4 in Port Loko) and the projects are progressing rapidly since the implementation started.

We appreciate great efforts from the CDCC Project Director (Deputy Minister of MLGRD), Kambia District Council and Port Loko District Council staff has been the frontrunner of the project and they took swift actions towards the successful implementation as it is their responsibilities to take fast track the CDCC project implementation in their districts.

In Port Loko district, the CDCC pilot project is targeting 4 wards in 2 chiefdoms, 3 Wards in Masimera Chiefdom and 1 Ward in Buya Romende Chiefdom; and 3 out of the 4 projects (rehabilitation of primary school in Rokel-Ward 199, rehabilitation of court barrary in Kunta Kuma-ward 200 and in Masimera-ward 201) have attained 100% completion as of 15 March 2011 and rehabilitation of court barrary in Kamasondo in ward 176 is almost completing as confirmed by PLDC Engineer.

In Kambia district, 17 projects implementation are currently ongoing and 2 have been handed over to Project Management Committee (PMC) on behalf of community members (rehabilitation of road and construction of culvert in Rokupr town, ward 119, and construction of 4 drying floors in ward 120 both Magbema chiefdom).

There were massive turnover of community members during the handing over ceremony of those projects. Two projects in two wards — 124 and 126 will be handed over to community members on the 17th March, 2011. Other 13 Pilot Projects are also progressing to their completion stage, as confirmed by Kambia District Council Engineer.

Community contributions and participations during the project implementations were very immense. They participated and contributed to the project because they are seen as driving force of development in their localities.
Testimony of an ex-participant

My experience in Japan for training on Power System Engineering for Planning, Operation and Maintenance in Africa was exquisite.

Last year's session was held on September 16 – October 16, 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The course was conducted by trained and experienced engineers from Chubu Electric Power Company (CEPCO) the third largest power utility in Japan. Five developing countries were invited to participate in the training program most of which were from West Africa.

I have held several positions in the Generation Department and presently attached to the Corporate Planning Department as Senior Planning Engineer of the National Power Authority, (NPA).

I assisted Engineer John A. Kabia in motorizing installation and upgrading of network from 11kV to 33kV from Kingston Power Station to Regent Primary Substation and the construction of the 5MVA S/S a project funded by JICA and the World Bank funded Interserve Project for the construction of 33kV network and accessories from Kingston to Blackhall Road and on to Wellington Primary S/S.

The primary objective of the training program was to be able to design and improve upon the present state of Transmission and Distribution network, with a view to accommodate and transport reliable energy with minimum transmission line losses.

This objective could be achieved by the introduction and use of PSSE to design the network and the use of SCADA to construct and monitor the performance of the network. NPA has suffered far too long due to high network line losses.

An action plan was developed during my training course in Japan, if adopted and implemented with the time lines as specified, would help the quality of transmission and distribution dose alleviating the high technical losses within the network. Though four weeks period is short for such an elaborate course, the modules were designed and tailored for participants to easily understand the basic fundamentals as senior supervisors and managers and to easily adapt content to the individual situations in the different participating countries. Lectures were held in a friendly atmosphere, interpersonal relationships were cordial among participants, lecturers and the host, JICA. Site visits were organized for better understanding of the course.

Engineer Milton M. Gegbai
Senior Planning Engineer
National Power Authority, (NPA)

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In October 2010, the Government of Sierra Leone received the Millennium Development Goal Awards for their leadership and commitments towards achieving Goal Six of the MDGs in "combating HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases" at the MDG summit in New York. This was as a result of development effort by the government and development Partners. With this signing ceremony, we believe it is one step for the government to achieving other MDGs and will also contribute to strengthening the relationship between Japan and Sierra Leone.

Capacity Development for NPA Engineers and Technicians

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 the generation and transmission & distribution facilities.

In respect to the government's request, a Technical Cooperation project on Capacity Development for Maintaining Power Supply Facilities commenced in March 2011 for a period of three years.

The Record of Discussion was concluded with the government of Sierra Leone on November 18, 2010. Based on the RD the project is conceived as a technical cooperation targeting the National Power Authority (NPA) headquarters and facilities on the ground (power stations and substations) and having the goal of improving the capacity of NPA engineers and technicians to operate and maintain diesel generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems, and it will entail technical transfer from JICA experts, implementation of training in Japan and third country (Ghana) and the procurement of equipment necessary for the training.

A Team of consultants has held meetings with the Minister of Energy and Water Resources and Senior officials of NPA to expound on the content of the implementation plan of the project.