The Opening Ceremony for “The Third Country Training Program on Agro-business Technology for Afghanistan Officer”

As part of its support for the Government of Indonesia (GOI)’s initiatives in the South-South Cooperation as well as for the agricultural and rural development of Afghanistan, JICA will implement “the Third Country Training Program on Agro-business Technology for Afghanistan Officer” in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the Republic of Indonesia.

South-South Cooperation is actually defined as the development support provided by a more advanced developing country in a certain field to other developing country(s). As for JICA, South-South Cooperation is “mutual cooperation aimed at fostering self-sustaining development, deepening relations among developing countries while conducting technical and economic cooperation” and it is something to support positively. Meanwhile, Third Country Training Program (TCTP) is the most important scheme of the South-South Cooperation, in which a developing country hosts an international training to introduce more practical knowledge and technology to other developing country(s)’ participants.

One role of JICA in the activities implemented by GOI, as the Southeast Asia’s largest country, in the South-South Cooperation is to facilitate the utilization of the results from past technical cooperation activities between JICA and GOI in various fields, such as health/medical service, agriculture-forestry-fisheries, communication, higher education, for the benefit of other Asian and African countries. Within this Japanese fiscal year 2007, there are 12 TCTPs planned for implementation in addition to the implementation of Third Country Expert Program (TCEP), in which Indonesian agriculture experts are dispatched to Madagascar and Papua New Guinea to assist the agriculture development in the 2 countries with the funding and technical support from JICA.

As the Government of Japan (GOJ)’s support for Afghanistan has been shifting from emergency to recovery support, its assistance is based on the 3 essential pillars of: 1) peace process, 2) domestic security, and 3) reconstruction & humanitarian assistance. GOJ (including JICA)’s support for Afghanistan is now focused on rural development with the center on the field of agriculture while incorporating the Human Security concept and implementing a mid-term development assistance for human capacity building, education, medical service, water resource. This particular training program is hoped to contribute to the realization of food security and improvement of farmers’ livelihood in Afghanistan through the promotion of agri-business.

The background to this TCTP goes back to the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan held in Tokyo in January 2002, in which the delegates of GOI expressed its readiness to support for Afghanistan’s agriculture and farm village development through South-South Cooperation. With that, GOI proposed to GOJ to conduct “the Third Country Training Program on Exchange Visit for Agricultural Officials” in which 15 people from Afghanistan attended training courses in Indonesia each year from year 2003 to 2006. As the program received high evaluation from the Afghanistan’s side, the Government of Afghanistan (GOA) proposed to GOJ for a new TCTP in Indonesia.

The program is planned for 3 year implementation starting from the year 2007. This fiscal year’s training course will be held for approximately 1 month starting from November 4 with 10 participants from various GOA institutions. MOA of Republic of Indonesia will execute the training, in which the officials from both countries will be expected to discuss Indonesia’s knowledge and experience through theory and practice sessions. The course is expected to help the Afghan officials in formulating policies for the promotion of the agriculture and livestock products manufacturing industries as the key industries of farm villages in the country.
The Ceremony

1. **Date/Time**
   
   November 4, 2007 (Sun) 19:00 - 20:15

2. **Venue**
   
   Spira Meeting Room, 2nd floor, **Grand Kemang Hotel**
   Jl. Kemang Raya 2H, Kebayoran Baru

3. **Main Participants**
   
   **[Indonesian side]**
   - The Director General of the Agency for Agricultural Human Resource Dev., MOA
   - The Head of Bureau for Technical Cooperation, the State Secretariat
   
   **[Afghanistan side]**
   - H.E. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Indonesia
   
   **[Japanese side]**
   - The Resident Representative of JICA Indonesia

4. **Program**
   
   18:30-19:00 Preparation
   19:00-19:05 Invocation (by the master of ceremony)
   19:05-19:15 Reporting (by the Committee)
   19:15-19:25 Remark by JICA Indonesia (Mr. SAKAMOTO Takashi)
   19:25-19:35 Activity Report by JICA Afghanistan's local staff (Mr. Zabihullah Rahmani)
   19:35-19:45 Remark by the State Secretariat (Mr. SUPRAPTO)
   19:45-20:05 Remark by the Ambassador of Afghanistan
   20:05-20:15 Opening address by the DG of the Agency for Agricultural HRD (Dr. Ato SUPRAPTO)

5. **Reference**
   
   [Attachment 1] Course Schedule
   [Attachment 2] Training Participants

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**<For more Information>**

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