

New JICA was born on the day of October 1st, 2008

Letter from Mr. Shigeru Okamoto, the Chief Representatives

Former JICA was an implementing agency of the Government of Japan extending Technical Cooperation, expediting implementation of Grant Assistance, dispatching Volunteers, supporting activities of NGO, as well as Emergency Relief Operation.

New JICA has become responsible for implementation of most of the Grant Assistance Program. Furthermore the function of the Economic Cooperation Loan of JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) was merged with JICA.

By integrating those functions, New JICA's capacity has become comprehensive and cross-cutting, henceforth become enhancing its effectiveness and strategic approach in development cooperation with emerging economies.

In Jordan, former JBIC representative office was merged with JICA Jordan Office and all the staff of New JICA is engaged in activities in an identical premise.

We have three priority issues in supporting Jordan: firstly sustainable economic development with human resource development, such as promotion of industry and assistance in water supply, secondly the reduction of social disparities addressing issues related to reproductive health and supporting the persons with special needs as well as refugees, thirdly the enhancement of regional cooperation among Arab countries. Through this context, we have been supporting the economic and social development of Jordan and will continue cooperation from now on.

I have been appointed to the Chief Representative of JICA Jordan Office in November 2008; just one month after the New JICA was born. Jordan and Japan has been fostering friendly relationship since long time ago and the government of Japan recognizes the government of Jordan as a core player of keeping stability of Middle East region. Accordingly the role of JICA Jordan office to promote implementing Official Development Assistance to Jordan is significant.

I am very proud to take over such important position and would like to do my utmost effort to improve circumstances to vitalize supporting the economic and social development of Jordan.



*Mr. Okamoto Shigeru
Chief Representative*

Capacity Development Project for Non Revenue Water Reduction in Jordan (Phase II)

The Japanese Government has been providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Government of Jordan in order to contribute to economic and social development. JICA signed on November 26, 2008 with the Ministry of Water & Irrigation/ Water Authority of Jordan on the Record of Discussion for Capacity Development Project for non Revenue Water Reduction in Jordan (Phase II), the official commencement of the Project was on February 2009 for period of 2.5 years, a group of Japanese experts arrived in Jordan to work with WAJ counterparts.



NRW Reduction Workshop

The Project aims at reducing Non revenue Water by improving WAJ's capacity of preventive measures against NRW. JICA will provide the services of the Japanese experts in both technical and public awareness fields, procure machineries, equipment and tools necessary for the implementation of the activities of the Project. On-The-Job- Training (OJT) will be conducted for WAJ's technical staff in Jordan and Japan.

By the end of the Project, it is expected that WAJ utilities capability of water network management will be enhanced, the better quality control of service pipe and meter installation will be developed and the relationship between WAJ and the customers for reduction of NRW will be strengthened.

It is worth mentioning that JICA has been cooperating with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in the field of NRW reduction since 1999 by dispatching long & short terms Japanese experts, providing equipment and conducting training. Phase I of the “Capacity Development Project for NRW Reduction in Jordan” was implemented during the Years 2005-2008, the Project aimed at the Capacity development of WAJ in terms of designing and implementing NRW countermeasures

Strengthening Regional Cooperation

TCTP -Capacity Building in Water Resources Management for Palestinians

Water is a scarce resource in Palestine. The existing water & sanitation infrastructure in Palestine suffers from a lack of investment, coupled with inadequate level of skills in planning, designing, managing, operating and maintaining of the infrastructure to ensure its sustainability. Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967 when Israel took effective control of the Palestinian water resources, little investment has taken place in water sector infrastructure. After the Oslo II agreement of 1995, donor investment has increased, but this reduced sharply with the beginning of the Intifada in 2000.

Besides, the water sector faces a lack of training opportunities for employees within the different levels of the water service providers (WSP) and within certain staff categories. Such status, if remained, will contribute to the degradation of services and the inability to provide adequate water and waste water services to the population.

Responding to such a situation, PWA, mandated to oversee, plan and coordinate training of technical and professional staff at all levels in the water sector, undertook training needs assessment (TNA) in collaboration with GTZ.



Water Meter Maintenance Training at WAJ

The result of the TNA has shown that there is an urgent need for training in the field of Water Resource Operation & Management. Responding to the Palestinians needs, JICA, Ministry of Water and Irrigation and Palestine Water Authority signed the Record of Discussion on January 18, 2007, by which Water Authority of Jordan is conducting training courses with the support of the technical cooperation scheme of JICA. In three years; WAJ in cooperation with JICA trained 117 Palestinians Water Authority staff in various field of water management.

Wrap-up Meeting on

The Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Training Management

To support vocational training system in Jordan through HRD, JICA in cooperation with VTC has signed the Record of Discussion on “The Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Training Management of VTC” to develop the management and operation of VTC, two model centers in Aqaba and Jerash and Testing & Training Institute in Amman.



JICA-CR & VTC-DG attending the meeting

This four-year project, which was started in November, 2006, consists of dispatching Japanese experts, training Jordanian counterparts in Jordan and Japan, and provision of necessary equipment. This project is supported by other JICA's schemes of cooperation where Senior Volunteers dispatched to upgrade the managerial and administrative skills of the centers principals, on the other hand, JOCV Volunteers dispatched to upgrade the technical skills of the instructors.

The project purpose is that an efficient VTC operating model will be established to ensure that a training program is in tune with the needs of industry. The project outputs are: (1) The support system of VTC HQs is developed to spread the operating model to other training programs and other 3 training centers., (2) The model training centers and institute can plan and implement training courses that reflects the needs of local industry, (3) The model training centers and institute accumulate knowledge on the training management, and (4) VTC Headquarters, Institutes Directorate, and Regional Offices can control and monitor the model training centers and institute.

The wrap up meeting conducted on 3/2/2009 was aiming at introducing the achievements of the project. Mr. Ikeda, Team leader along with the Principals of three model centers, IT Director, Vocational sectors Director will present their achievements as well as Skill competition officers.

The Project for Energy Conservation through Upgrading Water Supply Network in Jordan

The Japanese Government has been providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Government of Jordan in order to contribute to economic and social development.

JICA, Japanese governmental agency dispatched a preparatory mission during the period from April 4 to 28, 2009. The mission will discuss with the Ministry of Water & Irrigation/ Water Authority of Jordan on the components of the above project which aims to save energy use through improvement of efficiency in lifting, conveyance and distribution system of water supply in Zarqa District and to promote water resources conservation through reduction of water losses.

This Project comes within the context of International Environment Cooperation which is one of the pillars of “Cool Earth Promotion Program” announced by the former Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2008 in January 2008 in Davos, Switzerland. This is cooperation with developing countries that are aiming to achieve both greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions reductions and economic growth and working to contribute to climate stability.

Due to climate change, the Middle East countries will suffer from decrease of rainfall and consequently from shortage of potable water. In the water supply facilities of Zarqa Governorate, the water is not lifted, conveyed and distributed efficiently because of inefficient pumps and inappropriate operation and maintenance, so a considerable amount of electricity is consumed, and the electricity cost corresponds to more than 70% of the water supply cost, excluding capital investment cost.

In August 2008, the government of Jordan made a request for Grant Aid for the Project for “Energy Conservation through Upgrading Water Supply Network” to the Government of Japan under “Japan’s Program Grant Aid for Environment and Climate Change” which was introduced as the new Grant Aid Scheme in the year 2008 as part of its assistance for measures to Climate Change.

Within this context, it is worth mentioning that JICA conducted a master plan study on “Improvement of the Water Supply System for Zarqa District” in 1994-1996. Based on the recommendation of this study, Japan has been implementing the grant aid project for “Improvement of Water Supply for Zarqa District” in two phases. Phase I (2002-2003), with a total amount of JD 12 million, and Phase II (2006-2009) with a total amount of JD 17 million. The project aims to support the reconstruction of the water supply system in Zarqa district by installation of water district distribution zones.

JICA’s SEED to Hold Final Joint Coordination Committee Meeting

The Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Training Management

On February 22nd, 2009, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)’s Science Education Enhancement and Development (SEED) Project held a final Joint Coordination Committee Meeting in Amman to celebrate the achievements made by the project and discuss future activities to be undertaken by the Ministry of Education as they prepare to take over the project after JICA support concludes at the end of this month. Participants of the meeting will include the Minister of Education Dr. Tyseer Alnoaimi, General Secretary Dr. Fawaz Jaradat, General Manager of the QRC Dr. Mohamad Majali, JICA Jordan Office Chief Representative Mr. Shigeru Okamoto, SEED Project Japanese experts, and 40 other project stakeholders.

The three-year project began in March 2006 with the overall goal of training teachers in effectively utilizing ICT in science education. In order to accomplish this, the project focused on strengthening the



Model Lesson

capacity of the QRC (Queen Rania Center for Educational Technology) and the 4 pilot LRCs (Learning Resource Centers) of Amman, Salt, Karak, and Irbid, as training centers.

Through monitoring conducted during the training of teacher and supervisor of science and math subjects, it was observed that there was a significant difference in teaching styles as the participants learned how to use student-centered instead of the traditional lecture-based teaching methods, and they have improved their skills in effectively utilizing ICT such as experiment videos, digital simulations, and Power Point presentations in their lessons. Furthermore, surveys conducted after both trainings have found that the satisfaction level of participants towards the training has been high.

Aside from the training, the project has also been working on developing a science portal which will be used to share SEED training materials and e-Contents and hold discussion forums and supporting the QRC in the establishment of a “Teacher’s Community” in Field Directorates which will conduct school-based trainings to all the teachers in the Field Directorate through a cluster-style teacher training system. The project hopes the experiences and lessons learned from this pilot program will be beneficial for the MOE and other donors in the future.

Japanese Language Speech Contest – University of Jordan

Out of the desire to identify the Japanese culture and the prospects of development and knowing the motives of the high achievements of Japan in the global economy, and to visit this country, were the reasons of the students that they studied the Japanese Language.



Under the patronage of His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, Tetsuo Shioguchi Sponsored the ceremony of distribution certificates to the Japanese language students, which exceeds More than 50 Students from the University of Jordan, as an elective courses offered by Department of Languages at the University or through courses provided by JICA in its office in Amman.

The first winner in the Haiku Session was Ms. Rawand SAMARA and the second was Ms. Fouz HABJOKA.

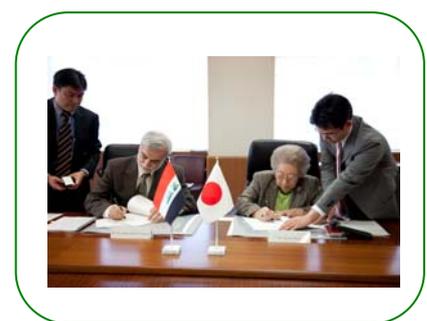
The first winner in the Speech Session Ms. Rua SAMARA and the second was Ms. Yasmeen HIJAWA.

JICA Signs Two ODA Loans Agreement with Iraq

With the aim of providing continuous support to the reconstruction process in Iraq. On March 17, JICA President Madam Sadako Ogata signed two agreements with the Government of Iraq to provide Japanese ODA loans up to 36.4 billion yen, including 10 Japanese ODA loans from JICA in the past; this brings the total figure to 277 billion yen to support rehabilitation in Iraq.

The First project is Water Supply Improvement Project in Kurdistan Region, which will provide new water intake and water treatment facilities in addition to expanding the current ones and improve water distribution equipment. The cities targeted for this project are halabja and Sulaimaniya cities in Sulaimaniya Governorate, Erbil in Erbil Governorate and Dahuk in Dahuk governorate.

Other project is the Baghdad Sewerage Facilities Improvement Project, targeting the Karkh district of Baghdad. By expanding the wastewater facilities, replacing the aging pumps and providing other improvements, the project will improve the quality of water in the Tigris river and alleviate flooding, improving the sanitation of Baghdad.



JICA President Madam Sadako Ogata signing the agreement with former Iraqi Ambassador to Japan