

## *President Ogata's Visit to Jordan*



His Majesty King Abdullah  
& President Ogata

Reflecting the important role that Jordan plays in the region, President Sadako Ogata during her visit to the region, was keen to visit the Kingdom, where she started her 2-day visit to the Kingdom that stretched from 7<sup>th</sup> till the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 with a visit to His Majesty King Abdullah II and discussed with him bilateral relations between JICA and Jordan, especially after the merger between JBIC and JICA and the wider span of assistance that JICA might extend to Jordan. From his side, His Majesty King Abdullah II valued the support extended by JICA to help implement developmental and economic projects in the Kingdom, despite the international economic downturn.

During the two days visit to the Kingdom, President Ogata also visited the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, where they discussed bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting that was also attended by Japanese Ambassador to Jordan H.E. Tetsuo Shioyuchi, Al-Ali expressed appreciation to the Japanese side for their continued support to Jordan, thanking JICA for its technical assistance programs. The Minister also expressed appreciation for two grants provided to Jordan earlier this year amounting to \$33.4 million, of which \$18.7 million was extended to support the balance of payments, and \$14.7 million to finance the Queen Alia Airport security project. President Ogata concluded her visit to the Kingdom by a visit to Hitteen Camp for Palestinian Refugees, where she was briefed on JICA's ongoing project (Project for Improvement of Livelihood of Palestinian Refugees) in four of the refugee camps in Jordan that are included under this project.

## *Preparatory Survey On The Project for Rehabilitation & Expansion of the Water Facilities in Southern Governorates of Tafeileh & Ma'an*

In response to the request from the Government of Jordan, JICA dispatched a Preparatory Survey Team during the period from October 10 to November 5, 2009. The Team conducted several field visits to the Project site at Tafeileh & Ma'an, and held discussions with the officials concerned of the Ministry of Water & Irrigation and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

In the course of discussions and field visits, the priorities and components of the project were identified. The project focuses on the areas; Bsaira, Gharandal and Qhadesiyeh at Tafeileh Governorates and Hussiniyyeh, Ashari, Abu Dneeh, and Ma'an city at Ma'an Governorates.

It's worth mentioning that the objective of the project is to ensure stable and safe potable water supplying the target areas by improving water supply system through rehabilitating and expanding water supply facilities such as Reservoirs, Distribution & Transmission Pipes, Pumping Stations, Valves and other relevant fittings.

As a result of this survey, if the Project is found feasible, JICA will conduct further survey for the outline design on April 2010.



Site visit to Tafeileh;  
Gharandal Reservoir

## *Cooperation between the Vocational Training Corporation & Japan International Cooperation Agency*



H.E. Majed Habashneh  
D.G – VTC

One of the priorities of the Government of Jordan is the human resources and developing skills in the technical areas within the framework of its economic policy. The Vocational Training Corporation is a key institution leading in the provision of training and is responsible for (46) training centers and institutes in Jordan. In order for Vocational

Training Corporation (VTC) to enrich and develop its performance, it started since the early nineties of the last century to cooperate with Japan International Cooperation Agency, where JICA has thankfully been active in the following areas:

1. Dispatch many employees of the VTC to receive training courses in Japan in technical and administrative fields.
2. Many senior and junior Japanese volunteers were dispatched to the VTC to exchange experiences with their counterparts working at the VTC.
3. JICA has contributed to the establishment of the Specialized Institute for Metal Industries (STIMI) during 1997 and for a period of 5 years. JICA has provided experts, equipments, modern techniques and training to STIMI staff in Japan, to enable them to use these equipments and modern technology in their daily work. STIMI conducts training courses for participants from neighboring Arab Countries.
4. Currently JICA supports "Strengthening the Capacity of Training Management of VTC, which began in 2006 up to 2010, this project aims to manage and operate the VTC and its centers and institutes in accordance with the mechanism for operating the pilot centers and seeks to ensure the identification of training needs and the implementation and evaluation of training programs according to the needs of employers. Work also includes implementing the "Teaching Material contest" and the "Skill Competition" programs.

### **Cooperation between the VTC and the JICA has positive impact**

It contributes to reducing unemployment by providing training and employment opportunities for it's graduates to meet the needs of the labor market; staff development and opportunities for professional growth; develop standards of performance in the workplace; to contribute to promoting the transfer of advanced technology to the Jordanian labor market; to strengthen the relationship between the Vocational Training Corporation, and the private sector, and to support employment; to strengthen the relationship and communication with relevant bodies to take advantage of the possibilities and facilities available in the centers and institutes of the VTC and in particular (universities, community colleges, and the private sector).

## *Third Country Training Program For Electric Sector for the Republic of Yemen*

Nineteen participants from the Public Electricity Corporation of Yemen arrived in Jordan in October, 2009 to receive training that was conducted by the National Electric Power Co. (NEPCO) Electric Training Center. NEPCO and JICA agreed to implement four training programs in the fields of; TIG welding, Transmission Network Protection, Power Cable Jointing and Diesel Power Plant Maintenance. These training programs which will last for six weeks are among the fields that continuously need developing and capacity building for the staff who are working in these fields in order to cope with the quick development in electric power industry.



TIG Welding Training at  
ETC

These programs are designed to provide participants with necessary theoretical information and practical skills related to the training subjects, aiming to enhance the capacities of construction, operation and maintenance in the electric sector of Yemen. It's worth mentioning that this 5<sup>th</sup> batch of trainees comes as part of a 5-year training program started in 2005 by which 97 engineers and technicians received training.

## ***The Second Phase of the Project for Improvement of Livelihood of Palestinian Refugees***

Upon the request of the Jordanian government represented by the Department of Palestinian Affairs (DPA), and due to the popularity and the large number of those who benefited from the first phase of the Project for Improvement of Livelihood of Palestinian Refugees, the Japanese government represented by JICA decided to extend the second phase of the project, where the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 marked the day where both sides signed the project's agreement. The project shall last for three years.



Self-employment Training on  
Mosaic Making

The extension of the project recognizes two major issues; (1) the fact that Jordan hosts the largest portion of the Palestinian refugees in the world, and (2) the fact that poverty and unemployment are overwhelming in refugee camps. Upon these two facts and many others, the project comes as a ray of hope for Palestinian refugees especially for women by improving their living conditions through offering them two kinds of training and follow-up programs. The first training program is the Wage Employment Training Programs, where trainees are trained on certain areas and then supported by helping them to find appropriate job opportunities at nearby factories or hotels.

The second training program is the Self Employment Training Program, where trainees are trained on different areas such as rabbit breeding, bee keeping, perfume making, cleaning detergents making, mushroom production and mosaic making. JICA provides some incentives for women trainees by providing some needed start-up raw materials and/or equipments given those trainees keep constant and actual adoption to the program which is proven through constant follow-ups with trainees over periods that might reach to one year or more.

JICA and as part of the project provides other services such as training the national partner staff at the DPA and the service committees of the included refugee camps, campaigns aiming to change the stereotyping attitude towards women's employment, and some related socioeconomic studies. The second phase of this project includes four refugee camps; Baqa'a Camp, Irbid Camp, Hitteen Camp and Souf Camp.

Reflecting the importance of the project, President Ogata has visited Hitteen Camp during her short visit to Jordan in early October 2009, where she was briefed on the nature and services provided through the project, and then concluded her visit by a visit to one of the ex-trainees' houses, where she viewed the success achieved from the project right from the mouth of the end beneficiary.

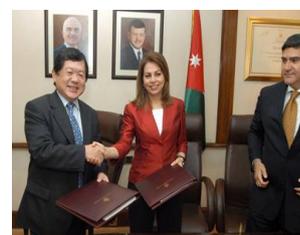
## ***Project for Improvement of Airport Security Equipment at Queen Alia International Airport in Jordan***

To correspond with the ongoing expansion project at Queen Alia International Airport, and to support Jordan's efforts aiming to boost its security measures at its main airports, the government of Japan through JICA has decided to extend a grant aid project (Project for Improvement of Airport Security Equipment at Queen Alia International Airport in Jordan) amounting US \$ 14.7 million.

The agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between the two governments on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009, with the presence of H.E Mr. Tetsuo Shioguchi – Japanese Ambassador in Amman, H.E Ms. Suhair Al-Ali – Jordanian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, H.E Eng. Sah'1 Al-Majali – Jordanian Minister of Transport, and Mr. Okamoto Shigeru – Chief Representative of JICA Jordan Office.

The project entails installation of highly advanced security detection equipments such as explosive detection tomography systems, large-size X-ray

inspection systems and hand-held metal detection systems for both cargo and passengers gates. This grant aid project comes under the sub-scheme of Japan's "Grant aid for cooperation on counter-terrorism and security enhancement". It is also a reflection for the exceptional bilateral relations between Jordan and Japan. The equipments under this grant aid project are expected to be installed by early 2010.



Japanese Ambassador & the  
Planning Minister

## ***Institutional Capacity Building & Technical Skill Improvement on Electricity***

Due to the economic sanctions, electricity sector in Iraq had long been neglected without proper maintenance. In addition, the previous war caused severe shortage of electricity production and distribution due to destruction and looting.

In order to reduce shortage of electricity supply and improve generation and distribution system in Iraq, JICA has started this course in cooperation with the National Electric Power CO. (NEPCO) in 2004.

This is the 6th year of the course and more than 400 participants completed this training and they are making effort to stabilize electricity distribution in Iraq day and night.

This course consists of 2 sub courses;

1. Power Loss Reduction in Transmission and Distribution Networks
2. Financial Analysis, Planning and Project Management

JICA has invited 30 Iraqi engineers for each course (total 60) and conducted training between October 4th and 22nd.

The overall goal of this course is to improve the governance of the Ministry of Electricity of Iraq, in order to facilitate rehabilitation of power facilities and reduce power loss in transmission and distribution networks which was neglected, destructed and looted during the war.

JICA also dispatched 2 Japanese experts, Mr. Michihiro MORITA for Power Loss Reduction and Mr. Hiroaki MOTOKI for Electric Power Demand Forecast from Japan Electric Power Information Center (JEPIC) to conduct lectures for the trainees.

JICA is expecting that this training will not only improve knowledge and skills of participants but also consequently accelerate the upcoming yen-loan projects to this sector in Iraq; Taji Gas Turbine Rehabilitation, Mosul Gas Turbine Rehabilitation, Mosul Hydro Power Plant Rehabilitation, (Muthanna) Samawah Power Plant Construction, Al-Mussaib Thermal Power Plant Rehabilitation, Deralok Hydro Power Plant Construction, Al-Akkaz Thermal Power Plant Construction, and Nationwide Rehabilitation of Substations including Kurdistan Region Government.



Participants, training at NEPCO

## ***JICA Pledges Three Yen Loan Projects to Iraq***



President Ogata with Prime Minister Nouri Al-Malki

JICA has pledged three new yen loan projects making the total of the funded Projects through the Japanese ODA to the Republic of Iraq fifteen projects. The three new projects include Deralok Hydro Power Plant Construction Project in Kurdistan Region Government, Water Supply Improvement in Midwestern Iraq and Al-Akkaz Gas Power Plant Construction Project. It is worth mentioning that the official pledging of the three projects was made upon an official visit by Mrs. Ogata to Iraq on October 11 during a meeting with Prime Minister Nouri Al Malki.

Meanwhile, a support procurement seminar was held in Amman at the beginning of October for two new projects; Al-Akkaz Gas Power Plant and Water Supply Improvement Project, the seminar was attended by the Project Management Team of both projects, and it aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding on the ODA yen loan guidelines and documents preparation needed for the coming phase as to secure a smooth implementation for both projects.