

Japanese Garden in Abdoun

As work is ongoing to finish the Japanese Garden in Abdoun, Engineer Omar Al-Maani – Mayor of Amman, attended a presentation on the stages of completion of the Japanese Garden undertaken currently by Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) in Abdoun in collaboration with the Japanese Embassy, the Ikebana Club, JICA and some other entities.

During the presentation that was presented by Mr. Nebal Qattan – Director of Parks Department at GAM, and by Mr. Fukuda (Designer of the Garden), Al-Maani assured his municipality's concern in increasing the green areas in the capital, and to utilize the urban spaces through the construction of gardens and parks, where total number of parks in Amman reached to 133. He also underlined the importance of the cooperation of the community in maintaining the park after its establishment and to ensure its sustainability.



Construction work at garden site



Presentation on work progress

Qattan said that the Japanese garden which has an area of 3 donums, is expected to be completed during the next two months, and will enrich the cultural diversity in the city and will provide an opportunity to view different cultures, as well as providing a unique aesthetic view through its pattern of design.

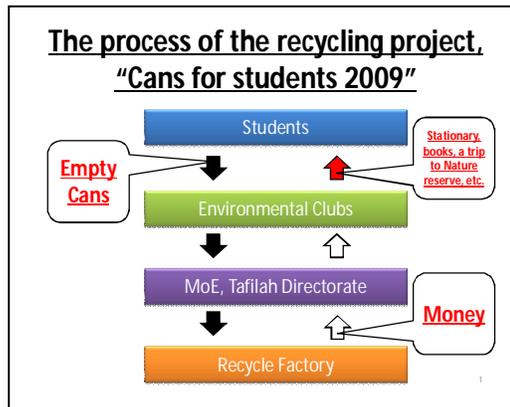
Mr. Fukuda reviewed the work progress in the garden, pointing out that the design was made according to the traditional style of the Japanese garden that combines several elements such as water, rock, plants and the bridge. He pointed out that Japanese gardens won first place in the world for its beauty and elegance.

He referred to the orchards, which are dealt in Japan by traditional methods, where these methods are following a special art that goes back to ancient times. He said that these gardens can be found in Japan in some traditional Japanese houses, in public gardens, in temples, and in some of the old palaces. He added that some elements of the garden were brought from Japan, while some rocks were brought from the Dead Sea area, Mafraq, and Petra, and were prepared and arranged to be in line with the Japanese traditional style of a garden. A special area within the garden was allocated for preparing the Japanese tea, where this area (lookout) is higher than the rest of the garden and has corridors, waterfall and river slope.

The presentation that was attended by members from the Ikebana Club, a representative to deputize the Japanese Ambassador, JICA representatives and different GAM officials included a documentary movie on Japanese gardens.

Directorate of Education at Tafilah Implement Waste Recycling Project "Cans for Student"

Directorate of Education at Al-Tafilah is implementing a waste recycling project through its schools and students under the supervision of Japanese volunteer Mr. Hideaki Takemura of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.



Schematic diagram of project cycle

The project aims to improve the level of hygiene in schools and the surrounding areas and to develop a waste recycling system, as well as promoting the budgets of environmental clubs in schools. Eleven schools joined the Project and collected 105.6 kg of empty cans. The metals were sold to recycling factory with a value of JD 70. The revenue was distributed for supporting the participated environmental clubs at the schools.

The students collecting the cans



"Cans for Student" will be continuous activity to raise the environmental awareness at Directorate of Education at Al-Tafilah.

Young Leaders Training Program

Technical cooperation as part of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), has been extended to Jordan by JICA, in order to contribute to economic and social development.

In October 2004, JICA Jordan Office and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation have signed the Minutes of Meetings on Youth Invitation Program (currently called Young Leaders). So far five training programs in the field of ICT, Environment, Social Welfare, Vocational Training and SME's Promotion have been conducted in Japan.

This year, the sixth Training Program for Young Leaders for "Local Governance" will be held in Japan aiming at developing knowledge and skills of young leaders in local governance and contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship.

Fifteen young leaders from Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Municipal Affairs will receive training in Japan from January 19 to February 6, 2010.

This training course will equip the participants with necessary knowledge in the field of local governance enabling them to support the on-going decentralization process in the Kingdom through exposure to the Japanese experience.

Persons with Disabilities Conduct Cleaning Campaign in Karak

A Japanese volunteer, Ms. Miho Katayama, who is dispatched to the Karak Center for Rehabilitation and Welfare as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, initiated to hold a cleaning campaign at the Karak Castle on Monday 21/12/2009. Persons with disabilities from the Karak Center for Rehabilitation and Welfare and some of concerned people together cleaned the Karak castle and its surrounding area.

The campaign "I love clean Karak" was attended by 20 students from the center, in addition to the staff of the center and a group of Japanese volunteers.

JOCV Katayama has started cleaning activity around the Karak Center for Rehabilitation and Welfare with its students on regular basis and she found that the activity has a positive impact on the students. When local people and tourists witnessed students with disabilities cleaning the area at the cleaning campaign, she hopes that they would

be aware of importance to include persons with disabilities to communities and society.

Tossing garbage is common practice in Jordan, which causes unsafe environment for tourists. Since Karak is one of the growing touristic sites in Jordan with more than 120,000 tourists per year, she hopes that local residents would be more aware of cleaning the area, to attract tourists.



Participants in the campaign

It is worthy to mention that JICA has dispatched more than 500 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers who have worked closely with Jordanian people in several fields, including support for persons with disabilities. Moreover, Karak is one of the sites where Japan has extended cooperation to the Government of Jordan through the Tourism Sector Development Project, including upgrading the Karak Archaeological Museum and trails in the castle, and technical assistance for the museum in implementing activities for locals.



People with disability during the cleaning campaign

Capacity Building in Water Resources Management for Palestinians

On December 28, 2009, JICA, Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) signed the Record of Discussions with respect to the framework of training courses in the field of "Water Resources Management for Palestinians" aiming at improving water supply system and sewage technology in Palestine.

As a continuation of the past training conducted by WAJ during the years 2006 to 2008, this training will be held three times a year from the year 2009 to 2011, subject to annual consultation between both parties. It was planned to conduct three training courses during year 2009, as follows:

- 1- Non-Revenue Water Management / On Job Training
- 2- GIS Application in Water Resources Management
- 3- Water Meter Maintenance

It is worth mentioning that JICA has an extensive history of human resources development for Palestinians in different sectors, such as medical equipment, judicial and legal, testing and calibration, agriculture, water, finance and administration, by which 450 Palestinians have been successfully trained in Jordan.

ODA Seminar Held in Japan

With the aim of accelerating the implementation of the on going yen loan projects and the future ones in Iraq JICA organized an ODA seminar in Japan from Dec. 7-18, 09.

Fifteen participants, most of them are project directors or members in the project management units representing various ministries handling the Yen Loan projects participated in this seminar, in addition to two staff from JICA Jordan and Iraq office. The basic objectives of this Seminar were to improve project management capacity and to enhance project monitoring capacity. Accordingly, in order to realize these objectives intensive discussions, exercises and field visits were concluded.



Participants in ODA seminar

The result of this seminar was fruitful since it helped in clarifying lots of issues, whether in relation to the procurement or disbursement procedures. Also it pointed out the importance of having an effective reporting and a proper organizational set up inside each of the project management units.

Follow-up Mission on the Second Human Resources Development Sector Investment Project

In the period from 30th January to 5th February 2010, the first follow-up mission on the “Second Human Resources Development Sector Investment Project– HRDSIL-II” was dispatched into the Kingdom. The mission was mainly to conduct meetings with officials and focal points at stakeholder entities, and to conduct visits to some of the beneficiary schools, centers and community colleges, to measure the impact of the project on end users, and also to detect the adoption of the different involved Jordanian executing agencies to the recommendations and issues raised by JICA's last ex-post evaluation report on the project that was produced in late December 2008.

The HRDSIL-II is one of the loan projects that were presented by former JBIC to the government of Jordan. The loan agreement of the project was signed in July 1997, and the project lasted for 10 years. The loan amount is 7,123 million Yen, and the last disbursement was made in 2005.

The project has a multidimensional importance, where the range of stakeholders (executing agencies) was not limited to only one ministry or entity, but instead included the National Center for Human Resources Development (NCHRD), the Ministry of Education, the Vocational Training Center (VTC), the Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, and Balqa Applied University (BAU). Due to the number of executing agents, the



The trainees in the Kitchen Laboratory

beneficiary entities were large, and included 66 comprehensive schools, 5 vocational training centers, and 10 community colleges. The project recognized diversity in terms of gender (schools, centers and community colleges that benefited from the project included males and females), it also included wide span of geographic coverage where beneficiary facilities were distributed all over the Kingdom.

Since the project benefited schools, centers and community colleges, ages of students benefiting from the project varied from 6 years old students to 20 years old community college students, and this is another reason for the importance of the project.

The importance of the project comes also from the fact that it included construction and expansion work, as well as provision of equipments and furniture.

As an overall, the HRDSIL-II had three components; (1) evolution of qualitative effectiveness of reform, (2) institutional reform, and (3) maintenance and improvement of facilities and equipments to support the teaching and learning process.

Extension of this project came basically to recognize Jordan's 10-year Education Reform Program that was launched in 1989. Through the ex-post evaluation studies that were conducted on the project in previous years, it was concluded that the project has so far achieved its objectives of expanding education opportunity (including basic, secondary and vocational education). It was also concluded that the project has successfully managed to achieve some of the objectives of the education reform program such as improvement of teachers' quality and treatment, and promotion of decentralization in school administration. The project also aims to improve the quality of services provided to students at schools, vocational centers and community colleges across the Kingdom.