

## *Opening Ceremony for Improvement of the Water Supply for the Zarqa District Project*

Japan and Jordan held an opening ceremony for the "Project for Improvement of Water Supply for Zarqa District (phase II) " at Batrawi Service Reservoir site in Zarqa on April 21, 2010. The ceremony was held under the patronage of His Excellency Eng. Mohammad Al Najjar Minister of Water and irrigation, represented by H.E Eng. Mousa Jama'ani, Secretary General of Jordan Valley Authority and attended by His Excellency Mr. Tetsuo Shiguchi Ambassador of Japan to Jordan, Mr. Shigeru Okamoto Chief Representative of JICA office in Jordan, officials from the Government of Jordan and representatives from Japanese consultant and construction companies.



Ambassador of Japan & S.G. of  
JVA at the Project Site

The Grant Aid project which is a part of (phase II) , is worth Nine Million One Hundred and Seventy Thousands Jordanian Dinars (9,170,000) and aims at improving water supply conditions in the Zarqa district by renovating the existing pipes, renewing pump stations, and enhancing the capacity of reservoirs, as a result, actual water availability will be increased from 84 litter per day per person to 113 litters through reduction in the leakage amount from 31% to 25%. The total amount of the entire project (phase II) is about Eighteen Million Two Hundred and Forty Thousands Jordanian Dinars (18,240,000).

(Phase I) of the Project started in year 2002 targeting the areas of east Zarqa city and Ruseifa Municipality, which cost Thirteen Million and Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Jordanian Dinars (13,240,000).

Japan has extended financial and technical assistance in the field of developing water resources and reducing Non-revenue water. This assistance has been made through Japan's firm recognition that stable and continuous water supply is imperative to the development of industrial, agricultural, social and other fields.



14000m<sup>3</sup> Batrawi Water  
reservoirs

## *JICA Volunteers Escort People with Disability to Run in Dead Sea Marathon Race*

18 students of Karak Center for Rehabilitation and Welfare including 3 female students participated on April 9, 2010 in 10km Race in Dead Sea Marathon. 16 JICA Volunteers, 4 staff of Karak Center and 3 Muta University students were escorting them and run together.

Ren Kamioka, JICA Volunteer, who is dispatched to the Karak Center for Rehabilitation and Welfare, planned this activity with 3 other JICA Volunteers in the same center to appeal the importance to include persons with disabilities to communities and society.

Manshiyeh Club, Alameer Firas Sports Association and the Society for Care of Neurological Patients also support this activity of JICA Volunteers.



Participants at marathon  
race

## *Japan Provides Grant to Jordan on "Energy Conservation through Upgrading Water Supply Network in Jordan"*

The Government of Japan has decided to extend to the Government of Jordan a grant approximately eight million nine hundred Jordan dinar (JD 8,900,000), under "Japan's Program Grant Aid for Environment and Climate Change" which was introduced as a new grant aid scheme as part of its assistance for measures to climate change.

The Exchange of Notes of the Programme was signed between His Excellency Dr. Jafar Hassan, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and His Excellency Mr. Tetsuo Shioguchi, Ambassador of Japan in Amman on February 28. At the same time, the Minister and Mr. Shigeru Okamoto, Chief Representative of JICA, signed the Grant Agreement for implementing the Programme.



Min. of Plan., Min. of Env.,  
Japanese Amb. and JICA chief  
Rep. at Signing Ceremony

The Programme for Energy Conservation through Upgrading Water Supply Network in Jordan aims at improvement in the efficiency of water transmission and reduction in consumption of electric energy through replacement of major pumping facilities for water transmission and procurement of water transmission pipes and valves at Zarqa Governorate. Synergy with past grant-aid project is also expected from this assistance. Thus, this Program will contribute not only to reduction in CO2 emission through reduction in energy consumption, but also to stabilization of water supply in Zarqa District.

The Government of Japan, in cooperation with JICA has provided Jordan with approximately a total amount of Three billion US dollars as official development assistance (ODA) in a lot of fields such as water, environment, health, education, vocational training and regional cooperation, since the Japanese Embassy in Jordan was established in 1974.

## *Integrating Health and Empowerment of Women in South Region*

The project on "*Integrating Health and Empowerment of Women in the South Region*" aims at improving the reproductive health and the services at the Village Health Center under the Ministry of Health at the south region, in addition to raising the awareness in the reproductive health issues.

The third phase of the project which started in 2006 and it will finish in 2011 focusing on the importance of access to the Jordanian woman wherever she is. To achieve this goal the Ministry of Health assigned (55) Health Worker from remote areas within the project activities in order to provide the services and counseling to the women at those areas through home visits.



Discussions among participants



Home visits

The head of Family Planning Department at the Ministry; Dr. Khawla Kawa'a pointed to the home visits which aims to increase knowledge and awareness among women who are in the childbearing age and to identify the health status of her family and provide health education and counseling regarding the healthy behaviors, reproductive health and family planning.

A press tour was organized on Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> and it continued until Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 which includes explanation from the health directorate directors; Ma'an, Aqaba, Tafileh and Karak about the project achievements and the challenges focusing on family planning and birth control differs, and how the planning is good for the women health to have healthy social economic life.

## JICA's Energy Efficiency Expert in Jordan (March – June 2010)

The importance of the Energy Efficiency does not only come from the fact that it provides economic solutions at the household, project, business, entity or the whole nation level, but also due to its positive effects on the environment contributing in combating climate change and reducing pollution as "less consumed energy means less burning of energy resources and thus less green house gases generated".

Realizing all these facts, and upon the request of the Government of Jordan/Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, JICA has decided to dispatch a special expert on Energy Efficiency to Jordan to help the Jordanian side formulate and materialize some Energy Efficiency bylaws, regulations and a set of suggested incentive schemes to deal and govern energy efficiency and energy efficiency initiatives and projects especially that Japan is one of the pioneering countries in its Energy Efficiency regulations and applications that contributed over decades on commitment to lowering energy consumption significantly.



The Expert Mr. Yumoto & Mr. Muaweyah Al-Faydhi  
Energy Efficiency  
Advisory Office Manager

In addition to helping the Jordanian side in formulating and materializing their energy efficiency action plan and policies, Mr. Yumoto will also prepare a list of suggested programmes and projects that JICA may support in the future within Energy Efficiency.

Mr. Yumoto's mission is divided into two phases in which the first phase includes identifying the general current situation of energy efficiency in Jordan as well as meeting the energy efficiency main stakeholders in Jordan such as the ministry of energy and mineral resources, the national energy research center, electricity regulatory commission, national electric power company, the three distribution companies, different donor agencies, some private sector and energy service companies.

The second phase of the mission lasts for almost two months, in which further follow-ups and meetings will take place especially regarding the funding mechanisms to the energy efficiency projects in Jordan specially through local banks.

However, in addition to the support and cooperation from all stakeholders, what paves the way for the smoothness and successfulness of Mr. Yumoto's mission in Jordan is the fact that Jordan has recently issued and approved the new Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Law, and has established the Jordan Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Fund (J-REEEF), in which the latter is expected to play the role of a financing arm for renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives and projects in Jordan. Together with other donors, Mr. Yumoto is contributing positively in the J-REEEF and in formulating Jordan's Energy Efficiency bylaws. He will also help the Jordanian side in drafting and materializing an overall energy efficiency awareness programme/framework.

## Rehabilitation and Expansion of Water Facilities in Tafieleh and Maan

On April 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 JICA and Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) signed on the Minutes of Discussions on **"The Project for Rehabilitation and Expansion of Water Facilities in Southern Governorates of Tafieleh and Maan"**.

The Preparatory Survey Team dispatched by JICA will proceed to further studies in the Project sites until July 15, 2010. The draft final report will be prepared and the contents will be explained to WAJ by October 2010.



Existing pumping station at Tafieleh



Existing water reservoir at Ma'an

The Project which consists of the construction of water reservoirs, transmission and distribution pipes, pumping station and other related facilities, is aiming to ensure stable and safe potable water supply in the target areas.

The concept of the Project is to establish efficient water supply by separation of transmission from distribution system, gravity distribution from service reservoir, and optimization of energy use in the system, especially for pumping facilities.

## *JICA (JOCV) and FOEME Cooperation*

### *Sharhabil bin Hassneh EcoPark*

Short term volunteers supported by JICA and the JOVC program came and participated in two programs with EcoPeace/Friend of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), one in the summer of 2009 and one in the winter of 2010. While working with FoEME, the objective of the JOVC volunteers was to help with testing and determining the permeability of the soil in the Sharhabil bin Hassneh EcoPark. The work of the short term volunteers was additionally assisted by two longer term JOVC members who have been with FoEME for the past two years.



JOCV who are assisting  
in the Eco Park

The outcome of FoEME's partnership with the JOVC program will be two maps that identify soil permeability and other important characteristics of the soil in the EcoPark. This is an important step in the development of the Eco Park as it will help FoEME to advance the management, development, and rehabilitation of the Eco Park.

FoEME is a unique organization headquartered in Amman, One of FoEME's main projects is the Sharhabil bin Hassneh Eco Park, located in the northern part of the Jordan Valley in the Tabet Fahel (Pella) community. Prior to FoEME acquiring the land of the Eco Park in 2005, the land was suffering from overgrazing, lack of irrigation, and erosion. Efforts have now been made to rehabilitate and develop the Eco Park is an extension of FoEME's "Neighbors Paths" project which seeks to provide healthy and sustainable open spaces for local communities.

FoEME Also have two JOCVs assisting in the Eco Park. Mr. Masashi KUMAMOTO is surveying the plants of the Eco Park. Mr. KUMAMOTO was able to survey 203 plants. The outcome of his work was published in the master plan of the Eco Park and will soon appear in the Sharhabil bin Hassneh plant guidebook. Mr. Yoichi HAMATSU is investigating the soil characteristic of the Eco Park in order to be able to reduce the runoff and help improve ground water recharge.

## *Observations and Impression of New Comer to JICA Jordan*

*By: Iyas Salim*

For any new visitor to Amman, the first impression is how fast things change here in Jordan. The capital seems to expand endlessly into the surrounding hills and mountains. New neighborhoods and business have already become regular features despite its suddenness in a city growing fast. To mix that with a city spirit, the streets names take you into the wide realm of geography, history and culture. Al Mutanabi Street, just off the fourth circle, is named after one prominent Arab poet in the eleventh century. In Shmessani and Jabal Al Hussein, places are named after Moroccan, Andalusia and Egyptian cities and historical figures. With a conscious, inquisitive effort, a stroll down in one of these areas would reveal much knowledge. In a way, this reflects the true character of Amman known in the region for a thriving culture and ambition. A city, for one thing, has already established itself as regional capital for medical tourism.

It is a special opportunity for me personally to join JICA Jordan Office. In a working environment like in JICA Office, work simply reaches beyond the performance of a job, but rather the value of experiencing a mix of two cultures and the opportunity to build friendships, to know each and learn and share experiences. I truly feel honored to be a member of a team that is placed and entrusted to represent practical and great relations between peoples and cultures.