

Capacity Building in Water Recourse Management for Palestinians

By: Eng. Hani Kurdi



Minister of Water and Chief Rep. of JICA at opening ceremony

JICA, Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) held an opening ceremony for Phase II of training on Water Resources Management for Palestinians. The ceremony was held under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Shaddad AL Attili, Minister of Water in Palestinian Authority, Mr. Shigeru Okamoto, Chief Representative of JICA Jordan Office, and officials from WAJ. The Phase II of the training started in year 2009 and will end by 2011, and during this year three training courses will be conducted, ten participants for each. The training will contribute to enhance the capacity of Resources in the fields of ***“Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Treatment Plants”***, ***“Sampling and Testing of Wastewater”*** and ***“Electromechanical Maintenance of Water Pumps”***.

It's worth mentioning that in Phase I of the training which was completed in 2008, more than 160 Palestinians Engineers and Technicians received training in varies fields of water supply management. This training is conducted in cost sharing basis and comes as a result of Japanese Government support for the Palestinian Authority in the field of Human Resources Development.

Faculty for Factory National Program (FFF)

By: Dr. yousef Al-Abdullat (University of Jordan)

Faculty for factory program was created and launched in 2003 from the University of Jordan as a concept aimed to strengthen the role of applied scientific research carried out by academic institutions in cooperation with industry sector to serve the national economy, support the technological component in our pursuit of industrial development and enhance competitiveness. The program has now turned from its small house to become a national program and effective tool to link industrial companies to academic institutions.

Several organizations have contributed in supporting and assisting the program's continuity and progress by providing the facilities and opportunities for participants to apply their applied scientific theories academically draw conclusions which strengthen the local industrial capabilities and upgrading towards improvement. One of the leading players is (JICA) which is found to benefit from the Japanese experience and apply it locally by expert volunteers working as consultants in various fields such as management, quality, production, KAIZEN, materials science design and other diverse areas.

The Japanese experts have joined the University of Jordan in 2003 at the outreach consultation unit as advisors and trainers also they brought their scientific and practical know how to many factories and companies in addition to holding sessions and workshops for industry sector, as well as university students and familiarize them with the experience of Japan and regulations liability and apply it in Jordan. We directly felt the positive impact, effective solutions and improvement during their presence in the national program, which were reflected practically on all aspects resulting in achieving many success stories.



Dr. yousef Al-Abdullat

Third Country Training Program for Iraq's Electricity Sector

By: Rabah Al- Shanti

As Iraq's electricity sector is the backbone for the ongoing reconstruction process and development of Iraq's different sectors, JICA realized this reality and therefore decided to support this sector through ODA loan projects, as well as technical assistance and capacity building for those working in this sector in both federal Ministry of Electricity and its affiliated directorates and power plants, and in the Ministry of Electricity in the Kurdistan Regional Government.



Iraqi participants attending the TCTP-Electricity Factor training program

Historically, the electricity sector in Iraq has deteriorated over the past three decades, mainly due to conflicts, sanctions, lack of investments, insufficient operation and maintenance, looting, and damages because of the three wars that Iraq went through.

Despite the Iraqi own efforts and the international community support after 2003, the reconstruction work of this sector has been slow due to security constraints and internal political turmoil. Currently, most parts of Iraq receive the electricity power less than 8 hours in a day, and in many parts electricity is still generated through private generators.

Recognizing these difficulties facing the electric sector in Iraq, JICA has been conducting the capacity development program for Iraqi electricity sector in cooperation with the National Electric Power Company in Jordan (NEPCO) since 2004. In the program, both Japanese and Jordanian experts expose the Iraqi participants to various aspects of technical issues as well as administrative issues.

For this Year 2010, JICA and NEPCO have determined to cover the following areas:

- Application of Quality Management System
- Modern Techniques in Auditing
- Contracts and Tenders
- Design and Installation of 132kV and 400 kV Transmission Lines
- Protection in Power Systems.

JICA and NEPCO co-organized these areas of training courses in July, September and October 2010, and invited over 90 Iraqi participants in total.

Invitation Program of Media Representatives to Japan

By: Eng. Hani Kurdi

Aiming at promoting foreign media's understanding of JICA activities, JICA overseas offices will propose candidates to join this program at JICA HQ; this year program will focus on "water issues" covering both water supply and sewerage systems because access to water is considered as one of the major challenges in development where JICA is actively contributing.

Within this context, two media representatives from Jordan Times and Al Arab Al Yawm newspapers were selected to participate in this program which will be held in Japan during the period 6-21 November 2010. It is anticipated that newspaper reports to be released will lead to people's further understanding of JICA activities in each country.

The contents of the program will include: activities of JICA through briefings by relevant departments on JICA projects in water sector, field visits to water facilities in Japan, in addition to giving opportunities to exchange opinions and discuss media's perspective on water field and role of media with Japanese journalists working for water issues.

It is worth mentioning that assisting water sector is one of JICA's top priorities in Jordan, JICA is heavily involved in providing technical assistance to reduce Non-Revenue Water, Rehabilitation of networks and water facilities including treatment plants, pumping stations, distribution and main pipelines, construction of reservoirs, training in Japan as well as mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

First Workshop for Iraq's Oil Spill Response Plan held in Amman

By: Eguchi Chinami

Gas and oil sector is the key industry for Iraq as an important source of foreign exchange, which covers more than 70 percent of GDP and more than 90 percent of the national revenue. The amount of confirmed reserve of crude oil in Iraq is 115 billion barrel, which comes after Saudi Arabia and Iran. Peak amount of production was in 1979, 3.7 million barrel per day. However after the 1980s production remained stagnant and fell to 1 million barrel per day, but nowadays it has recovered to 2.5 million barrel per day. Ministry of Oil in Iraq has forecasted to recover to more than 10 million barrel per day by 2017.



Participants at workshop

Considering the above conditions, JICA has launched a loan of 50 billion yen (equivalent to 500 million USD) for the recovery of the crude oil export facility which is located offshore of FAO in Basra (the Crude Oil Export Facility Reconstruction Project). The export capacity of the present facility is 1.6 million barrel per day. It is expected to recover up to 3.2 million barrel per day upon implementing the project.

In Iraq 80 percent of the crude oil is exported through offshore terminals. But countermeasures for oil spill incidents are near total absence in Iraq. Therefore such oil spill incidents will cause crucial environmental pollution and the flow of ocean will impact the Gulf States, JICA is implementing an additional assistance to the project, to consider the "Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP)" to react for any oil spill incidents.

The first workshop for the OSRP was held in Amman from 17 to 20 October hosted by JICA Jordan office. Iraqi officials were gathered for the first time to discuss the ORSP issue. Further workshop will be held in Japan in December and again the officials from Iraq will study the countermeasures for oil spills in Japan.

Engineers from Sri Lanka to Learn from Jordanian Experiences in NRW Reduction

By: Eng. Waleed Sukkar (WAJ)



"WAJ Secretary General meet with Sri Lanka delegation"

Despite the challenges the water sector of Jordan is facing, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation/Water Authority (WAJ) has been successfully managing the scarce water resources through various activities. One of those activities is the management of non-revenue water (NRW).

Jordan and Japan's collaboration in the field of NRW management has started since 1996 with the main objectives of capacity development and knowledge/technology transfer. The efforts have been continued in the Capacity Development Project for NRW Reduction (2005 – to date), which is implemented with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

In the course of the project implementation, Arab neighboring countries have also been benefited from this project. Many engineers and technicians in the Region visited the Kingdom to learn from the project experiences as well as to exchange their engineering views on NRW management.

Recently a team from the Republic of Sri Lanka has conducted a technical study tour to the Kingdom. Jordanian experts held several lectures addressing the Jordanian challenges and experiences in NRW management. The team also had opportunities to visit the Training Center to practice leakage survey techniques and pilot project sites to learn NRW countermeasures applied there. The tour was completed with the visit to the Miyahuna water treatment plant (ZAI), which is the biggest plant in the Kingdom supplying water to the capital Amman.

The Secretary General of WAJ, Engineer Munir Oweis, welcomed the Sri Lankan Team, and granted them with the shield of Water Authority of Jordan.

JICA's comprehensive approach in supporting PWDs in Jordan

By: Iyas Salim

The support for PWDs, Persons with Disabilities, is considered part of JICA's overall goal of "Minimizing social disparity" in Jordan. In this area, JICA's technical assistance is a multi-faced approach that eventually helps and empowers PWDs in community. Technical aspects include CBR, Community Based Rehabilitation, special Education, inclusion, community-approach support, partnerships, family support, vocational training and ultimately finding employment. The task is by no means an easy one as the key to the success of empowering PWDs lies in the networking among many stakeholders and building necessary partnerships among local and national stakeholders.

JICA's aim is to further strengthen the existing "infrastructure" and efficiently utilizing the local resources in order to empower PWDs.

During the summer of this year, 2010, JICA has already conducted two important training courses in Japan for Jordanian leaders in the field of PWD. Three Jordanian trainees attended a training course under the title,

Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through a community-based Employment Support; from June 15th to July 10th, the other course trained three trainees under the title, CBR (Community-Based Rehabilitation) for Middle East II; from 23rd of June to 21st of July. It is worth noting that every trainee must develop an action plan during his/her stay in Japan in light of experiencing Japanese PWDs programs. Upon returning to Jordan, ex-trainees start to work immediately on implementing each action plan.

For example, one action plan is about providing, at this moment, a vocational training for eighteen light mental handicapped cases in Irbid governorate. Another action plan aims to find twelve jobs for PWDs in the area of Mafraq. In the case of CBR course, the three ex-trainees, who come from Ministry of social development and Higher Council for Disabilities, drafted a joint action plan focusing on providing psychological and social support for mothers of PWDs.

Mr. Takechi Masato, JICA technical expert, assigned to Jordan by the government of Japan since a year ago stated," it is highly crucial to stress upon the concept of comprehensive approach to the issue of PWDs. It starts from policy makers all the way to the community and family." Mr. Takechi added," I strongly believe that organizations and institutes need to increase cooperation and sharing of information in order to create a strong base of networking for the sake of PWDs in Jordan. This is a major part of my mission here in Jordan."

Two more training courses are going to start shortly in Japan to train more than fifteen Jordanians in support of PWDs empowerment. Moreover, JICA has dispatched ten volunteers currently working at various locations within the kingdom in order to transfer skills and know-how from Japan to the Kingdom of Jordan in addition to capacity building of concerned organizations.



A PWD beneficially receiving vocational training

