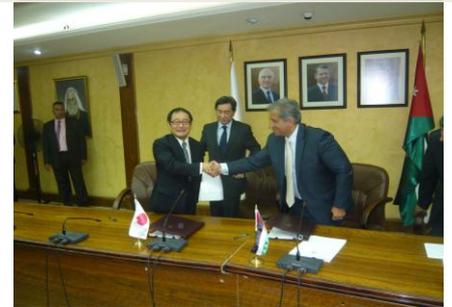


## **JICA signs the loan to finance the “Human Resource Development and Social Infrastructure Improvement Project” with the Government of Jordan**

*By: Rabah AL-Shanti*

To help Jordan overcome the exceptional fiscal challenges that unfolded since the beginning of Year 2011, the Government of Japan represented by JICA decided to extend a loan that will be allocated to finance the “Human Resource Development and Social Infrastructure Improvement Project”.

On the 14th August 2012, Dr. Ja’far Hassan – Minister of Planning and International Cooperation signed the Exchange of Notes and the Loan Agreement on behalf of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, while Mr. Junichi Kosuge – Japanese Ambassador to Jordan, signed the Exchange of Notes on behalf of the Government of Japan, and Mr. Toshiaki Tanaka – Chief Representative in JICA Jordan Office, signed the Loan Agreement on behalf of JICA.



*Signing Ceremony :MOPIC & JICA*

The loan amount is JPY 12.234 billion (approx. US \$ 156 million), the interest rate is 0.95%, while the repayment period is 20 years, in which the first 6 years is grace period.

The ultimate objective of this project is to contribute to the stability of Jordan’s economy and society in light of the ongoing regional turmoil, through expanding the facilities for human resource development, health and medical care services, and primary/secondary education with the aim of industrial development and public service improvement.

The loan also shall help Jordan in shifting to the less costly external borrowing, and thus ultimately contribute in a better economic growth and creation of larger number of work opportunities and developmental projects specially in the Kingdom’s poorest governorates that also have the highest unemployment rates.

As the project has two parts: human resource development, and social infrastructure, the first part concerning development of human resource offers vocational training courses, remodels the facilities and improves equipment and machinery at vocational training centers, and expands higher educational facilities. Under the social infrastructure component, the project shall contribute in expanding and renovating health and medical care facilities by providing the needed financing to purchase equipment and expand facilities for pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, and in constructing the education facilities for persons with hearing impairments in poor areas.

This is the first loan that JICA extends to Jordan since 1999, and therefore comes to reflect the strong cooperation relations between Japan and Jordan that includes extending loans, grants and technical assistance to Jordan.

## **Capacity Building on Non-Revenue Water Reduction for Yemenis**

*By Hani Kurdi*

Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) in cooperation with JICA will conduct the final course on the NRW reduction from November 26- December 6, 2012. The overall goal of the training is to improve the management of the water supply systems in Yemen, in the past years, basic and intermediate training was conducted, and in this year the participants will receive advanced training.

As output, It is expected that managerial officials of water supply authorities in the major cities in Yemen will understand the concept and importance of reducing NRW, as well as engineers and technicians will acquire knowledge and techniques to measure NRW.

During the course, the participants will receive theoretical and practical training, the Jordanian experience in this field will be presented, site visits will be arranged and NRW case study conducted in Palestine – Ramallah will be presented and discussed.

## Capacity Building for Electricity in Palestine

By Hani Kurdi

A joint mission from JICA and National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) was dispatched to Palestine during the period 14-19 July, 2012 to discuss with Palestinian Energy Authority (PEA) the measures to be taken by the three parties for successful implementation of the training program for “Capacity Building for Electricity in Palestine”



*PEC and JICA mission discussion*

The overall goal of the training is to improve the governance of PEA in order to facilitate rehabilitation of the five Electrical Distribution Companies in Nablus, Jericho, Hebron, South, and Gaza. The Training will develop and improve the quality of the performance, build up the experience in Control Devices, Protective Relays, Live Line Maintenance, Welding Techniques and Fiber Optics to enable trainees to be trainers in the coming future.

The training will eventually encourage the companies to use new techniques, skills and methods in several fields which serve their electric distribution systems.

JICA & NEPCO will cooperate to conduct this training under the JICA's Third Country Training Program, around 80 participants are expected to receive training within years 2012 & 2013.

## Sustainable Community Tourism Development in As Salt City Project

By: EngAdel Zureikat.

The Record of Discussions has been signed between JICA and Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities on June 21st, 2012 and the implementation of the project commenced in September, 2012 by dispatching four Japanese experts.

During the three-year technical cooperation project, JICA will dispatch eight Japanese experts, train Jordanian Counterparts in Japan for the project activities to achieve,



*Project introduction workshop*

- 1) Prepare a mechanism to materialize tourism development based on the eco-museum concept.
- 2) Establish a mechanism to conserve historic townscape.
- 3) Establish a tourism system consisting of core museum, trails and satellite and
- 4) Develop tourism products which utilize and conserve local cultural resources and benefit local community in a sustainable way.

The project will be implemented based on the eco-museum system which can maximize the value of Salt as a living heritage. Under the eco-museum concept, the whole city of Salt is regarded as a museum where the local people conserve and exhibit their cultural resources.

The project will lead the development of the local community through interaction between the community members and the visitors.

The project purpose is to develop tourism which utilizes local cultural resources and benefits local community.