Working with Nepali People......

**JOCV**

Ms. Akiko HOZUMI has been working as a Midwife at Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN) Office in Nepalgunj. She is involved in clinical services, awareness and counseling programs. She is one of the 47 JOCV volunteers who are currently working throughout the 14 districts of Nepal.

Since the launch of **Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Nepal** Program in 1970, over 750 Japanese volunteers have been dispatched till date. They have been involved in various sectors to assist the social and economic development programs such as health, education, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, maintenance and manufacturing, information services etc.

JOCV volunteers are trained and qualified professionals in a variety of technical disciplines and work at grass-roots level in order to best meet the host-organization needs. At the same time, assistance at the local level deepens understanding of cultures and traditions and builds genuine friendship between volunteers and the hosts.

Inside

- Seminar on Land Pooling Projects in Nepal 2
- Nepal Resham Charkha 3
- Brighter Future for Lubhoo CLC 4
- Agricultural Training and Extension Improvement Project (ATEP) 5
- Visit of Mr. Yozo KANEKO MD Secretariat of JOCV 6
JICA and Department of Urban Development & Building Construction (DUDBC) organized a one-day seminar on “Sharing of Experiences & Solving the Problems of Land Pooling Projects in Nepal” at Hotel Himalaya, Lalitpur on November 20, 2003. Mr. Purna KADARIYA, Director General of DUDBC chaired the Seminar and Mr. Mahendra Nath ARYAL, chief guest and the Secretary of the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works inaugurated the seminar.

The seminar was attended by high-ranking officials of HMG/N including Joint Secretaries of MOPPW, Mr. Surya Bhakta SANGACHHE, Member Secretary of Kathmandu Valley Town Development Committee (KVTDC), and Mr. Fumio IMAI, Deputy Resident Representatives of JICA Nepal Office. On the occasion, various speakers had shed light on the importance of land pooling in the context of urban planning and development.

The objective of the seminar was to share the experiences on the past and on going land-pooling projects and comparative analysis of land-pooling act in Japan and Nepal, to transfer the experiences in improving the current legal, management and technical issues of land-pooling and to interact with participants in order to improve draft Land-pooling Manual. On the occasion, Mr. S. B. SANGACHHE presented “Experience focusing on problems and prospects; need of a manual”, Mr. Girija P. GORKHALY, Project Director, Urban Environment Improvement Program (UEIP), DUDBC presented “Contents and structure of Land-pooling Manual”, Mr. Naokazu MIYAZAKI, JICA Expert, presented “Comparison between Land-pooling Act in Japan & Nepal” and Dr. Mahendra SUBBA, Chief, Urban Development Division, DUDBC presented “The role and impact of Land-pooling on Urban Planning”. The seminar was effective and successful with the active participation of the participants.

Mr. Naokazu MIYAZAKI & Mr. Sourab RANA
JICA is assisting Nepal in sericulture since 1990s. Prior to JICA’s assistance, Nepal used to import silkworm eggs from Japan and Korea, but now there is an adequate supply of silkworm eggs at government sericulture station, where 1250 farmers are engaged in silkworms rearing. Thus, with technological transfer from JICA’s cooperation, Nepal is becoming self sufficient not only in eggs production but also on mulberry production, which is spread to more than 4000 farmers in the country.

At present, the volume of domestic production of cocoon (35 tons per year) is still too low. Farmers are interested in sericulture for their livelihood since there is substantial benefit than in cereal crops. However, sericulture is not accelerating in wider scale as it was expected despite the development in technology and self-sufficiency in silkworm eggs. There could be various factors. Thus, the Technical Cooperation (TC) from JICA in spinning skills of farmers and other concerned people is expected to increase the value addition and the production of silk yarn at the local level.

In this context, JICA has introduced “Nepal Resham Charkha” Silk Spinning, which started from Japanese technique called “ZAGURI” originated more than 203 years back in Japan. The silk yarn produced through ZAGURI is found either in Japan or in Nepal with the production of highest quality of silk. ZAGURI is as simple and similar as that of CHARKHA started by Mahatma Gandhi in India to fight against British Empire. From ZAGURI, one trained person can produce 500 grams to 1 kilo of silk yarn per day, which amounts more than 2000 rupees a day. It is convenient and handy and its complete set can be manufactured in Nepal at the costs of Rs.17,000. It is estimated that 200 grams of dried cocoon can produce 70 grams of raw silk.

With 11 days of training on “Nepal Resham Charkha” for 20 person (5 male and 15 female), Japanese expert Mr. KANO hopes that Nepalese people can explore and increase their potentiality on silk spinning as good as Japan. Spinning of silk yarn is not only technology but it is also a skill to be learned to produce very smooth silk thread. Knowledge and skill has no boundary given the opportunities, so, Mr. KANO plans to provide more intensive training on Nepal Resham Charkha to other potential people. Thus, JICA’s assistance on the post cocoon processing will have another breakthrough in the field of sericulture.

Mr. Narendra GURUNG
Senior Program Officer

Participants are learning to spin silk yarn using (Nepal Resham Charkha) Zaguri
When Non-Formal Education Center held the seminar for capacity building of committee members working in the CLCs, I was deeply impressed by two women with volunteer spirit who are willing to work in difficult situations. They are a chairperson and a mobilizer from Lubhoo village in Lalitpur district, which is about 20kms from the center of Kathmandu. They are fully conscious of their accountability. Their shining eyes are still engraved in my memory.

Community Learning Center is an institute to help community development through vocational education. Community people themselves established it in accordance with their aspiration and they formulated the CLC programs as per their need. Lubhoo CLC has various kinds of programs. So far both income generation and cultural exchange, such as knitting goods and Japanese tea ceremony, are popular in particular. Many people take interest in generating income. “Echo Tawashi” is made of 100% fine acrylic knitting yarn. This fiber is strong and can absorb oil from dishes, and it makes possible for people to clean dishes without using soap. “Echo Tawashi” will increase the women’s earning ability and improve their quality of life. Ms. Yoko ETOH teaches how to make “Echo Tawashi” in order to earn some money for the operations of the CLC. I expect that Lubhoo CLC and the women will progress toward a brighter future.

Mr. Takahiro HAKOZAKI
Senior Volunteer
Non-Formal Education Center, DOE

JICA Nepal Community Tuberculosis and Lung Health Project started in 2000 consisting of three activities; tuberculosis (TB) control, child lung health and anti-smoking persuasion. As JICA has been contributing to TB control in Nepal for over a decade, this project is not only extension of the TB control but also inclusion of other promotion activities on lung health.

TB control activity is based on the world TB strategy, DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short course) which has been implemented from 1996 in Nepal. Expansion of DOTS in whole country has been achieved and this JICA project further focuses on TB control in urban areas (Kathmandu and two municipalities in Rupandehi) because of high TB prevalence and many drop-out patients.

Control of acute respiratory infection among children is the second target. By using breathing count of a sick child, health workers/volunteers in Rupandehi have come to know about seriously sick children who should be sent to hospitals for further treatment.

Anti-smoking promotion held in three villages in Kathmandu valley has three components; prevention of children from starting of smoking, persuasion of lung disease patients to be out of smoking and advocacy in the community. Many teachers, health workers and community volunteers participate in these activities.

Mr. Tatsuo SUGIYAMA
Acting Chief Adviser
JICA Nepal Community Tuberculosis and Lung Health Project
Agricultural Training and Extension Improvement Project (ATEP)

The Record of Discussion (R/D) was signed between JICA Nepal Office and Department of Agriculture on November 20, 2003 for “Agricultural Training and Extension Improvement Project” to improve the farmers responsive training and extension services in five districts namely Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Makawanpur and Sindhupalchowk in central development region. The project is for five years and ends in 2008.

It is needless to say that agriculture development of Nepal has direct relation in improving the livelihood of the people. The appropriate training and extension to the farmers on various improved crops and livestock development are the fundamental premise to enhance the production. Thus, the present situation of agriculture and training in Nepal is a great concern of all involved in this sector.

Ever since the agriculture development in Nepal, training and extension have always been given high priorities, but there are still unresolved and unanswered issues. With more advancement in agricultural technology and open market, farmers have started cultivating high breed profitable crops. However, the training and extension service to farmers from the concerned institutions are not synchronized with the adoption of modern or high yielding varieties. Also, there are areas where basic training and extension of agriculture have not reached at the farmers’ level.

Considering all these concerns, His Majesty's Government of Nepal had requested Japanese government to extend the Technical Cooperation (TC) to strengthen the agricultural training and extension in Nepal.

This project has envisaged strengthening effective training and extension services to the farmers through the capacity building of the government officials, leaders, farmers and other concerned stakeholders. Improved and adoptable training and extension services about the various high breeds crops has direct effect on the living standard of farmers, thus leading to poverty reduction. With the starting of this project from January 2004, we hope to translate these objectives into reality.

Mr. Narendra GURUNG
Senior Program Officer
On the event of new appearance of JICA with a slogan of “For a better tomorrow for all” in October 2003, JICA Nepal Office organized a press meet at Reporters Club on 28 September 2003. It was an important opportunity to announce that JICA, established in 1974, as a “special public institution” of the government of Japan turns into an “Independent Administrative Institution (IAI)”, as of 1st October 2003, according to Japan’s administrative reform plan. Around 29 journalists from different media actively participated in this event.

Mr. Eitaro MITOMA, Resident Representative of JICA Nepal Office highlighted the purpose of the press meet as to announce the important changes in new JICA system that largely include closer attention paid to grass-roots co-operation and public participation, peace building assistance, cost performance and efficiency, transparency, accountability, faster decision making, and visibility thus creating a better co-ordination and a greater impact of its co-operation. On this occasion, Dr. Madhav Prasad GHIMIRE, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Finance appreciated JICA as one of the largest donor and appraised it’s significant role in socio-economic and human resource development of Nepal. The journalists interestingly raised their queries on JICA’s co-operation areas and priorities to Nepal and on-going status of projects. These important concerns were clarified by Mr. Sushil K. BHATTACHAN, Chief Programme Officer of JICA Nepal Office. Overall, the press meet was very interactive and useful to learn more on the new JICA system.

Mr. Jhabindra BHANDARI, Program Officer

From October 29 to November 1 2003, M.r Yozo KANeko Managing Director, Secretariat of JOCV/JICA visited Kingdom of Nepal. The main purpose of his visit to Nepal was to meet concerned authorities of His Majesty’s Government of Nepal and observe activities of Senior Volunteers (SVs) and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) presently serving in Nepal. During his short stay in Nepal, Mr. KANeko visited Embassy of Japan, Ministry of Finance, Foreign Aid and Coordination Division (FACD) had discussions on the effective use of Japanese volunteers for the development endeavor of Nepal and exchanged views on mutual benefits on JICA’s volunteer program. He later observed activities of JOCVs and SVs in Kathmandu and Pokhara valley. During his visit to Nepal, Mr. KANeko was received with warm welcome by all offices.

Mr. Sushil K. BHATTACHAN
Chief Program Officer
No Room for Mistakes

First of all, the term development is very tricky and could be understood differently from person to person. I was impressed by FRIEDMAN’s definition, which states that, “development is an innovative process leading to the structural transformation of social systems.” As I understand, “development is a continuous process of change for the betterment of livelihood of the masses.”

Another interrelated topic I would like to discuss is about social obligation. Society is made up of individuals, families and institutions. Society is the ultimate institution, which reflects the quality and the level of a civilization. If individual is a part of society, then, does he/she has responsibility towards it? If so, then how is he/she going to contribute? These are the questions every one of us should ask ourselves.

I believe that the development of Nepal is in our hands, in the people’s hand. Our collective actions will give shape to the future of Nepalese, be it worse or better. I had a chance to see an advertisement, which read that “we did not inherit nature from our ancestors but we borrowed it from our posterity.” I wonder how this statement is also very relevant not only in the case of environment conservation but also on development and social transformation. We have made many mistakes, which have cost us greatly. Now, there is no room for mistakes.

Mr. Sourab B. RANA,
Program Officer

Without Changing

I felt the passage of time different from Japan for three years that I had spent in Nepal. I remember even in Japan the sense of time was different in Tokyo and other cities, but the passage of time in Nepal feels like being quite different from Japan. I feel that the life of Japanese is under the control of the time and Nepalese are not pressed by the time. “Nepali time” passes slowly and I was very happy to spend a lot of time with my family in Nepal.

I shall be leaving for Japan on December after completing my three years assignment in JICA Nepal Office. These years in Nepal will become precious and valuable time in my life. When it considers that the life, which will be pressed by business and time, is waiting for me in Japan, I want to be in Nepal for a while. When I get tired from Japanese time and life in the future, I hope to take a rest and recharge my life by coming to Nepal. As for the “Nepali time”, I do not want you to change.

Mr. Katsuki MIYATA
Assistant Resident Representative
Dispatch of Volunteers

Incoming
On the request of HMG/Nepal, the following new JOCV members have arrived in Nepal on the 27th November 2003:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Tamaki NODA</td>
<td>Com. Dev. Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kiyoshi BABA</td>
<td>Traffic Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mitsutake MOCHIZUKI</td>
<td>Tourism Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Masaru YOSHIDA</td>
<td>Geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Setsuko INOUE</td>
<td>Pre-School Education for Children with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Yasushi OKU</td>
<td>Offset Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Toyoju SAITO</td>
<td>Fruits &amp; Vegetable Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Yoshiaki HAYASAKA</td>
<td>ICT Management</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Incoming Senior Volunteer
On the request of HMG/Nepal, the following new Senior Volunteers have arrived in Nepal on the 23rd October 2003:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kiyoshi BABA</td>
<td>Traffic Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Mitsutake MOCHIZUKI</td>
<td>Tourism Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Masaru YOSHIDA</td>
<td>Geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Setsuko INOUE</td>
<td>Pre-School Education for Children with Disabilities</td>
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<td>Mr. Yasushi OKU</td>
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<td>Mr. Toyoju SAITO</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Yoshiaki HAYASAKA</td>
<td>ICT Management</td>
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Dispatch of Experts

Outgoing

Name | Field
---|---
Mr. Naoki SASAJIMA | Road Planning & Maintenance

Incoming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Heihachiro ISHIHARA</td>
<td>Advisor for Water Supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Hideyuki KANOSHIMA</td>
<td>Road Planning &amp; Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tatsuo SUGIYAMA</td>
<td>Community TB &amp; Lung Health Project</td>
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Farewell/Welcome

Farewell

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>From - To</th>
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Welcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Joined Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Moriyuki KOJIMA</td>
<td>SV Coordinator</td>
<td>3 Oct. 2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Notice

JICA Nepal Office has been shifted to a new location at Hariharbhavan, Lalitpur.

New Address:
4th Floor, ‘B’ Block,
Karmachari Sanchaya Kosh Building
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P.O. Box: 450, Kathmandu, Nepal
Mailing address: office@jica.org.np

About JICA

JICA is responsible for the technical cooperation aspect of Japan’s ODA (Official Development Assistance) programs. Technical cooperation is aimed at the transfer of technology and knowledge that can serve the socioeconomic development of the developing countries. JICA carries out a variety of programs to support the nation building of developing countries through such technical cooperation. JICA has about 1,200 staff members working both in Japan and at its more than 80 overseas offices.

Please visit our site at: http://www.jica.go.jp