Press Release

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Sri Lanka Office

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Five More Japanese Volunteers Support Sri Lanka’s Development Efforts at Grass-root Level

Five Japanese volunteers arrived in Sri Lanka recently, with the aim of providing their expertise to improve and add value to activities carried out by various public institutions in the country. These volunteers are in Sri Lanka as a part of JICA’s ongoing Volunteer Dispatch Programme. The volunteers were introduced to their host organizations at an assigning ceremony held at the Department of External Resources, on 24th July 2012.

The five volunteers possess a variety of skills covering several technical fields including computer technology, rural community development, social work and tennis. The volunteer who will work in the field of computer training will be assigned to the Vocational Training Authority District Center in Tangalla, while the volunteers who will be engaged in the field of rural community development will be assigned to the Rajanganaya Divisional Secretariat (to work in support of activities relating to the National Community Based Rehabilitation Programme implemented by the Ministry of Social Services), and the National Water Supply & Drainage Board, in order to support community development activities of the Kandy City Waste Water Disposal Project, in Collaboration with Kandy Municipal Council. A volunteer will also be assigned to work under the National Secretariat for Elders, in order to conduct activities benefiting the elderly in collaboration with the Kalutara Divisional secretariat. The fifth volunteer will be assigned to the Sri Lanka Tennis Association in order to conduct tennis coaching activities in Nuwara Eliya.

The strengths of JICA’s volunteers are their practical approach to problem solving, and their grasp of local languages, which enables them to interactively communicate with the local people. These volunteers use extremely creative means of communication, which is essential for effective teaching and training. They are able to positively influence those whom they work with due to their attitudes, strong sense of discipline and high emphasis on team work. These volunteers not only transfer technical skills, but also share knowledge on cultural aspects, and most importantly, build strong and long lasting friendships with local people that outlast their stay in Sri Lanka.

The contribution by JICA’s volunteers towards development activities at grass-root level is greatly valued by those organizations that have benefited from their services. There are altogether 40 volunteers who are currently working in various parts of the country. Since the inception of JICA’s Volunteer Dispatch Programme to Sri Lanka in 1981, a total of 870 volunteers have worked in the country.

For more information: http://www.jica.go.jp/english/operations/schemes/citizen/volunteers.html

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the executing agency of Japan’s Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA). JICA, the world’s biggest bilateral aid agency, works in over 150 countries and regions. In accordance with its vision of “Inclusive and Dynamic Development,” JICA supports the resolution of development issues in developing countries. In Sri Lanka, Japan has been providing financial and technical assistance since 1954, and is the largest donor to the country. On behalf of the people and the Government of Japan, JICA contributes towards the improvement of the lives of people in Sri Lanka.