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Friendship & Co-operation



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35 Years of fruitful cooperation

JICA Syria Office is having the preparing for the 35th anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in Syria . This event will take place on January 21,2006 in the Arabic Cultural Center in Damascus Mezzeh, where there will be spot lighting on the activities and achievements of the Japanese Volunteers who started the cooperation in Syria since 1970 in various fields ; Physical Education , Music, Pre-primary Education, Handicapped caring , Agriculture , Industry, Environment, System Engineering and Japanese Language .

This event will be attended by the Syrian Officials, representatives of international organizations, non governmental organizations and the volunteers' counterparts.

For better early childhood care

Mrs. Harbieh Al Bidah, the head of the Early Childhood Office in the Woman Federation had attended a training course in Japan in the field of expansion of pre-primary education from Nov. 14 to Dec.03,2005, where she encountered new techniques concerning the kindergarten and nursery care.

Mrs. Harbieh explained that her visit to Japan was very beneficial as she was introduced to many important ways in both teaching and treating the children and how to convey the information to them in simple , easy and lovely way since the pre-primary period is the most important phase in building the child character .





Handover Ceremony at Jandar Training Center

On 26 December 2005, JICA and Ministry of Electricity celebrated the handover of the additional equipment procured within the Follow-up Cooperation Project that has been agreed on last February. The Project provided supplementary assistance for Jandar Electric Power Training Center (JTC).

The Japanese Government, and Ministry of Electricity, has a long history of fruitful and effective cooperation, JICA's role wasn't any less as well. A complete supporting package was extended to electricity sector; starting from the support for generating power, then creating the necessary development studies for the sector, next establishing training facilities and offering training opportunities with transferring the know-how through dispatching Japanese expertise.

This twenty years cooperation era

started by providing yen-loans to construct Baniyas, Jandar and al-Zara Power Stations over 1978, 1991 and 1995 respectively. Next, JICA prepared Master Plan Study on Rehabilitation and Manpower Training for Power Plants over 1994 – 1995. The Master Plan Study aimed at confirming the conditions of the power sector, preparing a rehabilitation and renovation plan and preparing staff training plan in terms of operation and maintenance to ensure effective and efficient use of thermal power plants. Then, JICA prepared Feasibility Study on Rehabilitation of Damascus & Damascus Rural Distribution Network to formulate basic rehabilitation plan of the distribution network. Starting 1997 up to 1999 Grant Aid was provided to establish JTC. Lastly, JICA concentrated on capacity building to create the technical staff qualified for operating



and maintaining power plants. In this regards, concerned staff benefited from different training courses in Japan, and neighboring countries. What's more, sixteen JICA experts & Senior Volunteers have been dispatched to work in electricity sector, some, are still working at JTC, transferring their experience to their Syrian counterparts.

As a result, the qualified staff in this sector are now more capable to continue promoting this sector independently.

Capacity Building continue at WRIC

Within the course of Establishment of Water Resource information centre (WRIC) project, a "Data Quality Check 2" workshop has been conducted by the Japanese expert Mr. HOTTA and his counterpart at WRIC of Tartous. The workshop has been followed by field work on collecting and data quality check of a river's water discharge at one of WRIC's observation station.

It is worth mentioning that Counterpart to Counterpart Courses are being held according to a pre-defined schedule, to disseminate the knowledge of the Syrian counterparts that have previously worked with JICA's experts, to others.



Field measurements



Tartous
Irrigation
Director & staff
at the workshop

Ministry of Local Administration & Environment- Active Partner in Sustainable Development



Minister of Local Administration & Environment

JICA and Ministry of Local Administration & Environment (MoLAE) enjoy a long history of cooperation. The most recent joint project is “Capacity Development of Environmental Monitoring at Directorates for Environmental Affairs in Governorates” (CDEM). H.E. Minister of MoLAE Eng. Hilal Al-Atrash is at the same time the Head of the Steering Committee of this project, is willing to brief about CDEM, and his vision about further

cooperation with JICA:

“At first I’d like to thank the Japanese people and the Government of Japan for the assistance we are receiving from them through JICA in many fields, specially, I’d like to comment here on the CDEM project. Thanks to JICA, now 14 Directorates for Environmental Affairs (DFEAs) covering the whole nation has been equipped to analyse water quality, and JICA Expert Team has already conducted the training for the staff of DFEAs on Environmental Monitoring, starting from Planning, sampling, analysis, and getting the final result. We will continue this process in cooperation with JICA according to project’s plan of operation, on data interpretation, issuing environmental reports in Syria, and using this data for Public Awareness and Environmental Education, to reach to the overall goal of this project which is Socialisation of Environmental Management.

We’d like to thank JICA for its cooperation on this project, which form the milestone for the environmental work in Syria, without

having laboratories and skilled staff, it is not possible to conduct any environmental monitoring or inspection, and We feel optimistic already, as MoLAE has received Japan’s Official Development Assistance in the past, and worked on many Technical Cooperation projects with JICA, provision of solid waste vehicles to Damascus and Aleppo and “Improvement of Solid Waste Management in Local Cities” might be a very good example, the impact of this assistance was quite satisfactory.

We are looking forward for more cooperation with JICA, our experience showed that it is as practical, and sufficient for our side”



Training at Rural Damascus DEFA

JOCV Expert Volunteers follow up visit

Within the frame work of the follow up visits , the Resident Representative Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa with members from JICA Syria Office visited UNRWA Schools in the South area and the Agricultural Research Center in Dara’a where they met the director Eng’r. Mr. Hussein Kutmeh ?

The recipient organizations expressed their appreciation to the great efforts of the JOCV Volunteers who are cooperating with the local counterparts for the perfect implementation of the cooperation plans





New Group of seven Expert Volunteers Arrives in Syria

On November 30,2005 a group of Japanese volunteers arrived in Syria to be assigned in the following organizations, where they work hand in hand with the local counterparts to upgrade the level of the technical experience. Each according to his or her specialization

Name	Recipient organization	Specialty
Mr. Keiji Kohashi	General Sport Federation	Swimming
Ms. Tomoko Yoshimi	UNRWA Schools, Aleppo	Music
Mr. Yuya Omori	UNRWA Schools, Lattakia	Physical Education
Mr. Keisuke Yokoyama	CBR project , Ministry Of Social Affairs & Labour and Youth Federation	Audio-Visual Education
Ms. Mizuki Kojima	Historical Documentation Center Ministry Of Culture	Cultural Properties Protection
Mr. Kosuke Kikuchi	Al Anssar Society, Ministry Of Social Affairs & Labour .	Computer Techniques
Mr. Yasuhiro Denis Sano	General Sport Federation Syrian Football Association	Soccer

The Junior Expert Volunteers are the group which their ages are between 20 to 40 years and who have experiences in different specializations. The program objective is transferring the technical experience to the local counterparts.

In the present time there are 47 Junior experts Volunteers cooperating with their local counterparts in different fields.



Mr. Keiji Kohashi



Ms. Tomoko Yoshimi



Mr. Yuya Omori



Mr. Keisuke Yokoyama



Ms. Mizuki Kojima



Mr. Kosuke Kikuchi



Mr. Yasuhiro Denis Sano