



February 2006  
Volume 4, Issue 2

# Friendship & Co-operation



- Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Receives JICA's Resident Representative
- 35 Years of Fruitful Cooperation
- Damascus Governor visits the Environment Monitoring Project
- Short Term Expert for Al-Baath University

Japan International  
Cooperation Agency

JICA

Almahdi Bin Baraka St. No. 28  
Abu Rummaneh, Damascus,  
SYRIA  
P.O.Box: 10012  
Tel.: +963 11 3339359  
Fax: +963 11 3334834  
<http://www.jica.go.jp>  
E-mail: [jicasr@jicasr.org](mailto:jicasr@jicasr.org)

## 140 IT Division Manager

Opening ceremony of third training course entitled "IT Division Manager" took place on 15 January 2006 at Damascus University. After the successful implementation of the pilot course in IT Division Manager in 2004, both sides JICA and The Syrian Government represented by State Planning Commission and Damascus University concluded agreement for implementing "IT Division Manager" training course.



During the Opening Ceremony

According to the agreement, Faculty of Information Technology will conduct six training courses in "Computer (IT Division Manager)" during 2005 - 2008.



The training course at Faculty of Information Technology

Twenty IT staff from different Ministries are participating in each training course. By the end of the agreement one hundred forty governmental employees will benefit from this training opportunity. They are all in the decision making position. In this context; public organization will have qualified staff for developing and progressing in IT sector.

By the end of the course the successful trainees will be able to organise and manage system development project. Next, manage operation and administration of information systems, in addition, analyse business process for current and new systems.

It is worth mentioning that the next training course will take place in June 2006.



## Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Receives JICA's Resident Representative

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Dr. Diyala Haj Aref received in her office JICA's Resident Representative Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa.

Mr. Nagasawa's visit aimed at confirming JICA's adherence to improve the existed cooperation relations with the Ministry through different activities extended by Japanese expert volunteers such as those presented to people with special needs within the ministry's institutes or at the CBR project, where Her Excellency the Minister stressed the importance of expanding and improving the project's activities to cover other Syrian cities and villages.

Mr. Nagasawa's visit came simultaneously with the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing JOCV in Syria

where many volunteers were dispatched since then and worked at different institutions including those affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in or outside of Damascus.

On the other hand, Her Excellency the Minister appreciated the role played by the JOCV volunteers in order to build bridges of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Japan through their serious, hardworking and earnest activities in cooperation with their local counterparts.

Dr. Haj Aref, expressed her gratitude to Mr. Nagasawa for all the efforts extended by JICA as a contribution to driving forward the development and progress movement that Syria is currently witnessing.



## 35 Years of Fruitful Cooperation

The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in Syria was held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2006 at the Arabic Cultural Center in Mazzeh.

This event was attended by H.E. the Ambassador of Japan Mr. Azusa Hayashi, Syrian high officials, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, General Directors and local counterparts of the Japanese expert volunteers, representatives of International and public Organizations, .

Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa, The Resident Representative of JICA Syria Office in his speech said that the ■





■ JOCV volunteers have been working for 35 years as the first volunteer who was a Judo trainer came to Syria in 1970.

The JOCV are working hard with their local counterparts to contribute in the development process and upgrade the work performance in four basic sectors namely Modernization of Economy & Social System, Water Resource Management & Efficient Use and Improvement of Social Services & Environment Conservation.

Currently there are 50 JOCV Volunteers working with their Syrian counterparts in the field of music, physical education, kindergartens, disabilities rehabilitation, historical documentation restoration, industry, environment, computer techniques and teaching Japanese language.

Moreover, one feature of the JOCV is that they learn Arabic and speak it with their local counterparts and at the same time they learn about the Syrian culture and traditions.

The most important aim of the JOCV is to strengthen the friendship between Syria and Japan through the fruitful cooperation with the Syrian people.

When Japanese volunteers finish their assignment period in Syria and return to Japan, they always have the willing to visit Syria again. Their good impression about Syria is being reflected to the Japanese people. This is a great proof of the rich history and culture of Syria and the hospitality of the Syrian people.

The celebration included presentation about some of the most important activities of the JOCV, and also a documentary film about the achievements and work in addition to Judo demonstration by young players



from Homs Judo Federation who are trained by the Japanese volunteer Mr. Hasegawa.

Moreover, the celebration included exhibition about the JOCV Activities in many different fields.

At the end of the celebration, the attendants expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation for their great efforts, knowledge and experience that the JOCV have been offering to Syria for 35 years.

#### Emendation

In JICA's news letter last January Mr. Hotta's name was mentioned by mistake as WRIC expert instead of Mr. Makoto KODAMA in the article on "*Capacity Building continue at WRIC*" whereas Mr. Hotta is working within the team of Development of Efficient Irrigation and Extension (DEITEX).



## Damascus Governor visits the Environment Monitoring Project

On Thursday January 19, 2006 Damascus Governor Dr. Bashar al Mufti visited the central laboratory of environment at the Directorate of Environment Affairs in Damascus.

The visit came as one year passed since the Project for “The Capacity Development of Environmental Monitor at DFEA in Governorates” has started in cooperation between JICA and the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment.

Dr. al Mufti was received by the Director of Damascus Environment Directorate Engineer Bassam Kheir Beik, JICA’s Resident Representative Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa and the Japanese expert team members as well as DFEA staff.

During the meeting, the aspects of future cooperation were discussed especially those related to environmental issues, where the Governor asked JICA to expand the technical cooperation through dispatching Japanese experts to

contribute in new projects that the governorate is planning to implement such as the echo-school and garden in addition to other environmental awareness activities.

Mr. Nagasawa declared JICA’s readiness to cooperate in such fields taking into consideration that the environment education is one of the most important components of the environment monitoring project.



Mr. Nagasawa, Dr. Mufti, and Mr. Kheir Beik

## Short Term Expert for Al-Baath University

JICA has dispatched Dr. Yoshikazu IRITANI as a short term expert to Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – Al-Baath University, Last December within the framework of Capacity Development Technical Cooperation Project,

Dr. IRITANI is specialised in Veterinary Virology, his assignment was to upgrade the analysis capabilities of local staff in virus investigation and cell cultivation by evaluating the faculty’s activities, in addition to enhancing virus isolation and identification process, diagnosis of immunity disease, and produce the serums.

Dr. IRITANI left on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> after he has fulfilled his plan.



Dr. IRITANI and his counterparts