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Closing of a Training Course Targeting Afghanistan

On May 4th, 2006, six participants from Afghanistan and six from Syria have successfully undertaken the course on "Legume Crops Improvement" which is the first course in the 3rd implementation year of the 5 years programme of JICA/ ICARDA joint training course targeting Afghanistan.

Ms. Reiko FUNABA; Assistant Resident Representative, addressed a word on behalf of JICA's Resident Representative congratulating the participants for their graduation, wished them all the good luck in their career, asked them to disseminate their knowledge to their colleagues, and to exert the same good efforts that they exerted during the training to contribute to their country's development, and pointing out how this will contribute to materialising

JICA's message on contribution to peace building and human security.

On the other side, ICARDA's representatives and course coordinators stressed on keeping the good contact among the participant, and between the participants and ICARDA, as a wide network to keep on exchanging the points of view, and keep updated with the latest technologies in the domain.



Opening of Two Courses Targeting Iraq

On the other hand, a joint opening ceremony has been held on May 8th for the first two training courses in the second year of the 5years Technical Cooperation project



entitled "Enhancing Human Resource Development in Iraq".

In the opening speech, Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa; JICA Syria Office Resident Representative addressing the participants to the course explained about the reason behind JICA's emphasis on capacity building, as well as JICA's role in peace keeping and supporting the rebuilding efforts of Iraq.

In addition to the participants from Iraq, many participants from Syria, and CWANA, countries joined these courses as usual.



Environmental Education Campaign

JOCV members are contributing to the environment awareness and education in cooperation with different Syrian organizations.

In cooperation with Damascus Cleanliness Directorate, the cleaning and environment awareness activities continue in Sibki Park in Damascus with the participation of NGO's, community people and children with their families, in which Japanese volunteers use picture story show to attract the children to protect their environment and keep their health.

On the other hand a Japanese volunteer is working with Damascus Directorate of Environment Affairs (DFEA) where he accompanies DFEA staff in visits to primary schools in Damascus in order

to spread the environmental education and motivate the students to participate in different environmental activities especially through the competitions and games he used to ask them to participate in.



Another volunteer is working in cooperation with Youth Revolution Union in Rural Damascus on visiting schools in the area to discuss with the children simple environmental issues to raise their awareness towards keeping health and

environment through computer presentations and picture story show.

One more volunteer stationed in Aleppo is working for the Echo Club of the Youth Revolution Union. He is trying with his counterparts to increase the students awareness towards environmental issues and problems through his continuous visits to the schools to talk with them about different subjects related to environment and health and to share them in some cleaning campaigns in schools and public parks.



Syrian/Japanese Round Table on "Museology"

Under the patronage of the Minister of Culture Dr. Riad Nassan Agha, the General Directorate of Antiquities & Museums (GDAM) in collaboration with JICA organized "Syrian/Japanese Round Table On Museology".

The Minister of Culture delegated Mr. Basam Jamous, General Director of Museums and Antiquities Directorate who gave a speech thanking Japanese Government and JICA for their supporting the field of culture and specially training issue.

Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa did

also thank the GDAM for preparing for this seminar and explained briefly about JICA's activities and the importance of Group Training Courses.



Mr. Nagasawa & Mr. Basam Jamous and GDAM staff.

The three trainees presented consequently about their training course on "Museum Management" and how to utilize the knowledge they gained to improve their work.



Ms. Jalelah Al Attar presenting about the training course in Japan



Seminar on “Investment Project Preparation and Appraisal”

Under the patronage of Dr. Talal Bakfalouni, Deputy Head, State Planning Commission (SPC); JICA and SPC held a seminar on 10th of May 2006 as a Follow-up Activity for the six governmental employees who participated in Country-Focused Training Course entitled “Investment Project Preparation and Appraisal” in Japan.

The concerned staffs in the Ministry of Housing & Construction, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Finance and Agency of Combating Unemployment attended this seminar. In addition to the concerned directors as well as some professors that are working in the field.

Then the candidates delivered a presentation explaining what they have learnt through this training course, what is the importance of feasibility study for all economic activities and how to promote the capacity of government staff in the field of feasibility study.



Dr. Talal Bakfalouni with Mr. Nagasawa delivering the certificate to one of the candidates.

Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa JICA's Resident Representative handed the certificates for the six candidates.



The candidates in group photo with Mr. Nagasawa, Mr. Otake and Mr. Yamashita after receiving the certificates.

Mid Term Evaluation of Veterinary Faculty Project

On May 10th a delegation from JICA HQs arrived in Syria to conduct Mid Term Evaluation for the project of “Capacity Building of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) at Al-Baath University”

The team leader Mr. TADA, who happens to be a member of the first delegation that has initiated the project back in 2003 conducted a series of meetings, and site survey tours in order to check the achievements of the project, and the necessary amendments to the Plan of Operation in order to achieve the project's purpose.

During the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) that has been held

on May 16th, Mr. Tada presented his findings to the members of the committee that represents all the affiliated parties to the project including JICA, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Syrian Veterinary Association, Embassy of Japan, and of course FVM.



At the end of the JCC meeting, minutes of meeting has been signed.

All parties will have to keep on the good cooperation in order to have a successful conclusion of the Technical Cooperation Project that is about to come into an end this December.

It is worth mentioning, that Dr. Nishikawa; JICA's long term expert for this project, has spent more than 10 years in Syria, contributing his efforts to the development of livestock.



A Workshop for Kindergartens' Instructors in Dair Al Zour

Taking into consideration that the pre basic education stage is not only for protecting children, and taking care of them, but the actual role is being the first educational Institution which should be the frame of the integrated efforts for developing the children's abilities and skills. Whereas the actual beginning of the educational process starts according to the methods for raising up the qualified generations.



The instructors of Dair Alzour

In the framework of cooperation with the Women Federation (early childhood bureau) through dispatching the JOCV volunteers to the kindergartens and Nurseries in five cities who executed many workshops and seminars for

qualifying the instructors, there was a mutual consensus about the necessity and the importance of holding a workshop for the instructors of Deir AL Zour kindergartens & nurseries, and afterwards the same workshop will take place in Hassake city.

Mrs. Harbieh AL Baida; head of Early Childhood Bureau and the Japanese Volunteers arranged, supervised and executed the 3 days workshop in Dair AL Zour. This workshop was with participation of the national trainers who did their job perfectly side by side with the JOCV volunteers by giving lectures and practical seminars about new experiences in the field of educational materials and using the wasted materials of paper and cartoon boxes.

The big number of attendants from different organizations and private sector, in addition to the instructors, was the reason for dividing the attendants to two groups; each group was trained

according to the training schedule by the qualified trainers; Syrian and Japanese, with the spirit of team work.

The members of the Administrative Bureau in Dair AL Zour Women Federation expressed their deep appreciation for the great efforts of the organizers for their perfect coordination and preparation of this workshop.

Also the local newspaper "AL Forat" mentioned about the importance of this workshop which concentrated on upgrading the skills of the instructors who are working in this vital sector which is providing services to many citizens in the cities and in the country side.



The Japanese and national instructors

The project for Capacity Building of Environmental Monitoring in Directorates of Environment

The Japanese expert team responsible of the project for Capacity Building of Environmental Monitoring in Directorate of Environment presented the activities they have achieved since the beginning of the project till May 2006 through the technical committee meeting held in the General Directorate of Environmental Affairs headed by the GCEA director Dr. Akram Khouri and attended by representatives of DFEA's in the Syrian Governorates.

The expert team leader

Mr. Iwai prepared a presentation in which he explained the executed works so far. He mentioned that, all of the laboratories in the Syrian Governorates received the necessary equipment and reagents required for water monitoring and that laboratory staff



Presenting Project's Activities

attended training courses in Syria and some of them participated in a course in Egypt.

Then, Mr. Iwai said that as it is the Mid term of the project, an evaluation team from Japan will visit Syria next July to evaluate project in order to start a new phase.

At the end of the meeting, the Japanese experts listened to different questions from the participants and offered the appropriate answers and suggestions.