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The First Steering Committee Meeting for the Project of "Sewerage System Development in Syria"

On November 06, 2006 the first steering committee meeting of the project of "Sewerage System Development in Syria" was held at the Ministry of Housing and Construction.

The project will be implemented in cooperation between JICA and the Ministry where JICA is going to conduct a Development Study in the field of Sewage.



The project's minutes of meeting were signed in Oct. 2005 and the scope of work was signed in Mar. 2006 between JICA and the Ministry.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Housing and Construction Engineer Homoud Al Hussein and Deputy Minister Dr. Kamal Al Sheikha in addition to other related engineers working in the ministry.

Also representatives from different Ministries as : agriculture, irrigation, health, local administration and environment ,SPC and others attended the meetings as they will be partners in this project.

The Resident Representative of JICA Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa as well as JICA official team headed by Mr. Masumoto and members of the study team headed

by Mr. Sano attended the meeting.

The project's inception report was discussed during the meeting, and Mr. Sano gave a presentation in which he explained about the inception report and the objectives of the project.

He mentioned that the study aims at reviewing the existing development plans in national sewerage sectors, formulation Governorate Master Plan for prioritized area aiming at water pollution control and public hygiene improvement, conducting the Feasibility Study in Damascus Rural Area in cooperation with Syrian counterpart officers and executing the Technical Transfer to Syrian counterpart officers in course of the study.

JICA Official team left to Japan on November 11 while study team members are staying in Syria to continue their activities that may take two years and where they will be dispatched according to a fixed time schedule.

The Ministry of housing and Construction has already allocated the necessary office space for the team members in its Headquarters in Damascus.



H.E. Minister of Housing and Mr. NAGASAWA



Terminal Evaluation of FVM Project Concludes

The Terminal Evaluation Committee of the Technical cooperation Project on Capacity Building of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM) at Al-Baath University was concluded.

During the period from October 29th till November 8th, JICA's 4 members visiting evaluation delegation from Japan led by Mr. Kuroki worked shoulder by shoulder with the 4 members National Team of the Syrian Government led by Dr. Ibrahim Muhra; representative of Ministry of Higher Education, who altogether formed the Joint Evaluation Committee of the project.



Meeting H.E. Deputy Minister of Higher Education

The commission has conducted a series of meetings with the affiliated entities of the Syrian Government, Farmers and Breeders, in addition to site visits and interviewed project counterparts, and surveys, in order to discuss and inspect the project's impacts, added to prolonged inspection of the project site, and thus, estimate to which degree the project team has fulfilled its mandate to reach

the planned project purpose, and foresee whether it will be possible to achieve the project's overall goal after the conclusion of the technical cooperation, i.e. whether the project will be sustainable as presumed.

In this context, it is worth mentioning also that the project was closely collaborating with Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms represented by Directorate of Animal Health (DOAH), and General Establishment for Cattle (GOC), and also Syndicate of Veterinarians in Syria.

The project was initiated in December 2003, aiming at upgrading the level of veterinary medicine in the Syrian Arab Republic in whole, by building the human capacities at FVM. The project that also contributed to utilisation of the equipment that has been earlier provided to FVM by the 3.7 million US Dollars Grant Aid by the Japanese Government back in the year 1999, will be concluded in December 2006, when Dr. Nishikawa;



Al-Baath University Rector Receiving the Delegation

JICA's long term expert dispatched at FVM will leave Syria.

Through the course of project's implementation, many activities took place, and namely; Training students and staff of FVM for application and operation of scientific equipment, Improving student practices on disease diagnosis, Improving diagnostic skills of teaching and laboratory staff, Improving diagnostic skills of important animal diseases for clinical diagnosis and surveillance, establishing training programs of FVM students, and To establish sustain-



The Committee visiting FVM laboratories, and interviewing project counterparts

able programs for veterinarians.

It is worth mentioning that JICA's evaluation process is following the OECD-DAC's five evaluation criteria, that is to check;

(1) Relevance

Relevance is reviewed by the validity of the Project Purpose and the Overall Goal in connection with the development policy of Syrian Arab Republic as well as the needs of beneficiaries.

(2) Effectiveness

Effectiveness is assessed by evaluating to what extent the Project has achieved Project



Purpose and clarifying the relationship between the Project Purpose and the Project Outputs.

(3) Efficiency

Efficiency is analysed by focusing the relationship between the Project Outputs and the Project Inputs in terms of timing, quality and quantity.

(4) Impact

Impact is analysed from the view point of positive or negative influence caused by implementing the Project including the extent to which the Overall Goal has been attained. It includes effects, which are not originally expected in the Project.

(5) Sustainability

Sustainability is assessed in organizational, financial and technical aspects, by examining the extent to which the achievements of the Project could be sustained or expanded after the completion of the Project.

As for JICA's contribution (inputs), JICA has dispatched a long term expert in the field of Diagnostic test (36 Man Month (MM)), and



Joint Coordination Committee Meeting.

group of short term experts; Virology, Bacteriology, DNA diagnostics (total of 3.5MM), and also provided counterpart training in Japan in the fields of Bacteriology, biochemistry, virology, parasitological disease, and veterinary education, the total of which is 9 MM.

Evaluation results were signed and presented to the members of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Nov 7th, the JCC was attended by top Syrian local officials, clearly showing the interest of the government's top administration in the progress of

the project. H.E. Hama Governor, Al-Baath Party Secretary of Hama, and of Al-Baath University, Al-Baath University Rector, and other.

The Evaluation Committee has evaluated the project accomplishments as "satisfactory", such results where impossible to reach without the efforts of the Syrian counterparts, and close collaboration, and cooperation of all affiliated parties. These parties will have to continue the hard work, in order to maintain sustainability, and the positive results of this project.



One of the intensive meetings of the Joint Evaluation Committee, in the center, Dr. Darem Tabba; Dean of FVM, and to his left; Dr. Ibrahim Muhra the Team Leader of the Syrian Committee, to his left Dr. Najem Lababide; DOAH, Ms. Rasha Abdulhai; SPC, and Dr. Omar Al-Ziabi; FVM



It Happened to be that during the visit of evaluation mission, one of the training course for the professional veterinarians in South Lebanon was concluded.

In the picture, Mr. Nagasawa; Resident Representative, handing over the certificate to one of the participants.



Rehabilitation Project of Water Tunnels is Done

As the major rehabilitation works of the old water conveyance tunnel which stretches from Fiegh spring to Damascus were concluded, and since the rehabilitation works of the new tunnels has been already concluded last June, we may say that the project on rehabilitation of water conveyance tunnels has almost come into an end.

The project that has been requested by DAWSSA, Ministry of Housing and Construction in Syria in 2003, was approved to be funded by Japanese Government grant aid of 3.5 million US Dollars, implemented, and supervised by Japanese companies using the state of art technologies.

JICA, from its side, contributed by conducting the preliminary study during June and July 2004, the preliminary study indicated the necessity of rehabilitation, and then, JICA dispatched a Basic Design Study team in November 2004.

This project comes within JICA's vision to develop water sector in Syria in general, and in the metropolitan area, in particular. In this sense, JICA is working on the project on establishment of Water Resource Information Centre (WRIC) in Barada and Aawaj and Coastal Basins, which is conducted in Cooperation with Ministry of Irrigation, and Development of Efficient Irrigation Techniques and Extension (DEITEX) which is commenced in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. JICA also conducted many technical cooperation projects aiming to improve vari-

ous sectors in Damascus Metropolitan Area such as Electricity Distribution, Drinking Water, Solid Waste, and Transportation. Now, JICA is conducting a Development Study on Sustainable Urban Development.

In fact, JICA tends to complement its projects in order to make the maximum impact in the sector/ region.

The Project is expected to reduce water loss (3.21 million m³/year) in the old tunnel, corresponding to 1.6% of DAWSSA's total water supply. The water saved equals the development of a new water resource for 71,000 inhabitant, assuming a current water consumption of 124 lit/cap/day.



Picture shows Mr. Nagasawa; Resident Representative inspecting Old Tunnel's Wet Periphery that has been coated with FRP Pannels, and one of the repaired cracks

Good Bye Nakayama san

Mr. Nakayama; JOCV Volunteer, has fulfilled his 2.5 years mandate at Daraa research station pertaining to General Commission of Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR).

During his assignment, Mr. Nakayama worked on research related to water consumption of local vegetables.

At the end of his assignment, he handed over the results of his long research to his director, and to H.E. DG of GCSAR. It is hoped that these results, will be helpful for JICA's DEITEX ongoing project, and Ministry of Agriculture as well.



Mr. Nakayama in between his Director and Ms. Funaba; Assistant Resident Representative