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# Friendship & Co-operation



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## Japan International Cooperation Agency

### JICA

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## Promoting Water Recourse Information Center at Ministry of Irrigation

On 03, Mar. 2005, an official Handover Ceremony took place to mark the handing over of Japanese Grant-Aid Project "Development of Hydrological and Meteorological Observation Network" on behalf of Ministry of Irrigation. This Grant Aid consists of - 21 Automatic Weather Station, 35 rain gauge, 154 Ground Water data logger, 38 Surface Water data logger, five vehicles, 18 laptop. The grant aid amounts at \$ 5.7 million US.



H.E. the Japanese Ambassador during his speech

The Grant-Aid Project is considered a very important step in fostering the Technical Cooperation Project "Water Resources Information Center" WRIC that has been established in June 2002 in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency "JICA".

WRIC in Ministry of Irrigation aims at improving Water Resources Management. It targets two Water Basins in Syria – Barada and Awaj Basin & Coastal Basin.

Very important outputs to be achieved in WRIC project: First, Water Resources Information System to be established. Next, the staff of WRIC acquires the necessary techniques for hydrological and meteorological observation, data collection, and data processing. What's more, a section is established within WRIC for capacity building. Finally, a system is to be established to enable the staff of WRIC to provide necessary information on Water Resources Management to the decision-makers, planners and researchers by utilizing the Water Resources Information System.



H.E. the Minister of Irrigation and H.E. the Japanese Ambassador during cutting the ribbon

Currently three JICA experts are working with their Syrian counterparts for the WRIC project. For more information, visit WRIC web site at: [www.wric-sy.org](http://www.wric-sy.org)



## Workshop on Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

A national seminar and workshop for promoting the concept of Community Based Rehabilitation was held in the period from Mar.20 to 24, 2005.

JICA expert working for the CBR project in Damascus Rural arranged this activity and invited the Japanese expert "Ms. Nakanishi" who came from Japan to exchange views and introduce JICA's experiences in the

CBR field in the other countries.

The National seminar took place at Le Meridien Hotel in Damascus and was attended by the Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Suleiman Al Khatib, Director of Rehabilitation at Ministry of Health Dr. Hisham Tinbakji, Head of Development and Environment Bureau in Youth Federation Mrs. Abeer Al Shamali, and Director of

Social Services at Ministry of Social Affairs Mr. Imad Ezz in addition to other concerned members.

The seminar was an opportunity to introduce the CBR project to the attendants and to present the activities of the CBR volunteers who worked for the project in Rural Damascus .



Ms. Nakanishi and CBR Volunteer



Part of the attendants



CBR Activities

## Promoting South-South Regional Cooperation

A Workshop on Promoting South-South Regional Cooperation in the Middle East Region was hosted by JICA Egypt Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2005 in Cairo.

The participants were senior officials of at governmental focal points and representatives form JICA offices of: Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

The objectives of the workshop were; to share information and experiences of South-South cooperation and JICA's activities in the region, to verify and share resources and needs of respective countries within the context of South-South cooperation in the region, and to discuss the future systematic measures for

sharing information and experiences in more efficient manner in order to promote and improve South-South cooperation in the region.

During the workshop, experience in implementing and information on the resources of South-South regional cooperation were broadly shared according to the presentation

made by each participant and active discussions on further improvement and promotion of South-South cooperation in the Middle-East Region followed. At the end of the workshop the participants reached several recommendations to be taken into consideration to strengthen this type of cooperation, specially in Iraq and Palestine.



Participants in the workshop

## Advanced Training For Jandar Staff In Jordan

Under the counterpart training scheme for JICA Senior Volunteers working at Jandar training centre, advanced training programme has been arranged for two technicians and one engineer in the field of programming and operation CNC machines (Milling and Lathe), as well as operation of standard milling and standard lathe machines.

The training which will be committed at Specialised Institute for Metal Industries (STIMI), an example of successful technical cooperation project of JICA in Jordan.

Training will continue for three



Mr. Elyas; Engineer at JTC standing beside the programmable lathe machine.

weeks. By the end of the training, the participants will return to Jandar with some valuable practical experience, and will continue transferring this experience to their trainees.



JTC technicians, working on "Hand Finishing"

It is worth mentioning, that STIMI, received Japanese Experts and training in Japan since its establishment, has become now a high level training facility in the region.

## From Mr. Tsuruta, JOCV Senior Volunteer (Physical Education)

It is very fruitful and interesting to join the program of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) for the second time.

My name is Hiroyuki Tsuruta, Physical Education, Senior JOCV Volunteer. My second assignment will end in the coming April 2005, where I worked for UNRWA schools and cooperated with the local counterparts and the Japanese Volunteers to coordinate for JICA Cup 2005 which was held in Damascus and there was a football championship between the students teams from different cities. The distinguished presence of the Japanese football player Mr. Kitazawa and the accompanied team gave additional importance for this event, where he supervised the lessons and the training.

Through my first assignment, I was in Lattakias' UNRWA Schools for two years 2000-2002, this experience and the intention of UNRWA and JICA Syria Office prepared for the second assignment which had very good objectives concerning the Physical Education. The two parties had the intention to get benefits and to develop the practical experience of the local teachers, through holding three successive workshops and



Mr. Hiroyuki Tsuruta

seminars attended by all the PE Teachers. These workshops gave additional impact to the current cooperation that the relations and the chance for views and ideas exchange were very obvious among the local teachers, JICA Volunteers, school supervisors and the PE Program Officer. It was very effective to explain about the way of teaching PE in the Japanese schools through presentations and seminars.

Finally I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the staff that assisted me to perform my job in a perfect way, the cooperation is the result of the performance of two or more parties. Actually we could not reach to this point of success without this important assistance and coordination.

Hiroyuki Tsuruta.



## A Gift From The People Of Japan To UNRWA Schools

### SENIOR VOLUNTEERS, BRINGING GENERATIONS TOGETHER

Mr. TAKATSUKA Saburo, is a Senior Volunteer who has arrived in Syria last October, to work with his counterparts at Jandar Training Centre on upgrading the quality of training, he lives in Homs.

However, Mr. TAKATSUKA, knowing about JICA's activities in education at UNRWA Schools, through dispatching of JOCV's on Music, fine arts, and physical education, couldn't stand with his arms folded. He has got an inspiring idea, and followed it up to the limit.

He contacted his hometown to urge the citizens to collect their old, almost forgotten musical wind instruments (Harmonica) , they once used when they were in school age, for there is someplace he has in his mind, where these instruments can be brought back to life again.

The first /30/ instruments delivered to Al-Jish school in Homs, where Ms. MASUGI (JOVC) teaches music for primary school children, the ceremony took place on Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> , and attended by UNRWA Central Region Director of Education, and Director of Al-Jish school.

Apart from the warm words of courtesy, the smiles on the faces of the schoolchildren practicing music lesson for the first time in their life, is the most sincere expression of appreciation to all who made Mr. Takatsuka's Idea comes true.



Mr. Takatsuka with Ms. Masugi and her counterpart, and director of Al-Jish School



Cultural differences merges, know-how recognises no barriers

## JICA Activities as of February , 2005

Category	On Duty	Total (since 1954)
Overseas Participants	1,701	261,396
Experts	1,608	73,491
Survey Team Members	546	189,058
Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers	2,634	26,915