



- The Project For Supplying Medical Equipment For Golan Hospital
- New Training Courses In Damascus University
- 3 Years Technical Cooperation Project Begins
- Practical Idea For Remedy Of Casting Defects, Presented By Jica Senior Volunteer Mr. Toru Matsuzaki
- The First Group Training Course For Iraq Launches At Icarda

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Japan Fair 2005 in Damascus University

The Japanese Cultural Fair 2005 took place in Damascus University on Apr.28,2005 in cooperation between JICA Syria Office, Embassy of Japan and Damascus University.

During this event the Japanese cultural activities such as Japanese calligraphy, tea ceremony, flower arrangements and traditional sports were introduced to the visitors.

In addition, a lot of Japanese volunteers participated in the fair trying to highlight JICA/JOCV activities in Syria.

The event came when Ms. Yoko Watanabe, the Japanese Language teacher working at Damascus University was preparing to leave to Japan after spending nearly one year in teaching the students at the Japanese Language Center.

JICA usually dispatches Japanese volunteers to Damascus and Aleppo Universities in order to exchange views and transfer experiences to their counterparts working in the Japanese Language Centers.

The Fair came as a result of the continuous cooperation of the Japanese volunteers and students working in both universities as they paid the utmost efforts to make it a successful event.





The Project for Supplying Medical Equipment for Golan Hospital

Syria drew up the Ninth Five-Year plan for National Economic and Social Development. One of the main objectives of the plan was developing the basic infrastructure of the health sector. The plan targeted to improve and enhance the quality of medical services provided by the hospitals. It also targeted to improve 120-bed hospitals.

In order to achieve this goal, the Ministry of Health has been constructing eighteen 120 bed hospitals in Syria by its own budget, but because medical equipment and materials are not affordable by the ministerial budget. The Ministry requested the assistance from some donor countries including Japan.

The project of equipping Golan Hospital in Quneitra Governorate was requested as one of the facilities built under the eighteen 120 bed hospitals to help in improving medical services for residents of Quneitra Governorate that does not have a hospital .

The hospital functions are: emergency department, surgical operation department, intensive care department, clinical laboratory department, central sterilization department, pediatric department, dialysis department, , radiology department and laundry and kitchen .

The project was implemented in accordance with the framework of a grant aid program of the Japanese government with a total cost over 4 million US\$.

JICA as part of its technical cooperation programs, dispatched some of the hospital staff for training in Japan and is preparing for dispatching 2 Japanese volunteers to extend their experiences in the fields of maintenance of medical equipment and nursing.

The hospital was officially opened under the patronage of Prime Minister Eng. Naji Otri in March 2005 and since that it started to receive patients who did surgical operations or received needed medical treatment.

At the end of April,2005 an opening ceremony attended by Quneitra Governor, Minister of Health, Japanese Ambassador, JICA's representatives and other concerned officials took place in the hospital where the attendants toured its main departments and listened to explanation of its functions by the concerned staff.



The Ambassador of Japan, Quneitra Governor and Minister of health at the opening ceremony



Modern Radiology Apparatus



The Minister of Health and the Japanese Ambassador in a tour in the hospital



New Training Courses in Damascus University

JICA Syria Office and Damascus University signed a technical cooperation agreement on Wednesday 11 May 2005. The signing ceremony was attended by President of Damascus University, Dr. Prof. Muhamed Issam AWWA, and JICA Syria Office Resident Representative, Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa.

According to the agreement, Faculty of Information Technology (FIT) will conduct in-country training program entitled "Computer IT Division Manager". The duration of this program is three years. Two Training Courses will be conducted yearly.

(FIT) will invite nearly twenty candidates from Syrian Ministries and general establishments' staff for each training course. The course will last for two months.

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, and then analyse business process for current and new systems.



Signing Ceremony

3 YEARS TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT BEGINS

Most of water resources in Syria are used for irrigation purposes, the limited, non-renewable, water is wasted inefficiently by most of the farmers.

In order to maximise the efficiency of water usage for irrigated agriculture, it has been agreed to implement a technical cooperation project on Development of Efficient Irrigation Techniques and Extension (DEITEX). The project purpose is to achieve proper amount of irrigation water use for each crop, and thus saving the valuable water.

Soon after record of discussion has been signed Lat

November, the long term experts arrived in Syria on April 2005, in order to implement the project, short term experts will be dispatched as well.

The project is implemented by Administration for Natural Resources Research (ANRR) at General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR), Mo Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (Mo A&AR).

The team will conduct the detailed studies, field surveys, and implementation of the project, short term experts will be dispatched soon.



Experts and JICA Team with Deputy Dir. Of GCSAR and Dir. Of ANRR



Experts and JICA Team with Dir. Of International Cooperation at Mo Agriculture



Practical Idea for remedy of casting defects, presented by JICA Senior Volunteer Mr. Toru Matsuzaki

JICA Senior Volunteer Mr. Matsuzaki is working as a consultant and expert in the field of Foundry and Casting at Aleppo Chamber of Industry (ACI) since 2004 where his assignment period will last for two years.

As part of his mission at ACI, Mr. Matsuzaki is conducting a study for the present situation of workshops in Aleppo and help industrialists to find solutions for their problems.

He would like to set a plan to raise and improve casting level through using the most State-of-the-art techniques during casting operation.

In the occasion of linking University with Labor Market, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at Aleppo University in cooperation with Aleppo Chamber of Industry took the initiative of organizing the 1st Seminar: "Fundamentals of Developing Casting Industry" through inviting lecturers from both parties.

Mr. Matsuzaki was invited also to transfer his experiences to the attendants. In his presentation he presented practical

examples for defects in casting operations and the best way of curing them.

At the end, the presentation was enriched by an open discussion from participants for arised issues.

Attendants thanked Mr. Matsuzaki's efforts in such fruitful seminars and requested more JICA's contribution in further occasions.



Mr. Matsuzaki at the end of the presentation

The first group training course for IRAQ launches at ICARDA

In cooperation with ICARDA, the first group training course in a 5 year programme started. The programme is targeting Iraq, aiming at building its severely damaged capacities.

Opening of the first course among the 15 group training courses took place on My 8th, 2005

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 countries suffered the consequences of war and political instability.

The training courses are intended to be comprehensive, diverse, and meeting the needs of development in Iraq. In addition, some participants from Syria, and the region will join the courses as well.

In addition to these courses designated for, another series of courses are running in ICARDA for Afghanistan.



Opening ceremony: Dr. Oweis, and Mr. Samir EL SEBAE and Mr. Nagasawa, addressing the participant of water Management Course