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Japan International Cooperation Agency

JICA

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New Project Formulation Advisor for the Environment Sector

JICA Head Office in Tokyo dispatched Ms. Yumiko Honda to work at JICA Syria Office as a project formulation advisor for the Environment sector.

Ms. Honda has joined JICA since 2002 where she worked at JICA Austria Office until 2005.

In 1998, Ms. Honda graduated from Kansai University, Department of history and Geography, Faculty of Literature. In 2001, she obtained MA in Geography from London University where her major field was Environment and Development in the South.

During her assignment period in Syria, Ms. Honda will follow the environmental and health programs in JICA Syria Office. She will also work on formulating new projects in the same field.

We, at JICA Syria Office, wish Ms. Honda a pleasant stay in Syria and a successful mission.



Ms. Yumiko Honda

Qualitative Improvement of Basic Education in Syria

On May 28, the mission on developing Syrian Basic Education represented by Ms. Kiyomi Sanomine arrived in Syria dispatched by JICA's Head Quarter; the purpose of this mission is to formulate a project on developing Mathematics and Science in Basic Education level.

This mission is considered as an extension to the previous one visited Syria last February and conducted survey on the current Educational situation in order to identify needs and decide intervention area.

Ms. Sanomine will continue working on the formulation of the mentioned project for about two months and submit a proposal to the Ministry of Education on the possibilities of cooperation.

This project aims at raising the level of Syrian students in Mathematics and

Science (Physics & Chemistry) through improving their understanding according to the new teaching methodologies.

Moreover, the mentioned mission concurs with the workshop of the Ministry concerning the formation of National Standards for each subject, so "JICA has chosen the perfect timing of this project in Syria" this is what Education Ministry's officials have said.



Mission's Kick-off Meeting at SPC



JICA Program Performance (as of February 2005)

(number of people)

	Active	2003 (Fiscal Year*)	Grand Total (since 1954)
Recipient countries / regions		158	
Japan-based technical trainees	1,701	15,701	261,396
Experts dispatched	1,608	4,503	73,491
Study team member dispatched	546	8,048	189,058
JOCV volunteers dispatched	2,634	3,610	26,915
Other Volunteers dispatched	988	1,417	2,437

* April 2003 to March 2004

JICA Encourages Cooperation among Countries

JICA puts the priority to enhance experience exchange among regional countries and south-south cooperation. Within this framework, JICA Syria Office received a delegation from JICA Morocco, and Jordan Overseas offices. Mr. UEMURA; JICA Expert on Drinking Water Supply in Morocco, and his counterparts from General Establishment of Water Use in Morocco, and Mr. YUZURIO; Assistant Resident Representative for Iraq

Unit in JICA Jordan Office and national staff of JICA Iraq unit visited Syria from Jun. 6 to Jun. 11, 2005.

The objective of the visit was to exchange experience with the Syrian organisations concerned in management of water resources for drinking and irrigation, in addition to observe the implementation and impacts of JICA cooperation projects in Syria in the field such as Water Resource Information Centre (WRIC).



Visiting WRIC meteorological monitoring station



A key visit to Deputy Minister of Housing



Planning for Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) Starts

On May 30th, State Planning Commission (SPC) hosted the kick-off meeting to introduce Japanese ODA in the next fiscal year to the concerned ministries of the Syrian Government.

The representatives of many Syrian ministries were invited to meet face to face, with Mr. Takeshi OKUDA; secretary in-charge at Embassy of Japan in Syria, and Mr. Kazuhide NAGASAWA; Resident Representative of JICA Syria Office and the office staff.

The meeting started by an introduction to the requests survey process by SPC deputy Head Mr. Bassam Al Sebai, the schedule which has already been fixed as regular annual event, on Syrian - Japanese cooperation agenda.

Then, JICA Syria office national programme officers made presentations; Ms. Marah MORAD; described about ODA & JICA, and technical cooperation schemes,

namely; **Development Studies, Technical cooperation Projects, Training, Expert dispatch, JOCV and Senior Volunteer (SV) dispatch, and Follow-Up cooperation** schemes. Then, Mr. Rouand SIDO, explained about JICA four sectors of activity in Syria; **Modernisation of Social & Economic System, Water Resource Management and Efficient Use, Improvement of Social Services, Environment Protection and Management.** Finally, Mr. Vartan YAYLAIAN, shed a light on the procedures of announcing and receiving candidates for **training courses in Japan**, in order to eliminate any confusion about these procedures, and thus avoiding missing the opportunity to attend these training courses. Then the attendees' questions were answered.

After the completion of the procedures, discussion of priorities with SPC, these requests to be submitted to JICA HQs to decide on the proposals.

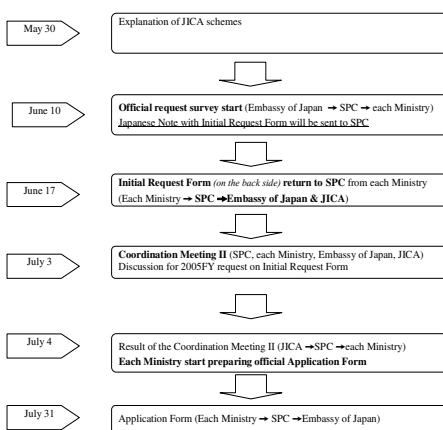


Mr. Bassam Al Sibai (in the middle) presiding the meeting

A part of Participants to the meeting from Syrian Ministries



Japanese ODA Request Procedure 2005 FY



Japanese ODA Request Procedure time line for the year 2005 survey



Summer 2005 Physical Education Workshops

Physical Education is considered as one of the important fields of cooperation between JICA and UNRWA. Therefore, in the summer of 2004 three workshops for 75 teachers in different Syrian Cities took place where training concentrated on two popular games in Syria; Basketball and Volleyball. In addition, seminars and practical training for developing and upgrading the skills of the Physical Education local teachers in UNRWA' schools were held.

Taking into consideration the output of teachers training that is upgrading the teachers' skills and deepening the relation between JOCV Volunteers and local teachers, this cooperation has progressed through three successive workshops in the field of Gymnastic, recreation and introductory preparation for the softball.

The first workshop was held from June 14 to 15 in Fayha Sport City in Damascus where 25 teachers attended this workshop from different cities. The second and the third workshops were held in Sport Federation's hall in Homs city, 25 teachers from Damascus participated in each.

The teacher-training program is the result of the cooperation and coordination between JICA's expert Volunteers, UNRWA's Education Department and the General Sport Federation in Damascus and Homs. This partnership led to positive results through developing the capacity of the local Physical Education teachers.

At the end of each workshop, the Resident Representative of JICA Mr. Nagasawa, and the Deputy Chief of Education Program in

UNRWA Mr. Amouri handed over the certificates to the participants.



Teachers Training in The Playground



Physical Education Seminar

Happy to Join JICA

My name is Yousef ALMUSTAFA, and I am a student at "Institut National d'Administration" (INA) in Syria. I've joined JICA Syria Office as an intern as the last phase of my education at the institute last May, my internship will last till end of August.

My first internship as student of INA was at State Planning Commission - department of International Relations, this is where I learned about JICA activities in Syria, and planned my next internship to be at JICA itself. I have worked for many organizations until I enrolled at (INA), and I am

happy that JICA agreed to receive INA students as interns starting this year, which gave me and one of my colleagues the opportunity to join.

For myself, I wanted to learn how the work is getting done at JICA, I am intending to work closely with JICA staff, and understand the mechanisms of technical cooperation in general, and in JICA in particular, in addition, I've developed a work plan which is going to be a kind of a micro-research on JOCV volunteers and Senior Volunteers (SV) activities in Syria, I hope that this study will help JICA and the Government of

Syria maximising the utilization of volunteers programme.

I believe that the experience gained at JICA will be very helpful for my future career and duty contributing in my country's development.



Yousef ALMUSTAFA