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Friendship & Co-operation



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New Arrivals (JOCV Group 17-I)

On Jul.12,2005 group 17-I of Japanese volunteers arrived in Damascus. The new volunteers were dispatched according to agreements with different Syrian official organizations to work hand in hand with their Syrian counterparts to improve and support the development process in Syria.

The following volunteers are going to work at UNRWA schools, Damascus University, Women Federation, Youth federation and ICARDA:

Name	Recipient Organization	Speciality
Ms. Miki HIRATA	Damascus University.	Japanese Language.
Ms. Naoko KOGISO	UNRWA, Schools Lattakia.	Music.
Ms. Noriko KAMITANI	UNRWA, Schools Daraa.	Music.
Ms. Mitsue AKAHOSHI	UNRWA, Schools Aleppo.	Music.
Ms. Asami KISHIMOTO	Women Federation KG Aleppo.	Kindergarten Education
Ms Naomi MITANI	Women Federation KG Lattakia.	Nursery Care.
Mr. Masafumi TAMURA	Youth Federation.	Environmental Education.
Mr. Tsutomu TAMADA	MoAAR, ICARDA.	Ecology.
Ms. Ryoko NAKAJIMA.	Women Federation KG Damascus.	Kindergarten Education



Mitsue Akahoshi
Music
UNRWA.Aleppo



Asami Kishimoto
Kindergarten.Aleppo
Women Federation



Miki Hirata
Japanese Language
Damascus University.



Naoko Kogiso
Music
UNRWA.Lattakia



Noriko Kamitani
Music
UNRWA. Daraa



Naomi Mitani
Nursery Care. Lattakia
Women Federation.



Tsutomu Tamada
Ecology. Aleppo
ICARDA.



Masafumi Tamura
Environment Education.
Youth Federation .



Ryoko Nakajima
Kindergarten.
Women Fed. Damascus



JICA Participates in Damascus International Fair 2005

JICA is going to participate in this year's fair, where visitors can have a close look to all JICA's activities and programmes in Syria, and meet face to face with JICA staff to exchange points of views.

You are all welcomed at JICA stand in Damascus International Fair, Hall B10.



JICA stand at 2004 Fair

Youth Revolution Union, Active role in CBR Project



Ms. Abeer Al Shamali

Abeer Al Shamali is a member of the Youth Revolution Union and is the head of the Development and Environment Bureau.

Mrs. Abeer is an active staff of the Union, she is working on developing environmental programs. In addition, she is paying great efforts in assisting the CBR project implemented by

JICA in Rural Damascus.

Q. What is your impression of the CBR project? And what is your role?

It is an important and vital project. It offers big services to an important group of the society that is in need of development and support. We, at the Youth federation are giving the project a big concern that is why we offered all the possible help and assistance to support it, and we are ready to cooperate with all of the stakeholders to improve it and expand it to cover most of the Syrian areas.

Q. What is your future visions towards the cooperation with JICA?

It is quite known that the history of cooperation between JICA and the youth federation is dated back to years ago. It started through dispatching Japanese volunteers in the field of computer and music teaching, and now we are supporting JICA's CBR project. As a head of the

Development and Environment Bureau, I'm looking to expand this cooperation to cover environmental activities through receiving the Japanese members who can help our environmental clubs to spread environment awareness all over the country, in order to preserve a clean and healthy environment.

Q. Do you think JICA's cooperation programs are well known in Syria?

No doubt, they are very well known. JICA is paying big efforts in every field and it offers help in every vital sector which makes it in direct contact with the Syrian people. I can't find any one who didn't feel its contributions in water, electricity, health and others. Here, I have to say that we are really thankful to JICA and we highly appreciate the big efforts and kind support of the Japanese government.



Youth federation participating to CBR workshops



Japanese Teachers Visit Syria

Within the framework of enhancing ties between Japan and different world nations, JICA invites a number of Japanese teachers every year to visit these countries, in order to understand those countries' culture and lifestyle. After returning back to Japan, they will explain their experience to their students.

In the same context, this year JICA Syria office received nine Japanese teachers during the period from Aug. 1 to 8, 2005.

Schedule for the group has been organized to cover the most significant attractions in Syria in

addition to some of the Japan Official Development Assistance (ODA) and technical cooperation programs in Syria regarding to volunteers activities.

The group visited Damascus old city and enjoyed its heritage, restaurants and food, they also visited major Syrian tourist sites such as Palmyra, Theater of Bousra Al Sham, Crack Des Chevalier and Hama Water Wheels. At these places they have enjoyed Syrian hospitality, friendship and kindness and promised to convey this positive image to their country and people.

As for JICA activities, visits covered many programs in different sectors such as water recourse management, Social improvement and Health. During mentioned visits Japanese teachers were so impressed by the cooperation of Syrian counterparts with JICA volunteers and the impact of mentioned projects on Syrian side.

In conclusion, all teachers were very impressed with their visit to Syria and they invited Syrians they met during their stay to visit Japan and experience Japanese culture in return.



Visiting Community Based Rehabilitation Project (CBR)



Group Picture at UNRWA school in Hama



Attending Japanese language lesson at Damascus University

Increasing Efficiency of JICA cooperation targeting Palestinian Refugees

JICA evaluation team visited Syria from 28 July until 04 August. The team consisted of two members; Ms. Kayo Kasai, who is a special advisor in cooperation planning and Mr. Tatsuya Nishida, the consultant in evaluating Palestinian Refugees Affairs. The team focused on evaluating JICA's assistance for Palestinian refugees through UNRWA, assessing the needs of Palestinian Refugees, and considering the possibility of future

JICA cooperation.

The team visited different organization. First, a visit to State Planning Commission was paid, then, the team met the officers at General Administration for Palestinian Arab Refugees, UNRWA Syria Field Office and other international and local institutions.

At the end, the team left to Jordan to continue the evaluation of JICA

cooperation with UNRWA in the neighboring countries.



at Vocational Training with JICA Senior Volunteers



Thank you JICA, thank you INA

We were the first fruit of the internship agreement between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Institut National d'Administration (INA). We spent at JICA as interns four months.

At the end of internship we have much to talk about; skills that we gained from JICA Japanese and national staff, administratively and technically, good understand of the relations between JICA and all Syrian institutions concerned; especially State Planning Commission, working in an international organization's atmosphere gave us the ability to compare it with those at public institutions, which helps us to take its advantages later when we

work for public institutions which have cooperation relations with international agencies.

During our assignment at JICA we accomplished, among other things, two studies; the first is *"For a More Effective Role of The Japanese Expert Volunteers in Syria"* through which we determined the main problems which faced the Japanese Volunteers and suggested suitable solutions, the second is *"For a Better International Cooperation"*.

These two studies enhanced our knowledge and deepened our experience.

Since May till August, we enjoyed our time at JICA very much. This

was not due only to the tasks we had accomplished, but also to the friendly atmosphere in the office as well. From the very beginning, our counterparts and others helped us with every thing, and supported us in executing activities that we are involved in. We highly recommend our future colleagues at INA to join JICA as interns.

Finishing this four months – period of internship at JICA, Syria office, we take this opportunity to thank JICA and INA for their efforts, without which, this internship could not be possible.

Yousef Hazim
Yousef Mustafa

A growing experiment

Mr. Yoshiaki KANZAWA; the JOCV volunteer at General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR) is working with his counterparts on a field research related to efficient irrigation techniques.

This summer he is experimenting the use different types of evaporation blocks on egg-plant production at GCSAR Nashabieh Research Centre in Rural Damascus. The objective of the experiment is to find the proper arrangement for planting this

summer vegetable. Next autumn, Mr. Kanzawa is planning to apply the lessons learnt from this experiment, and replicate it on potato with the support of Mr. Samer ALROAIDI director of the research centre, and GCSAR .



different types of evaporation protection material (red- black-transparent- weeds)



Mr. Kanzawa records daily air and soil temperature as well as other parameters