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Friendship & Co-operation



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3rd Syrian – Japanese Water Symposium

The Water Resources Information Center (WRIC), Ministry of Irrigation (MOI) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held the 3rd Syrian – Japanese Water Symposium by WRIC, MOI and JICA on Sep.5 at Meridien Hotel in Damascus.

The problems of water shortage and water pollution have been aggravated during the past ten years due to a lack of adequate water resources management and to a decrease in the rate of precipitation.

For the Syrian government, the establishment of a new water resources development plan has become the prime objective in resolving these serious water problems.

From 1996, JICA conducted development study to prepare a master plan for the comprehensive devel-

opment of water resources in the areas of five water basins: Barada-Awaj, Orontes, Coastal, Aleppo, and Steppe.

Based on the results of these studies, the Government of Syria requested the Government of Japan to provide project for the establishment of WRIC in order to help it improve water resources information management throughout the country, and develop decision-makers that can utilize water resources information.

The symposium included different activities such as :

- Presentation of WRIC's activities.

- Coordination with Syrian other Ministries and organizations.

- Coordination with other donors.

- Public Relation of WRIC.

- Introduction of water resources management in other Arab countries etc.

The Participants were from : Syrian Government and local Organizations

Embassy of Japan and JICA, Donor Countries, International Organizations, University & WRIC member staff .



Syrian – Japanese Water Symposium



IT Training Course at Damascus University



IT Division Manager Training Course



Following the technical cooperation agreement signed on May 11, 2005 between JICA and Damascus University, The two Parties. proceeded according to the planned schedule announcing the course, receiving candidates from different governmental organisations, the opening ceremony was held on 4th September. So, the accepted participants started their course at Faculty of Information Technology.

The relevant technical cooperation agreement has been signed by the President of Damascus University, the Deputy Head of State Planning Commission, and JICA Syria Office Resident Representative.

According to the agreement, Faculty of Information Technology will conduct six training courses in "Computer (IT Division Manager) over the coming three years.

The Faculty of Information Technology will invite about twenty candidates from Syrian Ministries and general establishments staff for each training course. The course will last two months

By the end of the course the successful trainees will be able to organize and manage system development project, manage operation and administration of information systems, and analyse business process for current and new systems.

The participants came from: Ministry of Information, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Irrigation, Ministry of Housing and Construction, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Electricity, Arabian Encyclopaedia Commission, General Organization of Remote Sensing. Total number of participants is twenty.

Worth mentioning the next training course will be in January 2006.



In-Country Training Course on “Landfill Management”

According to a request received from Damascus Directorate of Cleanliness, JICA Syria Office and in cooperation with Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, hold a training course on “Landfill Management” in the period from September 19 to 22, 2005.

Participants in this training course were 15 Syrian members working in this field in different southern Syrian governorates. In addition 3 trainees from the private sector attended the course. Lecturers participated in the course were professors from the universities of Japan, Austria and Syria.

The opening ceremony of the course was attended by President of Damascus University Dr. Wael Mouala,

Deputy Minister of Local Administration and Environment Mr. Sadeq Abu Watfa and JICA’s Resident Representative Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa in addition to other concerned officials and JICA members.

Mr. Nagasawa, highlighted Syria’s efforts in dealing with the solid wastes, expressing JICA’s readiness to offer the assistance in this regard.

He added that the aim of this course is to raise the awareness in treating solid wastes and setting up an interconnected network of cooperation.



Landfill Management Training Course



UNRWA Schools Music Teachers’ Training.

In the frame work of upgrading the skills of music teachers in UNRWA schools, a training course was held by the JOCV Volunteers assigned at UNRWA Schools with the cooperation of the school supervisor and the support of two previous expert Volunteers in Homs & Aleppo schools who visited Syria for this mission.

The training course was in the Educational development Center from Aug. 21 to Aug. 25, 2005, where 17 music specialist teachers attended the training.

The objective of this training program is to develop the teachers’ skills in order to be among the team of trainers who will be responsible of training the teachers of the first cycle in the schools of Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Lattakia & Daraa from Sep. 2005 until March 2006. The

training will be for two days in each city where there will be a kind of follow up through the JOCV Expert Volunteers assigned in the abovementioned cities.

In the final day of the workshop, Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa; the Resident Representative of JICA Syria Office and Mr. Samir Abdelrahim; the deputy head of EDC, attended the final practical training, and distributed

the certificates to the participants who expressed their appreciation for the efforts of all the parties who organized and managed this workshop successfully, which will influence positively the educational process of teaching music in UNRWA schools.



UNRWA Music Teachers’ Training.



JICA participates in the 52nd session of Damascus International Fair

Damascus international fair is considered one of the major annual events in the country since it is the window for introducing global activities for both Syrian officials and public.

This year also JICA participated in the fair in order to highlight the ongoing activities in Syria . Visitors were introduced to the four main sectorial pillars of JICA in addition to the implicit 18 programs within these pillars. Our booth was visited by many public and Syrian officials working in different fields Who stressed on the importance of such events that strengthen the people's understanding about JICA's activities and share information with them.



JICA in Damascus
International Fair



The First Youth Camp to Enhance the Inclusion of People with Special Needs

In the period from September 8 to September 13 the Youth Revolution Union in cooperation with JICA Expert and volunteers and CBR Project's volunteers held the first Youth Camp for the Enhancement of the Inclusion of People with Special Needs.

The activities of the camp took place in Lattakia and was organized by the Youth Revolution Union, where participants came from different Syrian governorates and were those who have different kinds of disabilities .

It was the first occasion of its kind that allow people with special needs to participate in several activities away from their families and homes.

On the other hand, it was a good chance to aware people towards the importance of including this category of people in different aspects of life.

The Japanese expert and volunteers introduced methods of cooperation with disabled people and introduced some ideas related to environmental issues.

Sports as well as music and entertainment activities took place where all of the participants including those of special needs participated and enjoyed all around the period of camp.

The camp ending ceremony was attended by JICA's Resident Representative Mr. Kazuhide Nagasawa and the Head of Development and Environment Bureau at Youth Revolution Union Mrs. Abeer Al Shamali and other members from JICA and the Youth Union.

During the ceremony an exhibition that includes works of people with special needs was inaugurated.



Youth Camp .

