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Friendship & Co-operation



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Au revoir Syria!

My name is Ai Yoshida, I am an Expert Volunteer assigned at the Women Federation- Early Childhood Care Office.

I hold a Diploma degree from Seitoku University, Department of Early Childhood Care & Education, and I've worked in the field of Nursery care from 1999 till 2003 in Japan.



YOSHIDA Ai

I came to Syria in Dec. 2003, where I worked for tow years

at Qunaitra kindergarten & Nursery in Damascus, side by side with the nursery management and instructors, for upgrading the level of services extended to the children by transferring the Japanese experience in this field, the concept of which, is using educating games, and thus, making child care more fun for teachers, and learning, more interesting for children.

apart from work, I have enjoyed Syria a lot, I've visited many historical sites such as; Palmyra, Aleppo, Homs, Bosra & Hama, and attended many social activities. In addition, I enjoyed the Syrian delicious food, and always admired the kindness and hospitality of the Syrian people.

Although there are differences between the two cultures, but there are great similarities from many aspects, I could always communicate with people, make friendships.

Finally I'd like to express my deep appreciation to the Syrian people. I hope to visit Syria again, and wish them more prosperity and progress through our distinguished relation and cooperation.



Remarkable achievements at Teshreen University



Meeting with the President of Tishreen University



Dr George Ibrahim is explaining about the laboratory

Mechatronics Department is already two years old. In November 2003, JICA supported Teshreen University in establishing Mechatronics Department, whereas; JICA expert Mr. Tsuzuki Takashi has been dispatched to support in transferring technical knowledge to staff concerned at Mechatronics Department, in addition to providing necessary equipment for the Mechatronics laboratory.

JICA delegation visited Teshreen University to observe the Mechatronics Department in order to evaluate the achieved progress, and met the president of Tishreen University Dr. Amir Ibrahim and the dean of Mechanical and Electrical Faculty DR. Moaen Younes and the counterparts of JICA expert with concerned staff and students. The president of Teshreen University expressed the importance of having Mechatronics department; since it is the first department of its kind in Syria. Moreover, he urged on continuing the cooperation with JICA.

Observing the laboratory, it was obvious how students are working with great interest, having

necessary guidance and support from JICA expert and their professors. Dr George Ibrahim; the counterpart of JICA expert, pointed that the increasing number of interested students joining the team work at laboratory increases the responsibilities and tasks on this newly established department.

JICA, ensuring the sustainability of the project, extended the assignment of Mr. Tsuzuki for five months more. Thus, the university concerned staff would be able to consultant him in terms of setting up the curricula for the students of third, fourth, and fifth years, since the expert has already supported in developing the curricula of the first, and second years.

Mechanical and Electrical Faculty needs to initiate establishing relations with the stakeholders to sustain the development of Mechatronics department. JICA Deputy Resident Representative Mr. Shigeru Otake underlined the great importance of creating relations with potential customers of Mechatronics department from both private and public sectors.



Leba-JICA organises an excursion tour to members of JICA Syria Office

Leba-JICA; JICA Alumni association in Lebanon, is one of JICA's Alumni Association established in countries where many nationals participated to training courses in Japan through JICA. These alumni associations play significant role in utilising Japanese Development Assistance provided to their countries, through active contribution during cooperation project cycle, disseminating their knowledge and experience to their colleagues, who didn't have similar chance, in addition to bringing the people of two countries together.



In the frame work of the activities taken by Leba-JICA, JICA Syria Office members as well as JOCV volunteers were invited to visit Lebanon in order to exchange cultural and social relations between both the Japanese and Lebanese people. The tour that took place on Nov. 11, 2005, started by visiting the historical city of Ba'albek

where the participants listened to detailed explanation about the city and its archaeological sites.

During the break, both sides met and discussed the possible future cooperation and extending these social and cultural activities, and confirmed the necessity of activating different issues, and especially, the cooperation with the JICA Alumni Association in Syria which is going to start its activities in the near future, and thus, will have a positive reflect on the cooperation relations between Japan and the two countries.

Preparations for the 2nd Phase of the Environment Monitoring Project

Completing the first phase of the Project of Capacity Development of Environmental Monitoring at Directorates of Environmental Affairs in the Syrian Governorates (CDEM), JICA Syria Office started the contracting procedures with the concerned companies to procure water quality monitoring equipment.

The project has started in 2004, where 14 laboratories received the necessary equipment for monitoring air and water quality.

In addition a Japanese expert team toured the laboratories where they conducted several training courses to up grade the laboratory activities and build the staff capacities.

Within this frame work, a group of Japanese volunteers, who work in the environmental education, has started the preparation of environmental awareness campaign that will cover schools students in cooperation with volunteers from Damascus and Aleppo universities. Also the volunteers will start cleaning campaign to



Part of previous training at Der-Ezzor directorate

several parks and public facilities and will start from Al-Sibki park in Damascus in order to encourage the visitors, specially young children to take care of this vital environmental facility and spread environmental awareness among them.



FIRST IT COURSE CONCLUDES



group picture of participants with JICA Resident representative, Project Management, and Head of SCS – Damascus



JICA Resident Representative Hands over a certificate to one of participants

On Nov. 13th, 2005 the first course on “IT Division Manager” has concluded. This course comes within the framework of 3 years cooperation agreement between JICA and IT Faculty- Damascus University, 6 courses to be implemented in total. The closing ceremony this time, took place at Syrian Computer Society (SCS).

JICA’s concern in Information and Communication Training comes within Modernisation of Socio-economic systems, JICA believes that supporting the plans of the Syrian government in its constant movement towards IT society contribute to the modernisation of national Industry, and attracting foreign investments by creating an attractive, efficient, and healthy investment atmosphere which will be suitable for creating and growing of business. and accelerate the modernisation of economic system.

JICA has selected its most preferable approach to tackle this development issue which is

Capacity Development (CD) of national staff, for CD has played a significant role in Japan’s Rapid Economic Growth during the 50s and 60s of the last century.

Mr. NAGASAWA; Resident Representative, in his speech, addressed Damascus University, Professors and staff of IT Faculty, and Participants, for the sincere efforts they have exerted to make this course successful. Special thanks addressed to SCS for showing the concern by organising the closing ceremony, and thus contributing to carry the development burden.

at the end of the ceremony, the participant received their certificates, this will be the accord their new gained skills.

it is worth mentioning that the next course will take place on Jan. 2006, preparations has already started by the Project Management Unit at IT Faculty. for more information please contact IT Faculty.