

### JICA Goes Hand in Hand with the TICAD V



As you might already know, Japan will host the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) to be held this year from June 1st to June 3rd in Yokohama.

TICAD is a summit meeting to be held to discuss on African development initiated by Japanese government in 1993 and co-organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations, the UNDP, the United Nations Office of the Under Secretary General and Special Advisor on Africa (UNOSSA) and the World Bank, which opens to international and regional organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the private sector, and development partners. TICAD, the largest international conference of this kind to be held out of Africa, is based on the ownership of Africa and the partnership of the international community.

At TICAD V, such themes as Robust and Sustainable Economy, Inclusive and Resilient Society, and Peace and Stability will be discussed in order to boost the development of African nations. The international community is expected to increase its support to development of Africa mainly on global issues such as Millenium Development Goals, through involving a wider range of actors, and promoting South-South and Triangle Cooperaa-



Photo courtesy of Kenshiro Imamura / JICA



Photo courtesy of Kenshiro Imamura / JICA

tion. In terms of Japan's role, after already doubling its ODA budget towards Africa since 2007 by 2012, tackling global issues and expanding business opportunities

with Africa are expected.

Upon organizing this event, JICA is fully committed to make this conference successful and to support the development of African nations. JICA's President Akihiko Tanaka, for instance, appealed the importance of TICAD V and Japan's role for African Development upon his visit to Europe last December in his speech at think tanks in London and Brussels. At JICA Tokyo, we are receiving messages from training participants and ex-participants on their expectation for TICAD V and Japan's assistance for African Development. Let's listen to their voices!



Photo courtesy of Mika Tanimoto / JICA

#### Ex-Participants' Comments on TICAD V



Eric Adjetei Sowah  
(Customs Administration course, Ghana 11/07-12/05, 2012)

I would like the Japanese government to come in strongly to support infrastructural development in Africa especially in our road and rail sectors to become effective, such as two major projects under the Eastern Corridor Road Project.



Ruth Roberts  
(Nursing Management of Maternal and Child Health Care course, Liberia 5/23-8/11, 2012)

I would appreciate if the Japanese government will help support action plans on maternal mortality reduction in Africa after training participants in varies disciplines to improve on mother and child health.

# Participants of Mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities for African Countries will Attend a TICAD V Side Event!



Photo courtesy of Shinichiro Kuno/ JICA

JICA Tokyo implements several region-focused training courses for African countries, as you can see in the list at the end of this page. These courses make up the majority of JICA Tokyo's region-focused courses, showing our commitment for African Development. Among these courses, the only one whose implementation period coincide with TICAD V (held in Yokohama between first and third of June) is **"Mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities for African Countries."**

In fact, this program was previously conducted in the month of September, but this year it is programmed to start in May so that the participants can take part in a side event of TICAD V on the second of June (Sunday). At the event, the course participants will discuss with the leaders of Japanese disabled persons on the strategy to solve problems related to achieving the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) with regard to poverty reduction in particular. In addition, we are expecting to meet the overall goal of mainstreaming disability issues into development strategy of Africa.



Participants' discussion with Japanese counterparts

The intention of this training course, implemented via partnership with a Japanese Non Profit Organization, Japan National Assembly of Disabled People's International (DPI-Japan) is that through collaboration between DPOs (Disabled People's Organization) and the government within each targeted country and the construction of international networks, the mainstreaming of disability issues in social development plans will be promoted, and DPOs will be involved in the implementation process stipulated by the UNCRPD (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). This year, the training is scheduled to be implemented from May 21, 2013 to June 22, 2013. In the last half of this training period, overseas complementary training will be provided in Thailand from June 15 to June 22. For this course, participants are expected to come from Kenya, Malawi, the Republic of South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Rwanda.



Participants at a workshop using sign language

In this training course, lectures and workshops on such issues as Peer-Counseling (Performance of limited counselor functions, under counselor supervision, by person of approximate age of counselee), Independent Living Programs, the provision of personal assistance and Independent Living Center Management will be provided so

that the organizations from which the participants come can enhance their management capabilities when they subsequently play a leading role in the movement for independent living. The lecturers for these courses and workshops are people who have been closely involved in the disabled people's independent living movement in Japan. In

addition, checking of the state of mobility access in the Tokyo metropolitan area and a period of homestay in the homes of disabled people are planned.

The technical complementary training in Thailand is also an important part of the training since the participants are able to have field experience of the lives and activities of Thai disabled people and can compare these with the situation in Japan as well as in the countries of the participants. This may help the participants create activity plans that are more related specifically to the situation of their own countries.



Participants inspecting barrier free access in Bangkok, Thailand



Discussion during the Thai Program

For some countries, the administrative officers who determine policies for disabled people can participate together with the participants from the DPOs in this training. Through the participation of the administrative officers for this fiscal year, the reciprocal recognition has deepened concerning the significance of the participation of DPOs in policy formulation and administration as well as in the administrative agency's involvement in providing support for disabled people.

I hope that the participants will acquire management abilities that will



Participants celebrating the completion of Thai Program

enable them to play a key role in the independent living movement, which will in turn lead to the empowerment of DPOs as well as the promotion of the UNCRPD and the 2nd African Decade of Disabled Persons. I also hope that the participants will act in bridging disabled people and local communities.

**Mieko MATSUYAMA**,  
Human Development Division, JICA Tokyo

## JICA Tokyo's Training Courses for African Countries

At JICA Tokyo, we accept around four thousand training participants each year, of which 725 came from Africa in the Japanese Fiscal Year 2012 (from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013). For the Fiscal Year 2013, JICA Tokyo is planning to offer following Region-Focused and Country-Focused Training Courses for African countries.

- Quality Improvement of Health Services by 5S-KAIZEN-TQM (Aug 1-13)
- Mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities for African Countries (May 21-Jun 15)
- Seminar for Mathematics Lesson Evaluation (Aug 21-Sep 14)
- Nursing Management of Maternal and Child Health Nursing for African Countries (Jun 12-Aug 10)
- Human Resource Management in Health Sector for French Speaking West and Central African Countries 2 (Dec 8-Dec 21)
- Continuum of Care for Quality Improvement of Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health in Francophone Africa (Oct 6-Nov 9)
- Forest Resource Monitoring for French Speaking Countries Centring on Countries around Congo Basin (Jan 7-Feb 8, 2014)
- Early Childhood Education in Central and West Africa (Sep 19-Oct 19)

Please note that this course list is provisional and is subject to amendment, addition or cancellation due to circumstances.



# Japan's Coal Power Technology and Stable Electricity Supply to Bangladesh: 27 high officials visited Japan



Participants observing port facilities during their study trip

Meanwhile, the electricity supply is not meeting demand, and a chronic electricity shortage continues. In response to this issue, JICA has implemented assistance to the Bangladesh electricity sector for over 30 years, since the 1980s, providing a variety of support through the TQM (Total Quality Management) method, such as human resources development in the electricity sector, formulation of a coal-fired power generation master plan, and thermal power plant construction plan.

The purpose of this training is to allow participants to obtain the broad knowledge necessary to pursue a long-term stable electricity supply. Specifically, in Japan, participants visited a high efficiency thermal power plant, electricity transmission and distribution facilities, and a load dispatching center. Also participants studied the system that operates and maintains electricity generation, transmission, and distribution and the staff training system in addition to the overall stable supply system, including countermeasures for a large-scale disaster such as the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011. Bangladesh depends on domestic natural gas. Therefore, in recent years, measures to respond to the risk of domestic natural gas depletion have become necessary. Diversification of energy resources is being considered as one such measure, and construction of a coal-fired thermal power station that uses imported coal is planned. In this training, participants observed facilities and received lectures about the harbor design for importing coal and the coal procurement system.

For Bangladesh, the outcome of this training is the generation of a horizontal connection within the electricity sector through the representatives of the companies in electricity generation, transmission, and distribution and those of government agencies having received one training session in spite of the large group of 27 persons. The participants visited the world's most advanced facilities, obtained new knowledge, and held active discussions every day. It can be said that these became the first step of future reform in the electricity sector. From the preparation stage of the training, participants



Participants at Higashi-Ogishima Thermal Power Plant

were separated into four groups according to the purpose. The issues in electricity policy and the goals of the training were clarified. During the training period, discussions among the four groups as well as these within the groups were conducted smoothly. Thus, each participant was able to determine his/her own post-training

action plan with ease. Since the training, we have been monitoring the progress of the action plans and providing follow up in collaboration with the Bangladesh Office and the training representative.



A group photo at a Biomass Plant

There were also benefits for the Japanese side. The training was implemented in cooperation with enterprises with business interests in Bangladesh, such as electric utility companies, electricity generation, transmission, and distribution facilities manufacturers, and trading companies. Consequently, the interests and concerns of both Bangladesh and Japan could be identified and business matching opportunities provided. Japanese enterprises have not recognized Bangladesh as a market because of the large population of the poor. However, in recent years, there have been electricity generation station construction plans, a rush to build factories in the special economic zones, and advances into renewable energy business and energy saving business. It is forecasted that the Bangladesh market will further expand in the future with the increase in the middle-class population. In this training, we were able to provide Japanese enterprises with an opportunity to learn about current conditions in Bangladesh. We believe the training course in Japan implemented by JICA plays a major role.



Participants observing Wind Power Plants

In particular, a lecture in the Bengali language was very well received. This lecture was given by a private company's employee who had stayed in Bangladesh as a member of the JOCV (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers). We can expect further success for JOCV graduates' in future business activities.



At the end of each day, participants discussed internally to straighten the day's lessons learned

On the other hand, a lot of enterprises from India, China, and South Korea have already expanded into Bangladesh. Although Bangladesh is said to be pro-Japan, it is important to successively enhance the friendly relations between Japan and Bangladesh through cooperation between the public and private sectors of Japan.



Handing out the Certificate of the Completion of the Program.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude in the cooperation of the participants in the Tokyo Electric Power Company has received of this training for the fact that this training is completed successfully and its effects are still lasting.[1]

[1]「最後に、本研修が成功裏に終わり、今もなおその効果が持続していることは、本研修を受注した東京電力の関係者の協力なしでは、成し遂げられなかったことであり、この場でその御礼を申し上げたい。」



**Katsuaki TAKAHASHI**

South Asia Division 4, South Asia Department, JICA



## **C**hina, a country affected by air pollution, gets an opportunity to learn about environmental legislation



Japanese newspapers telling the people's concerns and anxieties on air pollutant coming across the border

Have you ever heard of PM2.5? It does not mean half past two in the afternoon! This refers to tiny particles contained in the exhaust fumes of automobiles and soot and smoke from factories, causing air pollution. The name comes from the size of the particles, which are 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter or around one-thirtieth of the diameter of a strand of human hair.

At present, a high density of PM2.5 (Particulate Matter 2.5) can be observed in the air in China, causing serious air pollution. The deterioration is attributed in part to increasing coal consumption and growing car ownership along with rapid economic growth. Japan is worried about transboundary PM2.5 pollution coming from the continent blown by the jet stream, the strong wind that blows in high altitude. Some parts of western Japan, in the prefectures situated closer to China, have already observed such particles at a higher density than the limit set by the government.



People walk with masks to avoid inhaling air pollutants

In the face of this situation an "Environmental Protection Law" training seminar is being held in JICA Tokyo International Center for people from China. On the first day of April, Chinese professionals working for administrative and legislative institutions responsible for environment legislation will come to attend a country focused training on legislation for improving the environment until April 11th. During their stay, the participants will receive

lectures from university professors, Japanese government officials, and NGO members and visit Kawasaki, a city that was once notorious for asthma caused by air pollution.

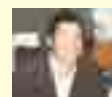
China is now working to make amendments to its Environmental Protection Law for the first time since it was enacted in 1989, 24 years ago. Last September, the National People's Congress (NPC) announced a draft of the amendments. Many academics, experts, and NGOs have expressed their opinions, saying, for instance, the draft places greater emphasis on economic growth than on environmental protection. The question that is now drawing attention is how the work will be carried out to amend the draft by taking these opinions into account. The participants coming to Japan to attend this training course are expected to be involved in the amendment work.

Almost 50 years ago, Japan also suffered from environmental pollution in many parts of the country throughout the period of high economic growth in those days. This training program is designed to enable the participants to learn the legal aspects of the action that the government of Japan took to protect its people.

I will be very gratified if this training course is helpful not only for China to mitigate its air pollution, but also for Japanese people to dispel any uneasiness they might have about this form of transboundary pollution and consolidate the friendship between Japan and China.

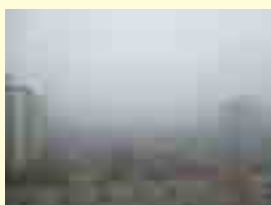


Cars parked on Beijing's streets get dirty by air pollutant



**Hiroshi YOKOYAMA,**  
Public Policy Division, JICA Tokyo

## **L**egal Cooperation for Safety and Sense of Security



a typical scenery of winter in Beijing, with foggy sky

In China, the drafts of major laws and the amendments to be proposed are prepared by the Legislative Affairs Commission, a committee of legal experts set up under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC). In 2007, JICA started working with the NPC to offer them counsel regarding their legislation work. In 2012, the NPC approved amendments to the Civil Procedure Law, one of the major

laws on which JICA had worked with them. Based on the achievements and trust that was accomplished during the six years of cooperative work between them, the NPC requested JICA to provide its experts with lectures on environmental protection law. This Environmental Protection Law Training Course is provided in collaboration with the Japanese Ministry of Environment.

Legal officers at the NPC are eager to know not only about the objectives and contents of laws, but also what challenges Japan has faced in implementing the laws in the actual situation, and what solutions we have devised with regard to the problems. At the legislation cooperation courses held in the past, therefore, the participants learned from Japanese government officials, judges and social organizations about actual challenges and solutions in law implementation in addition to theoretical lectures by academics who had been engaged in legislation work. They also learned from government officials and judges about the specific challenges in enforcement and the solutions to these.

The Environmental Protection Law Training Course, this time, provides lectures on the administrative initiatives taken by Japan, such as



Cars are driven with their lights on in foggy condition

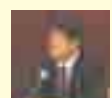
environmental assessment, emissions permits and regulation, and environment-related taxation, as well as its judicial framework, including legal proceedings concerning environment problems. In addition, the course covers the comprehensive scheme of initiatives that the whole society must engage in to protect the environment, including the responsibility that businesses have for environmental protection, the roles NGOs play, and the government's obligations regarding information disclosure.

This training course is to be held from April 1 to 11 with 11 participants, including the Director-General of the Administrative Law Division, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC, and the deputy director general of the Department of Policies, Law and Regulations of the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The training course is designed to enable them to gain an overall perspective of Japan's environment legislation in a short period of time.

As suggested in the cases of pollution from yellow dust and sand blown over from the Gobi desert and transboundary pollution from Particulate Matter 2.5, any progress in China's environmental protection should also have a positive impact on the environment in Japan. JICA has worked with China for decades on technical cooperation in the field of the environment mainly through the Sino-Japan Friendship Center for Environmental Protection to enhance the capacity of China's administrative officials. This program of environmental protection law training expands the scope of training to cover legislation by the NPC, the highest institution of government in China. JICA will continue legal cooperation with China to improve environment in China and Japan where the people of both countries can live with a sense of security.



The Great Hall of the People, where the Chinese National Congress is held



**Masayoshi TAKEHARA,**  
JICA China Office

# Programs in the First Half of 2013



## Visionary Leaders For Manufacturing Program (VLFM) in India

On February 24, the Outcome Presentation of Self Initiated Research of Opportunity A and Opportunity B courses on Visionary Leaders For Manufacturing Program (VLFM) was held at JICA Tokyo. Considering the importance of the program

for both Japan and India, H.E Ms. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Japan and Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Senior vice president of JICA came to attend the presentation and gave participants a few words to remark on their devotion to industrial development of India.



Professor Shiba and the Indian Ambassador light ceremonial candles together.



Ambassador of India, H.E. Ms. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa gives speech to participants

Since the year 2007, JICA is cooperating with the Indian government for improving the management of Indian industries through the Visionary Leaders For Manufacturing Program (VLFM). In this cooperation program, Professor Shoji SHIBA, a world-renowned authority in Breakthrough Management, Professor Emeritus at Tsukuba University and

conferred with Padma Shiri, which is the fourth highest civilian awards in the Republic of India, has been working as the Chief Advisor.

The said program aims at improving the vulnerability of Indian industrial sector that comes from the limited supply of manpower compared to other sectors of India and to other emerging economies. The program initiated under an agreement, Special Economic Partnership Initiative, made by the then and current Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe and Dr. Manmohan Singh on December 15, 2006, and was commended as a “showcase of bilateral cooperation” in a joint statement then Prime Minister Mr. Yoshihiko NODA and Dr. Manmohan Singh on December 28, 2011.

This distinctive Project came to close on 25th of March, 2013, but Japanese side has already received from the Indian Government the request of extension and/or continuation as a second phase of the Program, whose actualization depends on thorough evaluation of the Project.



Ambassador Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa stands with Director General of JICA's Industrial Development and Public Policy Department

### Hideyuki YOSHIDA,

Director of Industrial Development and Finance Division, JICA Tokyo



## Professor SHIBA and Indian Industry



Professor Shiba presents gift to the Indian Ambassador

The Leader of this Training and Dialog Program, Professor Shoji SHIBA, is an internationally renowned management expert, scholar and teacher, famous for authoring “Breakthrough Management”.

Prof. SHIBA specializes in the field of management, in which he was awarded the 2002 Deming Prize, Japan's highest management award for individuals. In July 2011, Prof. SHIBA received Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Japanese Emperor himself at the Imperial Palace, a medal intended to honor individuals with great contribution to the society, such



Course participant gives presentation to the Ambassador

as his academic achievement in management. For the last seven years, Prof. SHIBA has been working with Indian industries. His relationship with India is not only his commitment in

JICA's technical cooperation, but he taught at Indian Institute of Management in Calcutta, as well as Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Madras, and contributed in diffusion and advancement of total quality management (TQM) methods in India. Prof. SHIBA dealt with real management problems, including operation research analysis of the fields such as human resources and labor management that are difficult to quantify for analysis.

The main publications of Prof. SHIBA in English about corporate management include the following.

**Breakthrough Management: Principles, Skills, and Patterns or Transformational Leadership**  
Publisher: Confederation of Indian Industry (2006)

**The Five Step Discovery Process Manual with Examples**  
Publisher: Confederation of Indian Industry (2006)

**A New American TQM: four practical revolutions in management**  
Publisher: Productivity Press (1993)



JICA's Senior Vice President listens to Participants' explanation



# Hike and Climb the Holy Mountain! - Tanzawa Oyama -

Mount Oyama (meaning 'big mountain' in Japanese) is a pyramid-shaped mountain with the height of 1,252 meters (4,173 feet) in Tanzawa Mountain Range in the center of Kanagawa prefecture. The 27,572 hectares of area surrounding Oyama, along with neighboring mountains, was designated Tanzawa-Oyama Quasi-National Park in 1965. It is a protected area to enjoy the rich nature and impressive scenery where such activities as hunting, collecting certain plant species, logging and modifying the terrain are prohibited or require special permission. Currently this mountain and the surrounding area make a popular hiking spot for the residents of Tokyo and its suburbs because of easy access and well prepared facilities.



Lower Shrine of Afuri Jinja

Beside the popularity as hiking courses, Oyama has a different feature. It has long been the object of worship for praying for rain by the farmers in surrounding areas since ancient era. The worshippers started climbing this sacred mountain in the years around 1750s to 1760s. This pilgrimage to Oyama provided rare travel opportunities in that period to the common people of Edo, modern-day Tokyo. Today, you can still find some traditional religious spots in this mountain. There are two shrines of Afuri Jinja (Afuri means rainfall and Jinja is Japanese for shrine), one is in the middle (Lower Shrine),

other is on the peak (Upper or the Main Shrine) of this mountain. Also there is a Buddhist temple, Oyama-dera, which got separated from Afuri Jinja in the early Meiji Period (1860s to 70s).

You can make a day trip from JICA Tokyo to visit Oyama using public transportation. Here is the access information and some tips of climbing this mountain.



Upper Shrine near the summit

## Access

From JICA Tokyo, there is direct train from Yoyogi-Uehara station to Isehara; the nearest station to Oyama. It is convenient for you to use the express train bound for Odawara. At Isehara station, you can find the bus stop number 4 just outside the station's north entrance. There, you can get the bus bound for the Oyama cable car station, and you get off at the terminal. After arriving, you have to walk 10 minutes through the shopping street to the cable car station to the middle of mountain near the Lower Shrine. There is combination ticket for all train and bus rides to/from Oyama. From Yoyogi-Uehara station, the round-trip train fare with the cable car is 2,140 JPY and without cable car 1,480 JPY.



Oyama Cable Station

## Hiking

Of course, you can climb up this mountain on foot. Near the cable car station, there is the starting point of the trail. There are two trails to the middle of mountain, one is very steep slope with stone steps (Otoko Zaka: meaning men's slope) and other one (Onna Zaka: women's slope) is a little bit milder trail, but it is still steep steps and slopes. It requires 30-45minutes tough walks until you get to the Lower Shrine.

From Lower Shrine to the peak, there is no cable car and you have to climb up with steep slopes for 90 minutes (2.1km). It is very good exercise for your health with feeling the richness of the nature. From the peak, there are breathtaking views, east to Tokyo city center, north to the magnificent mountains, south to the Pacific, west to Mt. Fuji in clear weather condition.

On the way back, please be very careful if you try to walk down Otoko Zaka, as walking down the steep steps might hurt your knees. We recommend that you take Onna Zaka on the way back.

## Equipment

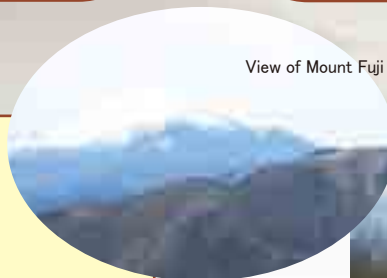
What you should prepare for going to Oyama include; sport shoes, and the warm, mobile, comfortable clothes, some drink and some food (You can purchase the food and drink at the shops on the mountain, but they tend to be expensive).

Please make good memories of your visit to Tanzawa-Oyama. Have a safe trip!



You may see deer welcoming you

View of Mount Fuji from the Top of Oyama



View from the summit to the north, you can see Mountains of Tanzawa Mountain Range



View to the South, Sagami Bay and cities of Isehara and Hadano



**Yasuhiro SUHARA**

Economic Infrastructure Development and Environment Division,  
JICA Tokyo

# The Beauty of the Japanese Kimono



Various types of Kimono shown at the Kimono Fashion Show

*Kimono* is a marvelous traditional Japanese garment. Although not so many Japanese wear it daily, *Kimono* is still a symbol of Japanese traditional culture. In January 2013, JICA Tokyo had a great pleasure and honor to have “Kimono Fashion Show” with the full cooperation of Hakubi Kimono Institute Shibuya School.

During the show, the various types of Kimono were presented including the imperial court attire, “*Juni-hito*”, or “the twelve layered robe” and the bridal robe. The main attraction of this show was thirteen lucky ones who were selected among participants, coming up on the stage as *Kimono* models! Here, we have comments from two participants who got dressed in wedding Kimono.



Ancient costume for Imperial Courtladies, Juni-Hito

**Groom: Mr. NITISH Nitish Kumar (India)**

**Bride: Ms. CASTILLO BOSQUEZ Sharon Ibeth (Panama)**

I was very excited to wear Kimono for my first time experience. Although many foreigners visiting Japan are hoping to wear it once, it doesn't open up for everyone. Therefore, I was lucky enough to have this unique experience. I was the center of the attention for half an hour in the Kimono show; as they dressed me in a gorgeous kimono made for a groom. Everyone was excited, and I loved every moment of it. I felt like a Japanese prince. I felt its simplicity which I strongly sense for Japanese people and culture. In all, I have to say that never hesitate but try dressing gorgeous Kimono.



To dress the beautiful wedding Kimono has been an indescribably great experience for me. When I found out I was able to wear the bridal *Kimono*, it was like a dream came true and made me feel very special. Now I have a new dream to wear the bridal *Kimono* on my real wedding day! I also would love to have my own *Kimono* as a souvenir from Japan, so every time I see *Kimono* in the shops, I entered and looked for it. I hope I can find gorgeous and elegant red *Kimono*. After all, the glorious and traditional values remain in my heart forever and bring it to my country as the best memory of this beautiful country.

*Kimono* is a simple straight-lined robe, secured at the waist with a wide sash called “Obi”. It is bounded by a couple of cords and Obi; therefore, you need to learn special techniques to wear it or ask someone to have you dressed up. Moreover, *Kimono* is generally expensive because most of them are hand made with a great care. Besides, if you wear *Kimono* properly, you also need to prepare other outfits for *Kimono* like undergarment, socks, and sandals and so on. However, “*Yukata*”, which is worn in summer time, is simpler. Nowadays it is very popular to wear *Yukata* especially among young ladies when they go to the summer festivals or the fireworks festivals.



Participants on the stage as Kimono Models

A JICA Tokyo participant, Ms. Sofie Zelada had an experience to enjoy her summer in Japan in a Japanese way. Here is her story.



Ms. Sofie Zelada

There is no season that I did not enjoy in Japan. Among them all, the summer, without a doubt, is my favorite! Even though it is hotter and more humid than El Salvador, I waited eagerly for the months of July and August only because I love wearing “*Yukata*” for “hanabi”

(fireworks)! I bought my own “*Yukata*” for a cheap price in a famous supermarket and I learned how to wear it myself through a Youtube video, and I wore it at least 7 times, and I cannot wait to use it in my home country. However, one thing that I could not stand about that nice attire is their famous “*Geta*” sandal; they were like torture for me!! Still wearing “*Yukata*” and “*Kimono*” is an experience every foreigner should try!



Despite relatively high prices, Kimono continues to fascinate people around the world and there are many foreign tourists in Japan who wish to buy it as a souvenir. To meet their needs, some manufacturers produce the Kimono products for foreigners which are easy to handle and reasonable prices. During summer, usually starting from the mid-June to the end of September, you also can find “*Yukata set*” which includes *Yukata* outfit, *Obi*, and sandals, with the affordable price at some stores.

Furthermore, Kimono is never wasted. It is common to recycle used and old Kimono. It depends on the size of the fabrics, it will transform to “*Haori*” coat, Kimono for children or various accessories such as bags, book covers, sunshades and so on.

One of the popular places that you can buy these products is Nakamise Shopping Street in Asakusa. The flea market is also the hot spot since you have never known what kind of merchandise you will encounter. Why don't you go to “treasure hunt” in these places while you are staying in Japan? You might come across a good bargain there!!!



Asakusa's famous Nakamise shopping promenade



**Tomomi NISHIGAKI,**  
JICA Tokyo





## Please visit our Facebook page and post your comment!

Since its opening in November 2013, JICA Tokyo's Facebook\* page has attracted many participants, ex-participants and those interested in JICA's activities. As of end of March, more than four thousand people visited this site, among whom 600 plus "liked" our page. In fact, JICA Tokyo's Facebook page was visited more than any other JICA's organizations. To encourage your posting, let us introduce Mr. Dastan Abdyl daev from Kyrgyz Republic who gave us a nice comment to our page. We are always waiting for such messages to our site!

I am DASTANBEK ABDYLDAEV, an Expert of Government's Office of the Kyrgyz Republic. I participated JICA Tokyo's training course "Necessary Policy Measures and Reform Strategies for Financial System Stability in NIS(former Soviet Union) Countries" from February to March 2012. I feel great admiration for Japanese people of their qualities such as discipline, responsibility, exactness, honesty and diligence. These qualities created sincere and deep impressions on me, as a representative of young generation. Thanks!

Dastan Abdyl daev

\*Facebook is the world's largest Social Network Service with more than 800million users. The URL of JICA Tokyo's facebook page is;

**<http://www.facebook.com/jicatokyo>**

We are also waiting for your messages telling your stories during your stay in Japan and after returning home! and don't forget to click "Like!" about our page!



## MUSEUMS

### "Katsushika Hokusai and Kawanabe Kyōsai —Fantastic Comics"

北斎と晁斎—奇想の漫画

### LEONARDO DA VINCI

レオナルド・ダ・ヴィンチ展 天才の肖像