Bukhara city is located at distance of 550 kilometers to West from Tashkent. Population is 260,000 citizens. Bukhara region is famous for cotton production and World heritages. Uzbekistan-Japan Center (UJC) activities in the regions were highly requested by the Government of Uzbekistan and also regions have big demand on cultural exchange and training. We started site survey for branch office two years ago, and finally we decided for Bukhara city. The reason for this decision was its people who are quite active in gaining new knowledge and skills despite its far location from Tashkent. Moreover, Bukhara is the popular city for Japanese tourists.

UJC office in Bukhara is located in the premises of the Bukhara State University. University was established in 1970 and number of students currently enrolled is more than 7,500. Even though that the University is located at the distance of one kilometer from the center of the city its location quite convenient for various groups of citizens. This educational institution has History, Geography, Uzbek and foreign languages departments. Also University has National centers of Korea, France, Egypt and other countries where a lot of students learn foreign languages.

UJC office in Bukhara is now conducting bilateral exchange programs. As for Japanese language courses it was scheduled to start in September 2007 and the short-term business courses will be started soon.
Official ceremony of the handing over of the equipment aimed at facilitation of efficient border management provided by JICA was held at the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan (SCC) on August 15th 2007.

The equipment was supplied under the framework of the "Border Management Project in Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (LOT 1 For Uzbekistan)" as follow-up cooperation for JICA training courses "Customs Administration I&II".

The equipment, worth more than two hundred thousand US dollars, includes vital instruments starting from flash lights and binoculars to the advanced, sophisticated tools like telescopic sonde to survey the fuel tanks and other difficult to reach hidden corners of the vehicles and wireless communication means to establish reliable communication between the Customs check points, which shall help Customs officers in their work on preventing smuggled trafficking of drugs, explosive and other prohibited items.

Management of the SCC informed that the provided equipment will be distributed to the Customs check points at the remote border areas and will contribute to improve capability and capacity of the Customs staff, who already participated in the JICA training courses "Customs Administration I & II" in Japan.

Mr. Nishimiya, Resident Representative of JICA Uzbekistan Office, in its turn underlined the importance of the border management especially in facilitating the smooth movement of the people, services and goods, but at the same time efficiently preventing the penetration of the drug smugglers and terrorists. In this line Mr. Nishimiya informed SCC that JICA is planning to study possibility of the further cooperation between JICA and SCC of the Republic of Uzbekistan, such as supplying equipment or organizing trainings for the staff of the SCC or assistance to the efforts of the SCC in harmonizing the Customs legislation, especially in revising the Customs Code. It is just beginning, we are very interested in expanding our cooperation with SCC concluded, Mr. Nishimiya.
JICA AND WATER MANAGEMENT

I am happy to write about my activity “to support water management improvement program in Uzbekistan in 2007”. This is my third visit to Uzbekistan as a short term JICA Expert in the field of Agriculture and Water management.

I worked hard and enjoyed my life in Uzbekistan and especially capital city Tashkent, the fourth largest city in CIS. I really appreciate for my friends and colleagues to extend heart warming hospitality and helpful assistance during my stay in Uzbekistan. Needless to say, without your generous kindness and hospitality, my life and my job in Uzbekistan could not be so fruitful and so happy.

JICA is assisting Uzbekistan to improve irrigation and water management in two ways. First, since 2004 JICA accepts trainees from Uzbekistan for seminar on Enhancement of Water Users’ Association (WUA) for Central Asia and Caucasus at Tsukuba International Center. Second, JICA is dispatching experts, who have extended experience in dealing directly with the issues and needs of the particular sector.

Objective of my visit is to contribute to the institutional strengthening of WUAs.

In my work I am closely collaborating with my colleagues from SANIRI and MWAR. Through our joint activity we are trying to bring participants together, develop field level action plans for WUAs, and progressively promote collective understanding by the local people the potential advantages of WUAs in water management improvement. It is good to note that well organized Uzbek people and their will for social activities helped us to achieve our common goals during the workshops and seminars, conducted in Syrdarya and Tashkent Regions. But still there is a need to improve the legal base of WUA which is next step of our joint activity with Uzbek partners.

It is expected for future development of agriculture and water management that the new project on water management improvement will be developed next year. The government of Uzbekistan made proposals for the new project on water management improvement in this year. It would be grateful that the new JICA project would be launched in the earliest time. It is my honor to be able to serve the new project.

At any rate, my life in Tashkent was the busiest, because in addition to working hard moreover I enjoyed much playing tennis with my colleagues, having lesson of oboe by maestro of Theater Navoi Symphony orchestra, Russian language lesson, and fitness lesson at Tashkent plaza Hotel. These experiences were so attractive and educative for me to keep good working condition in Tashkent.

Prof. Yoshihiko Ogino, JICA Expert in Water Sector of Uzbekistan.

WELCOME TO UZBEKISTAN!

During the 10 months from 9th January till 5th November 2007 I was working on tourism development at association of private tourist agency of Uzbekistan in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. As part of my activity I have created website which introduces Uzbekistan to Japanese people. I made hard effort to acquaint Japanese people with Uzbekistan.

Republic of Uzbekistan became independent just 16 years ago and Uzbek tourism has a short history for the tourist to enjoy free travel. It’s not easy to implement tourism developing activity in Uzbekistan. Not enough information is available and travel is not so easy, however Uzbekistan is very impressive country.

Actually I traveled 18 times to all corners of the country, including private and business trips, during these 10 months. Uzbekistan has not only typical Islamic architectural complexes and deserts, but also many historical and natural sightseeing places, which can serve as real tourist resources for Uzbekistan. I realized that the kindness and hospitality of the Uzbek people in such places are most attractive point of travel in Uzbekistan. I want to introduce Uzbekistan-Central Asia Silk Road to Japan! I want to tell about Uzbekistan to all Japanese who decide to travel to Uzbekistan! I wish to provide delightful and comfortable trip. With such feelings I have created website to support tourism development.

Please visit and leave your comments at http://www.geocities.jp/uzbekfriends/index.html.

Welcome to Uzbekistan!

Ishimura Ikumi, Senior Volunteer in the field of the tourism.
For a better tomorrow for all

**CALENDAR OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF JICA UZBEKISTAN OFFICE**

*April-September, 2007*

**JUNE**

18 June
JICA purchased and delivered to the Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan license of the ORACLE software under the framework of the JICA-Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan project Legal assistance for improvement of the conditions for development of private business (For National Database of the Legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan).

19 June
New 4 JOCV in the sphere of youth activity, computer engineering, HIV/AIDS prevention and nursing arrived to work in Tashkent, Khorka, and Bukhara cities.

29 June
JICA jointly with the Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan (SEC) held Presentation of the Commentary to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Bankruptcy.

**JULY**

JICA jointly with the SEC and State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Decentralization, Support for competition and Entrepreneurship held series of seminar to disseminate and distribute Commentary on the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Bankruptcy.

**AUGUST**

7 August - 7 September
JICA has dispatched two missions on Health reform Study for Improvement of health services in Navoi region. Missions had conducted four seminars in Navoi and in Tashkent with participation of all concerned parties.

15 August
JICA handed over equipment (worth USD 206,250) to the State Customs Committee of Uzbekistan under the framework of the “Border Management Project in Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (LOT 1 For Uzbekistan)” as follow-up cooperation for JICA training courses “Customs Administration &II”.

17 August
Exchange of Notes was held between the Governments of Japan and Uzbekistan on the Grant Aid Project for Improvement of the equipment for the Institute Of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

23-30 August
5th Nursing education seminar on Maternal and Child Nursing was conducted in Tashkent under the frame work of the Nursing education Improvement Project.

August-September
Project team held series of the seminars under the framework of the Project Improvement of Nursing education for the nurses and teachers of the medical colleges.

**SEPTEMBER**

3 September
JICA with the cooperation of the International Cooperation Department, Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice of Japan held Open Seminar Current Situation of and Future Issues for the Bankruptcy System and Practice of Bankruptcy Cases in Uzbekistan through Assistance in the Drafting of the Commentary on the Bankruptcy Law of Uzbekistan in Osaka, Japan.

24-29 September
6th Nursing education seminar on Community and Psychiatric Nursing was conducted in Tashkent under the frame work of the Nursing education Improvement Project.

25 September
3 New JOCV in the sphere of youth activity, pre-school education and sewing arrived to work in Tashkent, Urgench and Buxoro in Tashkent region.

27 September
2 New JOCV in the sphere of youth activity, computer engineering, HIV/AIDS prevention and nursing arrived to work in Tashkent, Urgench and Buxoro in Tashkent region.

**DOBON FESTIVAL**

Obon is an annual Buddhist event for commemorating one's ancestors. It is believed that each year during Obon, the ancestors' spirits return to this world in order to visit their relatives.

Traditionally, lanterns are hang in front of houses to guide the ancestors' spirits and Obon dances (bon odori) are performed.

At the end of Obon, floating lanterns are put into rivers, lakes and seas in order to guide the spirits back into their world. The customs followed vary strongly from region to region.

**JICA Uzbekistan Office**

5th Floor, International Business Center, 107 B, Amir Temur Street, Tashkent 100084
Republic of Uzbekistan
Tel.: (998 71) 120 79 65/67; 138 59 16/17/18/19
Fax: (998 71) 120 79 68
E-mail: jicauz-adm@jica.go.jp
http://www.jica.go.jp