Message from JICA Staff

Thinking about Uzbekistan, I wonder if it is a multicultural country, which I like, and it has a huge potential. In Uzbekistan, I would like to visit many places, talk with people and make friends, as I did in Kazakhstan, Russia and Tajikistan.

I once traveled Uzbekistan in May, 1991. I flew to Tashkent through Khabarovsky of Far East part of former Soviet Union.

(Actually at that time, the President of USSR, Mr. Gorbachev just visited in Japan.)

In Uzbekistan, I enjoyed hiking in Chimgan, sites seeing in Samarkand and Tashkent. People were very kind and bright. The nostalgia of the trip gave me a chance to work here.

Then, I came here as a Deputy Director of the office.

Mr. Jiro IIDA,
Senior Representative of JICA Uzbekistan Office

Hello, everyone!!

My name is Ami Kimura.

I came to Uzbekistan in August 2013 as a volunteer coordinator. This is the 3rd time visit to work in Uzbekistan for me. But unfortunately I had little opportunity to travel regions of this country so far, except tourist attractions like Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. So, this time I’m really looking forward to visiting various places of Uzbekistan where our volunteers are working.

Mrs. Ami KIMURA,
Volunteer coordinator of JICA

I started to involve in Uzbekistan since 2012 when I was in Central Asia and the Caucasus Division in HQ and came to Uzbekistan several times for project mission.

I did not have chance to go for sightseeing that time but always impressed by the hospitality of people in Uzbekistan. I felt very relaxed when I stayed in Uzbekistan.

And always wanted to come back to Uzbekistan. And now, I am here, much more engaging to Uzbekistan, enjoying both working and days off, spending time with Walking around Tashkent.

Ms. Yukako Miyake,
Project Formulation Adviser of JICA

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JICA Uzbekistan Office

Message from the Chief Representative of JICA Uzbekistan

It is my great pleasure and honor to work as the Chief Representative of JICA Uzbekistan Office.

With a long historical relation between Central Asia and Japan, Japanese cooperation for Uzbekistan started soon after the independence in 1991.

JICA opened Uzbekistan Office in 1989 as first office in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) area, and I came to Tashkent this March as the fifth Chief Representative.

After starting the integrated and comprehensive activities of New JICA from 2008, we have many types of cooperation.

Our main schemes of assistance are "Technical cooperation", "ODA loans (concessionary yen loans)", "Grant aid" and "Volunteers" Program.

We have three priority areas of cooperation for Uzbekistan.

- Economic Infrastructure (Energy and Transportation)
- Private Sector Development (Improvement of Business Environment)
- Agriculture and Rural Development (Increase Income of Farmers and Improvement of Education and Health in Rural Areas)

In the first area, to achieve economic growth of Uzbekistan as well as well-balanced, sound and efficient industrial development with its surrounding economies, JICA puts high priority on economic infrastructure especially energy and transport sector, implementing loan projects, such as "Talimarqan Thermal Power Station Extension", "Karshi-Termiz Railway Electrification", "Navoi Thermal Power Station Modernization".

In the second area, besides "Uzbekistan-Japan Center for Human Resources" as technical cooperation, we have continuous Grant aid program for more than ten years "Human resources Development Scholarship (JDS)".

JDS targets young government officials who want to study 2-year Master course at Japanese University, and more than 200 JDS fellows are working for the development of Uzbekistan, with gained Japanese knowledge and experience.

In the third area, we have "JICA-NGO Partnership Programs" for Bericulture and Fruit Growing.

Samarkand and other cities of Uzbekistan are famous in Japan as important parts of "the Silk Road". Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology provides assistance in silk worm rearing.

Under the cultural and economic exchange between "Fukushima" prefecture (north part of Japan, affected by the big earthquake in March 2011) and Uzbekistan, the Japanese technology of fruit (peach and apple) growing has been transferred.

In this area, Japanese experts work actively for "Improvement of Social Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled People".

In addition to above-mentioned cooperation, almost 30 Japanese volunteers are working in Tashkent and in other local areas, as nurse and physiotherapist, teacher of Japanese language & culture, computer, tourism, Judo & Aikido and other sports, music, finance & accounting, Japanese Law etc.

JICA also has been accepted many Uzbek people for the various thematic training courses in Japan, and accumulated number of trainees is more than 1,900.

I hope that our cooperation contributes to "the Inclusive and Dynamic Development" of Uzbekistan and to the promotion of good relations between Uzbekistan and Japan.

Mr. Masao SHIKANO,
Chief Representative of JICA Uzbekistan Office

NEWS IN BRIEF

New JICA Volunteers dispatched to Uzbekistan (July, 2013)
(Volunteers are listed in standing order from left to right)

Mr. Kaji Daisuke - PC Instructor, School No.251, Tashkent.

Ms. Yano Akari - Oriental languages lyceum.

Ms. Sugihara Yuka - Gijduvan Boarding School No.8.

Ms. Anzai Yuki - Khorezm Region Shavat District Secondary School No.2.

Ms. Yamaguchi Akiko - Primary Care Unit Gulistan, Ferghana region.
Transport system is crucial for the development of the country

Economists compare the transport system of a country with the blood system of the human being. Taking into consideration the importance of the transport infrastructure, JICA has defined the Transport sector as one of JICA priorities together with the Energy sector.

In transport sector JICA has implemented several grant aid projects in Road construction as well as maintenance and Loan project Tashguzar-Kumkurgan New Railway Construction, under which impressive five steel bridges connected southern part of Uzbekistan to the central part. Currently JICA is implementing another railway related loan project Karshi-Termez Railway Electrification. Both construction of the new railway line and electrification of the existing railway line have immense impact on the development of the country. Furthermore in order to effectively utilize the results of these two loan projects JICA has implemented Loan related Technical Assistance Project Capacity Development On Upgrading Track Maintenance And Train Operation Skills related to Tashguzar-Kumkurgan New railway Line. The project included dispatching Japanese experts for making studies and recommendations on the improvement of the railway track conditions and capacity building on the train operation and inviting Uzbek Railway specialists to Japan for the training. In Japan Uzbek Specialists could take a journey on the Shinkansen Inspection train “EAST – T” – special inspection train for the high speed train tracks. Besides JICA has provided several equipment for testing and diagnostics of the tracks like flaw meter, track master and etc for the total amount of Japanese Yen 56,332,000 (approximately USD 600,000). JICA believes that combined implementation of the Grant Aid, Technical Assistance and Loan projects will continue bringing its results for the benefits of people in Uzbekistan and the country in general.

JICA granted modern computer equipment and software to the Institute of Geology and Geophysics to apply effectively advanced GIS techniques

On 26 July 2013, in the framework of Follow-up Cooperation Project, JICA granted modern computer equipment and GIS software on the total amount of USD 77,363 to the Institute of Geology and Geophysics of Academy of Science of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Previously, specialists of the Institute participated at JICA training program on "Seismology, Earthquake Engineering and Disaster Mitigation" conducted in Japan and the third country training program on "Remote Sensing and GIS" conducted in Turkey. Now, they have a rare opportunity to successfully apply and enhance the received advanced knowledge through using the granted modern equipment and effectively disseminate the knowledge among their colleagues.

The equipment includes high-speed modern computers and multifunction printer for large scale printing and scanning such as maps, plots, etc. In addition, JICA provided advanced software to develop GIS supported database for systematic hazard analysis and enhance the process and method of seismic and landslide hazard assessment.

Aside from provision of the equipment and software, to realise higher aid effectiveness and capacity building, JICA also assisted in short-term training of several young specialists of the Institute on ArcGIS software application at the local training center "Geo Systems Technology".

It is believed that the assistance provided by JICA will contribute substantially to the improvement of disaster mitigation and management in Uzbekistan that would ultimately lead to better safety of the population and environmental sustainability.

Mr. Sharifzoda SHARIPOV,
Program Officer, JICA Uzbekistan Office

My days with Tashkent Finance Institute

"ASSALOMU ALAYKUM!" Every morning at nine o’clock from Monday through Saturday, I hear the students loudly and orderly greet the professors in the class rooms here and there near my office. This is the start of the day at Tashkent Finance Institute ("TFI").

TFI is a higher education institution established in 1991, which is specialized in accounting and finance modules, aiming to educate its students to gain expertise in the area of banking, finance, accounting, auditing, taxation and insurance. It has 7 faculties, about 7,000 students, and 500 faculty members.

Last November, I was assigned to the Accounting and Audit faculty, and since then, as one of the members of this faculty, I have been engaged in the education of the students. My role of responsibility is to teach financial as well as managerial accounting, in particular, International Financial Reporting Standards, which will be mandated to all the banks in Uzbekistan from 2015 and so on. The language that I use in classes is English.

Before coming to Tashkent, as an accounting professional, I have had 30 years working experience in an American entertainment & oil companies, as well as 10 years teaching experience in an American university which has a campus in Tokyo. As such, my teaching style seems different from the one that the students are used to. In my class, the students are expected to proactively participate in a class through lectures, class discussion, case analysis, problem solution, etc. The pedagogy at Uzbek universities seems basically a lecture style in which the professor teaches the students unilaterally, and in the following seminar, the students confirm with the professor the points that they learned in the class.

During the remaining one year period till September 2014 when my JICA volunteer activity finishes, and with the gratitude to the staff of JICA who supports my activities, I would like to further gain my teaching experience, enjoying my interaction with the students at TFI, and, at the same time and more importantly, strongly hope that the students learn something meaningful, if any, from my lessons.

Mr. Bakhodir MARDONOV,
Program Officer, JICA Uzbekistan Office

JICA granted modern equipment to the National Rehabilitation and Prosthesis Centre for People with Disabilities

On 3 October 2013, in the framework of Follow-up Cooperation Project, JICA granted modern equipment, i.e. X-Ray tube for “MX 6000” tomograph, power brush kit and signal brush block on the total amount of Euro 72,750 to the National Rehabilitation and Prosthesis Centre for People with Disabilities under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

It is believed that the assistance provided by JICA will contribute substantially to the improvement of diagnostics, medical treatment and rehabilitation of the patients with disabilities.

Previously, National Rehabilitation and Prosthesis Centre for People with Disabilities received medical equipment for the amount of 441 mln. Japanese Yen (about USD 5, 12 mln.) within the framework of JICA’s implemented Project named “Improvement of the Equipment for National Rehabilitation and Prosthesis Centre for People with Disabilities” under the Grant Aid program of Japanese government.

Mr. Malik MUKHITDINOV,
Program Officer, JICA Uzbekistan Office

Mr. Toshiki ONOZUKA,
Senior Volunteer, JICA Uzbekistan Office