

News FROM Kyrgyzstan

DECEMBER – JANUARY 2018

• NUMBER 28(92)

• THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Meeting with Prime-Minister of KR



Chief Representative of JICA in the KR, Kazuhiko Kikuchi, and Prime Minister of KR, Sapar Isakov.
PHOTO by S.Ajilchiev

A meeting of Chief Representative of JICA in the KR, Kikuchi, and the Prime Minister of the KR, Isakov, took place on January 19th. The Prime Minister expressed sincere gratitude to the Japanese people, the Japanese Government, and JICA for long-lasting cooperation. He also expressed hope for further development of economic relations, noting the importance of attracting large Japanese investments. He informed on ongoing and planned reforms, and a new development strategy called “40 steps to New Era”. Great attention was paid to the implementation of the “Taza-Koom” program.

The Chief Representative of JICA expressed further intention for cooperation, especially in the human resource development of the country. He also informed that this year is very important for JICA as it is planned to revise its 5-year cooperation strategy with the Kyrgyz Republic. In this regard, an open dialogue between high level officials is very important and an indispensable element for aligning common directions for cooperation. •

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Opening Ceremony of a Felt Workshop in Kara-Koo Village of Issyk-Kul Region



Kara-Koo village jamaat representatives.

The Opening ceremony of the Community Felt Workshop of Kara-Koo Village took place on January 24th, 2018. The workshop will be a production center of Issyk-Kul Brand felt products and products for the Muji Company. OVOP Association members, Issyk-Kul Brand Committee members, representatives of the Kumtor Gold Company, JICA OVOP project, JOCVs, local government agency representatives

and local residents participated in the ceremony. The workshop was organized in cooperation with local government bodies, with the financial support of the Kumtor Gold Company and technical assistance of the JICA OVOP Project. "One Village - One Product is a successful, small business model case in our region. We worked with the JICA OVOP Project during the years of 2012-2016. As a result

of the project activities, more than 2200 members of the OVOP Association are gainfully employed and the local products are being exported. In addition, from now on the Issyk-Kul model will be spread to other regions of the country", - commented Asel Serkebaeva, a local government representative. Thus, around 50 members will work in the newly opened Community Workshop and produce felt products. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

"Japanese volunteer from Naryn: I burst into tears of joy when my dad allowed me to go to Kyrgyzstan." When I came here, I felt that I still knew very little about Kyrgyzstan. But I soon realized that Japanese and Kyrgyz were alike in our characters, our culture. I was glad for that. For two years I lived and worked in Naryn, and fell in love with the Naryn mountains. The inhabitants were also cordial and kind. In general, I felt at home, because in Japan I grew up in rural areas, and Naryn seemed so familiar. Despite the cold, I lived there easily and comfortably. And the food in Kyrgyzstan is very tasty.

www.bilim.akipress.org
January 9, 2018

"Priority areas of JICA activities coincide with the development strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic" Vice President of JICA Noriko Suzuki said. This was during a meeting with the Kyrgyz Ambassador to Japan Chyngiz Aysarbekov. The parties discussed the most relevant and promising areas of cooperation, which will be given special attention in the coming year. From his side, the Ambassador drew attention to the fact that Japan is a reliable partner of the Kyrgyz Republic.

www.tazabek.kg
January 12, 2018

"In the Kyrgyz-Japanese Center for Human Development was held a calligraphic event called Kakidzome. The goal of holding the Kakidzome event was to familiarize Kyrgyz people with this unusual calligraphic event. On this day, it is customary to write hieroglyphs with the help of brush. 80 years ago it was popular to write Chinese poems in a similar style or with any one hieroglyph, but now it is preferred to write their favorite words or hieroglyphs reflecting the aspiration and desire for anything.

www.kabar.kg
January 28, 2017

Festival of Japanese Culture in Naryn



Japanese song "It is a small world by children of basic secondary education."

One of our volunteers, Baba Rie JV, finished 2 years activity as a teacher of Japanese and Japanese culture in the Naryn Oblast Children's Educational Center (Naryn Doc). Baba Rie JV, or, as her students call her "Rie Sensei", during the period of her volunteer activity, organized 6 different festivals at Naryn Doc. The festival of

"Japanese Culture and the New Year" was special for her, teachers and all the guests, since children demonstrated everything that Rie Sensei had taught them. Traditional Japanese dances, songs and performance on Japanese drums called "Wadaiko" were played. We hope that the children will continue to give their to achieve what they want to do and love Japanese culture even after Rie Sensei returns to Japan. ●



Japanese traditional New Year game "Fukuwarai".

CALENDAR*	
FEBRUARY	
18	Hokaido University Mission
*dates may be changed	

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On the way towards exporting vegetable seeds



Participants of the meeting.

The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of the JICA Project for the Promotion of Exportable Vegetable Seeds in the Kyrgyz Republic was held on the 13th of December, 2017. This Project has been implemented for 5 years and is planning to terminate its activities in June 2018. What kind of results the Project achieved, what needs to be done to

support exportable seed producers – these and other issues were discussed by participants of the meeting.

Speaking of the Project results, it was noted that the Project trained 23 farmers (Training of Trainers). These farmers gained skills in the cultivation of high quality vegetable seeds, and are able to conduct training for interested farmers. Moreover, 23 farmers united into a cooperative called «Kyrgyz Vegetable Seeds». In 2017, that cooperative signed 4 contracts with foreign companies for a trial seed production of 4 vegetable varieties. Seeds produced under the trial contract will be exported to foreign companies who will carry out their own analysis and confirm the quality of

the seeds. For the seed business it is important not only to produce high quality seeds, but also to follow business etiquette and to be reliable because the seeds contain the company's confidential technologies. In Japan, seed companies conduct business with reliable partners which ensure high quality service and follow the supply deadlines. In this regard, we would like to extend the Project duration for 20 months until February, 2020 in order to ensure the sustainability of the Project's results, the development of «Kyrgyz Vegetable Seeds» cooperative, and strengthening its capacity to do business with seed companies. ●

Training on Renewable Energy held in Kitakyushu City (Japan)



Gulnara Anapiyaeva training participant.

A JICA training course for young leaders on “Renewable Energy” was conducted from the 26th of November to the 13th of December, 2017, in Japan. In total, we had 21 participants from five Central Asian and Caucasus countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Thanks to this course, participants were able to learn about the overall energy situation in the world and Japan, as well as about the policy of the Japanese government regarding the distribution of the sharing of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) after the Great Eastern Earthquake. We visited various facilities: a micro hydro power plant, an energy park and a battery station. One of the memorable moments was the presentation of

a project on micro-hydropower plants and other renewable supporting agriculture through the introduction of energy sources in rural cooperatives in Oita Prefecture. I was impressed that Japan is implementing RES projects in parallel, increasing the energy efficiency of the facilities. Also, the lectures on an integrated approach to reducing carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions from thermal power plants to the atmosphere made an impression, while increasing the efficiency of stations. Finally, I want to note that I was impressed by the special preparedness and organization on the Japanese side in conducting courses. ●

-Gulnara Anapiyaeva, Project Assistant in Project Implementation Unit OJSC “Severelectro”.



Energy Park of the new generation in Hibikinada.

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Annual General Meeting of the OVOP Association



Award ceremony.

On the 12th of December, 2017, the “One Village One Product” Association (OVOP Association) held an Annual General Meeting in Karakol. The OVOP Association was established in 2011 in the framework of the JICA OVOP Project in the KR. More than 300 members of the Association attended the meeting, along with the Deputy Plenipotentiary Representative of the Government in Issyk-Kul region, Mr. Monoldorov D., representatives from the Karakol Mayor’s Office and Ayil Okmotu, members of the Issyk-Kul Brand Committee and other stakeholders and partners.

The results, achievements, and challenges of 2017, with the effort of 2200 members of the association, showed that the total sales of 2017 (January – November, 11 months) have increased by 35% compared to the total sales of 2016. The average annual growth rate since 2012 to 2017 is stated as 37.9%. Also, the plans and strategies for 2018 were presented.

An award ceremony for successful work and contribution was held, and the meeting finished in a nice, pre- New Year mood with songs and dances.



Jaamat representatives.

JICA Press Club Meeting



Mass media representatives.

On 15th of December 2017, there was a meeting of the representatives of the JICA Kyrgyz Republic Office with the JICA press club. The meeting was held in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, which facilitated active discussion among participants. Presentations were given by journalists who had participated in trainings in Japan this year; they shared their impressions of the trip. Also, representatives of JICA provided information about the agency's activities for the current year and plans for the next year, and the topic of road administration. During the meeting, representatives of the media were awarded for their active participation in covering the activities of the JICA in the press. As a result of the meeting, two active participants of the JICA press club were nominated for trainings in Japan in 2018. ●

Contact Us

News from Kyrgyzstan is a bimonthly newsletter that focuses on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details the work of JICA in the Kyrgyz Republic.

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JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency providing various forms of assistance in over 150 countries around the world.