

# News FROM Kyrgyzstan

NOVEMBER 2014–JANUARY 2015 • NUMBER 11(75) • THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## Official visit of **Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh** of the KR to Japan



Photos from [www.akipress.kg](http://www.akipress.kg)

**On November 19, 20 2014 Speaker** of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Jeenbekov, made an official visit to Japan. During his visit, Mr. Jeenbekov met with the Speaker of the Lower chamber of the Parliament of Japan, Mr. Ibuki, the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Abe, and the President of JICA, Mr. Tanaka. On November 20, 2014, the delegation of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic led by the Speaker, Mr. Jeenbekov, visited the JICA headquarters. The President of JICA, Mr. Tanaka noted areas of priority for JICA activities in the Kyrgyz Republic, which include poverty reduction, increasing export capacity of the country, and support of the agriculture and business environments. He mentioned the implementation of the “One Village One Product” (OVOP) project in Kyrgyzstan as one of the successful examples of partnership. In this project, felt products that have been made through the project are sold by Japan’s famous retail company “Muji”. The Speaker, Mr. Jeenbekov, expressed his

gratitude to the President of JICA for their constant support of the social and economic development of the Kyrgyzstan and added that JICA is widely known in the country due to its large-scale and efficient aid. The Speaker noted that the Kyrgyz Republic is interested in strengthening economic cooperation with Japan and attracting Japanese investments. Additionally, he expressed appreciation for the OVOP project and discussed further support for the movement. The Speaker underlined the importance of JICA’s assistance in the preparation for transparent and competitive parliamentary elections in 2015. He also noted the effectiveness of the training program for municipal servants of the Kyrgyz Republic at Japanese universities.

Mr. Jeenbekov invited the JICA President, Mr. Tanaka, to visit Kyrgyzstan at any time convenient for him. ●

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**COUNTRY PROJECT**

**Latest news on Bridge&Tunnel Maintenance Project**



Bridge passport data

**Regional Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management issue**



During Conference

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Participants of Conference

**Demonstration of Japanese agricultural machinery**



During demonstration

**Promotion of OVOP products in Japan**



Komuz melody in Japan

# Country Report

NOVEMBER 2014 - JANUARY 2015

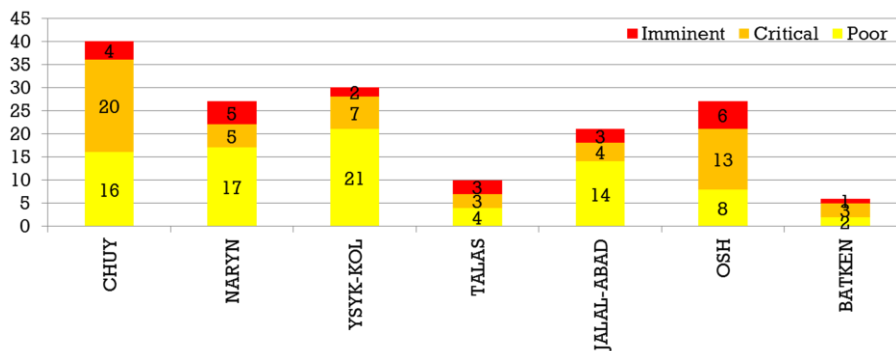
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## PROJECT NEWS

### Latest news on **Bridge&Tunnel** Maintenance Project



Number of damaged bridges by regions

At the end of December 2014, the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) of the KR had collected the inventory data or passport data of roughly 900 bridges under the Project for Capacity Development for Maintenance Management of Bridges and Tunnels. The collected passport bridge data is 93 % of the total bridges on the nationwide inter-

national and national roads.

The collected data, furthermore, is classified into five (5) categories: good, fair, poor, critical and imminent, based on the soundness as evaluated by MOTC staff in cooperation with JICA experts. The classification data is organized by oblast as shown above.

In addition, with the assistance of experts, MOTC

has started preparing a bridge database system under the Project for the effective utilization of bridge data and for the maintenance management planning of bridges, which is scheduled to be started in March and completed in August 2015. ●

## Regional Ministerial Meeting on **Disaster Management issue**

On January 29-30, 2015 in Bishkek, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, the UNDP project on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia & the South Caucasus conducted a Regional Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management of Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Participants of the conference: Ministers of Emergency Situations, heads and representatives of Disaster Management Authorities of Central Asia and the South Caucasus, diplomatic corps, development partners, UN agencies, and international organizations discussed and approved a Joint Regional Statement of Central Asia and the South Caucasus on the Post-2015 Framework for

Disaster Risk Reduction; Framework of Cooperation and Plan of Action on strengthening regional collaboration for Disaster Management Authorities of Central Asia and the South Caucasus in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction. ●



Ministerial conference participants

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

"The Taiko anniversary concert was held in Bishkek". Japanese drums group "Taiko" was created in 2004 by JICA volunteers and in December they celebrated their 10th anniversary. "Taiko" is well known in the country as great musicians and the first group of Japanese drums in the Central Asia.

[www.kyrtag.kg](http://www.kyrtag.kg)  
December 1, 2014

"JICA project "One village – one product" would be disseminated to all regions of the country". Today the project has been implemented only in the Issyk-Kul region, but taking into consideration the good results of the project, this experience would be used in all regions of the Kyrgyz Republic.

[www.for.kg](http://www.for.kg)  
December 10, 2014

"The press service of the Presidential Administration states: The Grant Agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and JICA was ratified".

On January 22, 2015, The President of the Kyrgyz Republic signed ratification documents for the Grant aid project on the Improvement of Equipment for Road Maintenance in Osh, Jalal-Abad, and Talas Oblasts.

[www.24.kg](http://www.24.kg)  
January 29, 2015

## CALENDAR\*

### FEBRUARY

**5-19** Mission on food safety

**Middle** Data collection mission on agriculture

### MARCH

**8-13** Monitoring mission on Kok-art bridge

**16-20** Study tour to International airport "Manas"

\*dates may be changed

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## Business trip to Japan



Fruitful discussion

**I'm working at Kyrgyz Alpine Club in Bishkek.** Our club was established in 2000 to develop climbing and mountaineering in Kyrgyzstan. In November, colleagues and I went on a business trip to Japan to attend an international conference for mountaineering and gave a presentation about Kyrgyz moun-

taineering areas for Japanese alpinists.

We visited some Japanese mountaineering clubs and explained how Kyrgyzstan is attractive for alpinists. In Kyrgyzstan, we have the Tian Shan, Pamir and other mountains that are beloved by alpinists from all over the world. Especially since there are no mountains higher than 3770m, i.e. Mt. Fuji, in Japan, mountains over 6000m and virgin peaks are a heartthrob for Japanese alpinists. When we gave the presentation introducing our proud mountains, participants listened to us carefully, asked lots of questions, and had visions of coming to Kyrgyzstan.

Unfortunately, only a few Japanese

know about Kyrgyzstan, but now I know that Kyrgyzstan has good opportunities to attract foreign tourists with its abundant nature. I wish for the development of tourism in Kyrgyz, and I hope this business trip becomes a cornerstone for it. ●



Participants of Conference

## Japanese agricultural machinery demonstrated in Sokuluk

A demonstration of Japanese agricultural machinery was held on November 13, 2014 in an experimental field of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University, located in Studencheskoe village of Sokuluk raion. It was attended by representatives of the Prime-Minister's Office of the Kyrgyz Republic, the JICA Office, the Ministry of agriculture, specialists in agricultural enterprises, cooperatives and farmers interested in livestock farming.

The demonstration was organized under JICA's public-private partnership program, which aims to demonstrate Japanese enterprises' technologies and knowledge.

During the event, IHI STAR Machinery Corporation, a famous produc-

ery in Japan introduced to visitors four samples of machinery, in particular, a mini tractor, baler, rotor mower, and automatic agitator. Representatives of the Japanese company showed them in use and told about their advantages and technical characteristics.

Following the event, the demonstrated machinery was granted to the Agrarian University and will be used in the training program of the Engineering Faculty for training machine operators and engineers of agricultural machines. ●



In the field

## Promotion of OVOP products in Japan

Kyrgyz "One Village One Product" (OVOP) felt products were presented and promoted in the Japanese Market from December 20<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 in cooperation with the **Central Nippon Expressway Company Limited** and with the support of the **JICA project**. The selling point was Shizuoka prefecture which is famous for Mt. FUJI. There were many visitors and customers at the OVOP booth even on cold rainy days.

For Japanese consumers, naturally dyed, handmade, 100% natural wool and simple designs were attractive features of the OVOP products. They loved OVOP products and also enjoyed listening to Kyrgyz komuz music. In addition to sales, a felt products manufacturing workshop

was organized by Ms. Chikako Sato. Japanese customers could buy handmade felt products and enjoy making felt hair accessories and felt straps. Kyrgyz OVOP felt products were very popular among Japanese customers and sold very well.

JICA HQ officers and former JOCVs, who had worked in Kyrgyzstan, rendered assistance in our sales promotion activities in Japan. The OVOP Association and its producers expressed great gratitude to NEXCO for their cooperation, to JICA HQ & former JOCVs for their great support, and to Japanese consumers for their interest and purchases. ●



An interest from Japanese customers

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## New JOCV and volunteer coordinator



New JOCV

On the beginning of January three new volunteers arrived in Kyrgyzstan. They are now taking Kyrgyz and Russian language courses. In the middle of February they will be dispatched to their work areas. One will work at CBT Bishkek, one will work in a secondary school in Pristan Prezhevsk village, and the third will work at the SOS children villages.

A new Volunteer Coordinator also arrived in Kyrgyzstan at the beginning of January. His name is Naoki Takechi. The previous Volunteer Coordinator, Mr. Fukunaga Yoshinobu, already left Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Takechi has been working in the JICA overseas office for over ten years as a Project Formulation Advisor. He started his career as a JICA volunteer, and then continued working in JICA offices in Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific region. This is the second time that Mr. Takechi has been dispatched to Central Asia and he says that he is happy to work with the Kyrgyz people. He says that he enjoys Kyrgyzstan's magnificent natural beauty and the warm hospitality of Kyrgyz people. JICA volunteers stay in the community and they work for community development

and natural conservation. He promised that he will work hard to be a coordinator of volunteers and Kyrgyz community, and hopes that his work will help achieve Kyrgyzstan's development and enhance friendship between Kyrgyzstan and Japanese people. ●

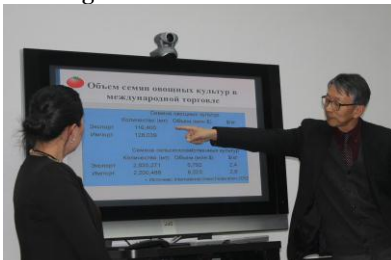


Mr. Takechi

## JICA Press club meeting

On January 30, 2015, the JICA Kyrgyz Republic office conducted a Press Club Meeting where journalists from TV companies, newspapers and Internet resources were invited. During the meeting JICA experts presented to journalists some brief information about the activities of their projects, achievements, and future plans. Mr. Takasaka informed journalists why the Kyrgyz Japan Center for human resource development was opened. Mr. Tanaka and Mr. Mizota explained about their collaboration with the Ministry of transport and communication of the Kyrgyz Republic in transport sector. Mr. Saito informed journalists about seed project activities and invited journalists to the fields. The next presenters were JICA volunteers, Mr. Hattori and Ms. Mizutani. They discussed what they are doing in the Kyrgyz Republic and their future plans. In particular, Ms. Mizutani talked about her small project preparing chairs for children with disabilities at the National Centre of Maternity and Childhood Welfare and her lectures about people with disabilities.

Mass media representatives expressed interest in JICA's activities and their willingness to announce it in the Mass Media of the Kyrgyz Republic. The first step will be a press tour to the Naryn oblast where JOCV activity will be shooting.



JICA Expert's presentation



JICA volunteers presentation

## Contact Us

**News from Kyrgyzstan** is a bimonthly newsletter which 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.