

News FROM Kyrgyzstan

JUNE - JULY 2013 • NUMBER 3(67) • THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

JICA participated in the 2nd High level Conference



On 10 and 11 of July 2013 the 2nd High Level Conference on the Development of the Kyrgyz Republic was held in Bishkek. The session was attended by Kyrgyz high officials, international financial institutions and organizations, as well as representatives of civil society. The Director General of the Department of Eastern and Central Asia and the Caucasus, JICA HQ, Ms. Kae Yanagisawa was invited to participate in this forum. In her speech at the conference, she noted that “much has been discussed of the importance of infrastructure, the role it plays in promoting national development of a landlocked country that faces higher costs for transporting goods and services to the external world. In this regard, connectivity of infrastructure, both externally and internally, is of particular importance to support robust development”. The Government of Japan and JICA have supported and will support the initiatives of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in the sector”.

Ms. Yanagisawa expressed her concern regarding the financial stability of the infrastructure projects. The funds from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, donors, or the private sector for infrastructure projects should cover the costs of operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and should allocate a budget for the above mentioned costs. A public awareness campaign would be necessary to enhance the understanding of the population, but it should be backed by a reliable and uninterrupted supply of services and transparency in decision-making at all stages. It is also necessary to focus on strengthening the capacity of the relevant ministries. Donor coordination in this sector is very important, as infrastructure projects require large capital investments. For the effective implementation of projects in the sector, regular and open exchange of information and coordination is required between donors and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. ●

PAGE 2 - 3
COUNTRY PROJECT

Organic Farming



Technical cooperation and training projects.

Developed regions – developed country!



Alumni Association promotes Batken oblast.

New round of JDS program



The signing ceremony between JICA and Ministry of Finance.

New JICA volunteers



Saori seminar in Tajikistan



JICA volunteers expand their activities to neighboring country.

Country Report

JUNE - JULY 2013 ● NUMBER 3(67) ● THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

PROJECT NEWS

Support for dissemination of organic farming



22 years has elapsed since the collapse of the USSR and the decline of soil fertility and agricultural machinery performance is remarkable, decreasing agricultural productivity by 50% or more due to inadequate use of fertilizers by farmers. The problem is also aggravated by the fact that the procurement of chemical fertilizers in the country relies on imports which are unstable and expensive, and even im-

ported fertilizers are not necessarily available for farmers. Recognizing the problem, the Kyrgyz government has defined the improvement of soil fertility as a strategic priority field for agricultural development. However, a concrete breakthrough has not yet been found. In this situation, JICA found that the introduction of rich organic resources such as compost, digested slurry from biogas plants and green manure are

urgent and effective countermeasures to improve soil fertility. However, as such technology has not spread to enough farmers in the country, the transfer of technology from the Tokachi region of Japan, which has similar climate, is considered optimal.

With this background, the Government of Japan has decided to implement the Project for Dissemination of Organic Farming, which will be implemented by Japanese NGO, Hokkaido Biomass Research Co., Ltd. in collaboration with Kyrgyz National Agrarian University. The project, which will launch next month, is designed to disseminate organic farming through development and application of organic fertilizer technologies suitable for the country and thus to contribute to the improvement of soil fertility in Kyrgyzstan. ●

Learning from Japanese experience in organic farming

Considering the drastic decline in soil fertility in Kyrgyzstan and the strong need for its improvement, last year JICA suggested a new training program on Sustainable Agriculture by Utilizing Unused Organic Substance Resources, designed to increase the agricultural productivity through the spread of sustainable agriculture technology. The training was held in Hokkaido, Japan from 23 June to 23 July 2013. This year 3 participants from Kyrgyzstan had the opportunity to attend the training and learn from Japanese experience in the improvement of the crop productivity

through soil improvement and suppression of pests, diseases, and weeds in a combination of class lectures and study visits to research institutions and farms. In addition, they learned about such matters as compost, utilization of livestock wastes and its effects, basic knowledge of agrochemicals, soil diagnostics, etc. According to the participants, everything they had seen and heard during the training made sure that, if desired, Kyrgyzstan can create favorable conditions to interest and motivate farmers to work the same way as farmers in Japan. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA
Page 2

"Businessmen from Issyk-Kul oblast started exporting mushrooms to Germany in the framework of "OVOP movement"

Dry mushrooms packages prepared by Jety-Oguz women's jaamat will be sent to Germany as a trial.

Tazabek
June 19, 2013

"A JICA expert conducted courses on hospitality for the staff of Manas Airport"

140 employees of Manas airport participated in the hospitality course provided by JICA export Mr Teramura.

Airport.kg
June 3, 2013

CALENDAR*

AUGUST

9 Presentation of new TC project on bridges and tunnels

14 Presentation of Final report of Bishkek master plan on urban transportation

17 Festival of friendship in Naryn by JOCV

22 Pedestrian paradise

22 OVOP study tour

30 Handover ceremony of sport equipment grant aid

SEPTEMBER

2 Kick-off meeting for Organic farming project

10 Walkathon

23 OVOP study tour

*dates can be changed

Country Report

JUNE - JULY 2013 ● NUMBER 3(67) ● THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Developed regions – developed country!

The workshop “Batken apricot-a resource for the development of local communities” was conducted on July 17, 2013 in Batken city.

Page 3



Most of the seminar's participants were women

The workshop was organized by the JICA Alumni Association with participation by representatives from the “One-Village-One Product” Association of Issyk-Kul oblast, beneficiaries, and a trainer

specializing in the dissemination of agricultural experience from the USAID local development program. The purpose of the workshop was increasing the capacity of local communities through dissemina-

tion of knowledge and experience by the members of the JICA Alumni Association and representatives of previously mentioned organizations. The targeted audiences of the workshop were local farmers and agricultural producers.

The workshop was attended by over the 80 people from three areas of Batken oblast: Kadamzhai, Batken, and Leilek. Today most of them face difficulties in drying apricots (they dry them naturally without special equipment) and marketing of their products. To this end, the speakers explained about marketing and the importance of people unifying their communities for further promotion of their products and clearly showed the trays for drying apricots.

The result of the workshop was the participants` desire to join into groups-Jamaat-for further joint work. As for the JICA Alumni Association, it is considering organizing similar workshops in other regions of the country. ●

New round of JDS program

On July 11, 2013 right after the High Level Development Conference, the signing ceremony of the Grant Aid Project “Human Recourse Development Scholarship” took place in the Ala-Archa Residence. By signing this Grant Agreement, 15 state government officials will be sent to study for a master's degree in Japan. Since the start of the program in 2006, 116 state officials have been sent to Japan and 71 graduates have already come back to Kyr-

gyzstan where they are now contributing to the country's development by applying knowledge gained in Japan. ●



The signing ceremony between JICA and Ministry of Finance of the KR

New group of JICA volunteers arrived to KR

On July 4 nine members of JOCV arrived to Bishkek. Some of them will be working with persons with disabilities in the social sector; the others will be dispatched to rural areas working in close cooperation with local administration, helping to promote regional development, tourism, culture, education, business, and trade, as well as local communities. All of the volunteers will be working with Kyr-

gyz speaking groups, so now they are diligently studying the Kyrgyz language, and soon will be sent to work in the regions. We hope our counterparts will welcome them soon. ●



International News

JUNE - JULY 2013 ● NUMBER 3(67) ● THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

SAORI seminar in Tajikistan

Page 4

From May 29 to June 4 of this year I participated in textile making technology seminar (training) for women in Tajikistan which was held in Hodjand village, near the second capital of Tajikistan - Taboshar. The Resource Center of the Central Asian Crafts Support Association in Kyrgyzstan expressed interest "Saori" (Jamaat in Naryn, which makes textile) productions and invited me to provide training for Tajik women. The Seminar lasted for 3 days, and there were 16 participants in the workshop. Before the seminar, a textile machine was delivered to the village and local women could make some "Saori" textiles by using it. Also in the course of the seminar, women found out more about methods of making different simple textiles, using improvised materials like a pet bottle, card, or box. The crowning achievement of the seminar was that the women could learn about the concept and principles of "Saori". Knowing "Saori" helps women to make textile products based on their imagination and ideas. On the last day of seminar

participants tried to make textiles by themselves using their imagination and ideas; this practice was very meaningful.



The second crowning achievement was a cultural exchange through the teamwork. I prepared several methods of weaving, and every participant made textile using the method which they liked. The method of weaving with a card was particularly popular. Participants brought cards from their homes in advance. Also some women decided to use this method in future. Local elder craftswomen also shared their experience with others. They not only taught, but also learnt new technology, shared best practices. Generally speaking, the seminar was very fruitful. ●



Nagayama Kyoko, JOCV, coordinator of "Saori" Jamaat, Naryn, Alysh

Brief information about Saori:

Saori is one of the methods of handmade weaving that appeared in Osaka, Japan in 1968. Shiro Misao – an ordinary housewife at the age of 57 created a basis for handmade weaving, which in terms of quality substantially differed from what was broadly had been used before. The main concept of the method is to weave the way one feels – "to draw on one's own thoughts". It is a creation of an item without any restriction and rules, in a free manner. Everyone can make it, regardless age, gender, physical conditions, and so on.

Saori appeared in Kyrgyzstan 6 years ago thanks to JICA volunteers that were dispatched to the Naryn Oblast. Women-housewives together with the volunteers established a community (jamaat). At the moment, the community, led by a JICA Volunteer, produces several articles from Saori textile, including order-made articles, if someone desires something unique.

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.

Editors for Kyrgyzstan edition: Mr. Takayuki Oyama, Chief Representative, Ms. Svetlana Alekova, PR Manager

JICA Kyrgyz Republic Office
The Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Chokmorov str., 115. Tel +996-312-900270 Fax +996-312-900279 E-mail: jicakg-info@jica.go.jp
Website : www.jica.go.jp

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.