

News FROM Kyrgyzstan

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Expansion of OVOP shop in Karakol



At the opening ceremony from left Chairman of OVOP Association Mr. Totubaev Zholdosh, Mayor of Karakol Mr. Daniyar Arpachiev, Chief Representative Mr. Kikuchi, chief of office of the plenipotentiary representative of Government of the KR in Issyk-Kul Region Mr. Mirbek Kozhoev.

I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to readers and to share the news about the expansion of the Issyk-Kul Brand Shop in Karakol. Desiring sustainable development in the Issyk-Kul Region, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) initiated the One Village One Product (OVOP) project in 2007 together with Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Issyk-Kul Region State Administration.

OVOP takes a regional development approach originally initiated in the Oita Prefecture in Japan in 1979. It is an integrated community development method with a vision to increase the income and wealth of rural communities through the production of quality products.

In order to mobilize local people to implement the OVOP movement in the Issyk-Kul region, JICA supported establishing the OVOP Association and Issyk-Kul Brand Shop in Karakol in 2011.

Members of the Association have been increasing every year, and now more than 1500 people are participating in the OVOP movement and producing products such as felt and food items made from local resources. Currently their products are exported to countries such as Japan, the United States, and European countries.

Additionally, I am honored to tell you that the Issyk-Kul Brand shop is gaining popularity not only with local residents but also with foreign tourists. As a result, the sales of the shop have grown remarkably and number of products also increased within the last 5 years, as a result it was decided to expand the shop. All the products displayed in the shop are screened and evaluated by the members of the Issyk-Kul Brand Committee for quality, originality, uniqueness and certification. After the evaluation the trade mark "Issyk-Kul Brand" is awarded to products which are then sold at the shop.

I truly believe that the OVOP movement will continue to promote the economy and society in the Issyk-Kul region, and moreover, that OVOP products will connect the Kyrgyz Republic to the rest of the world. ●

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Kyrgyz-Japan Center Project



Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

The Kyrgyz-Japan Center for Human Development Project (KRJC) and the results of its activities in previous years (2003-2015) have been highly appreciated by the business community in Kyrgyzstan. Starting on April 1st of this year the project entered into a new 5-year phase. Now we are facing new challenges creating a stable institutional mechanism and a Center for the development of human resources. We plan to reach these goals, while continuing to learn from the experience and technology of Japanese experts. The support of Japanese experts is very important to us in order to implement the following new programs: business courses in Tajikistan aimed at promoting regional cooperation in Central Asia, and assisting in the internationalization of students from Japanese

universities.

The main goal of 2016 is to transition the center, redecorate and except for the organization committee, even bring in new members to the Joint Coordinating Committee. The center is open to a wide range of visitors, including students, teachers, entrepreneurs, and those who want more information about Japan and take part in the development of cultural relations between our two countries. We on the, KRJC team will make every effort to be helpful to you! ●

(Kanat Kolbaev, Director of KRJC)



JICA IN THE MEDIA

"The JICA project for the adoption of the master-plan on monitoring the quality and safety milk and milk products in the Kyrgyz Republic held a seminar to draw up the Master Plan aimed to export of milk and dairy products in the country of the Customs Union and other countries."

www.agro.kg

April 29, 2016

"The State Tax Service and JICA discussed the implementation of a plan for improving the system of human resource development. The project's first step will begin in 2017."

www.kabar.kg

April 8, 2016

"JICA provides a system of landing aircraft using the ILS instrument, airfield fire equipment, and the proper for winter maintenance of airfield"

www.ca-news.org

April 20, 2016

"Nazar Turganzayev said, "Successful business should be based on KAIZEN philosophy". KRJC's business course graduate and participant of training in Japan shared his impression of his visit to Japan."

www.zanoza.kg

April 1, 2016

Beginning of Cooperation With State Tax Service



State Tax Service, "Digital Knowledge" Company and JICA Representatives

JICA is now collaborating with the State Tax Service on a new project, to improve the human resource development system in the country.

Representative from the company "Digital Knowledge" in Japan, whose purpose is to promote distance learning, came to visit in order to contribute to the project. The implementation of this study was made possible by a new partnership between JICA and the Japanese private sector in order to achieve common goals, which include continued collaboration with partners in country and development of the private sector in Japan. By the end of the year, based on the results of a study, plans will be made to put the project in motion which will include improving the training of STS employees, as well as the development of training materials for future taxpayers. ●

CALENDAR*

JULY

5 Arrival of new JOCV volunteers from Japan

AUGUST

24-26 Follow-up mission on road Maintenance and Management in Kyrgyz Republic

24-26 Workshop for "Strengthening farmer's organization" in Kyrgyz Republic

*dates may be changed

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Second JCC Meeting on Forestry Project



Participants of meeting

The Second Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting for the Development of Rural Business with Forest Products project was held on May 17, 2016 at the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic (SAEPF). Ms. Tada, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr.

Kikuchi, Chief Representative of the JICA Kyrgyz Office and JICA expert team participated in the meeting. JCC Chairperson, Mr. Rustamov delivered the opening address expressing gratitude for Japan's assistance regarding the promotion of a joint forestry management approach. In his welcome speech Mr. Kikuchi expressed hope that the project will be able to make a significant contribution to the SAEPP in order to promote business models. Project experts have reported the progress of the project's activities from December 2015 – April 2016 in the following areas: the baseline survey by subcontractors, supporting forestry enterprises

for proposal preparation, collaborating with other development partners, overviewing proposals submitted by forestry enterprises and a selection of target forest enterprises etc.

Project experts shared the goals for the next reporting period, which will focus on completing a baseline survey and, supporting target FEs to plan and implement their business-sub-plans. Finally, the JCC meeting ended with the approval of the monitoring sheet selecting of 11 out of 14 FEs as target FEs and scheduling the next JCC meeting in July with the participation of all the representatives from selected FEs.

New Project in Road Disaster Prevention Management



Rock fall on Bishkek-Osh Road

Many roads in the country located along mountainous slopes have suffered from different types of natural disasters, such as avalanches, rock slides, snow drifts, etc. which cause a variety of problems for people, the economy and traffic in Kyrgyz Republic. For the example, the Bishkek-Osh (BO) Highway has had many sections close down annually due to rock falls (section at 400 km and others), avalanches (section at 246km and others), and snow drifts (section at 125-129km near "Too-Ashuu Pass" and section 216-222km near "Ala-Bel

Pass"). Similar things have happened to other roads in the country. In response to this issue the Ministry of Transportation and Communication has requested that JICA to implement a project Road Disaster Prevention considering the expertise Japan has in this field. As a result, starting in April 2016, JICA send Japanese experts to the MOTC to start a new project aimed at strengthening and supporting specialists in the field of road disaster prevention, including road disaster inspection and analysis, the management and preparation of the budget for road disaster prevention, and the development and operation of the Database Management System and development of related manuals. Additionally, Japanese experts will share Japanese technology to help take preventative measures against disasters. ●

JICA PPP training Course



Participants of training in Japan

On May 12th a report meeting was held with participants of the JICA training course, specially created for the KR called: "Capacity building for PPP Projects Structuring", which originally was held in February 2016, in Japan. Nine people were in attendance - representatives of various government agencies, including the responsible authority for the implementation of PPP projects in the Government - Investment Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Economy

of the Kyrgyz Republic. Looking at the presentations of all the participants, the training was very informative and useful. A lot of new things can be applied to both practical and theoretical work going on in Kyrgyz Republic. It should be noted that this JICA training was an opportunity for some civil servants to raise their level in the field of PPP, as well as gain additional professional qualifications for the PPP. Good luck to all who will be starting their own projects in the near future!

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Japan Culture day in Naryn



Japan culture day in Naryn

I am working 300 km from Bishkek, 2300 m above the sea level, in the high mountains area, of Naryn City, at the Children's Education Center as a teacher of Japanese language and culture. On May 12, 2016 the children, studying Japanese language, celebrate a Japanese Culture Day where they showcased their progress to all their guests. It took 1, 5 months of preparation. My colleague and I divided the students up into groups and each group ap-

pointed a leader. Each group had their own task to accomplish. First we taught the leaders of the groups and then leaders relayed that knowledge to his group members. It was a great lesson for everyone.

Japanese Culture Day was successful because we were able to distribute work amongst the students. I think that in future when we conduct further events, my colleagues and the children will be able to collaborate to make future events successful as well. Many guests attended the event such as Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, representatives of JICA's office, the head of the personnel department from the Naryn Region, Ms. Jeenalieva, schools directors, students, their parents and others. After the main program conducted guests were able to do calligraphy, try Japanese food, wear an ukata, play kendama

and do many other things. We got great feedback from our guests, everyone was saying that the event was very interesting and they would like to join us again next year. I was happy to hear that all the participants enjoyed themselves. I am looking forward to continuing to teach the Japanese language to the children in Naryn. ●

(Baba Rie, JICA volunteer)



During the concert

Press Tour in Issyk-Kul Region

From May 25-26, 2016, the JICA Kyrgyz Republic (KR) Office, organized a press tour for mass media representatives in the Issyk-Kul region, where journalists had the opportunity to learn more about JICA volunteer activities. During the tour, a group of journalists and JICA representatives attended a seminar on tourism in Cholpon-Ata and visited the "SOS Children's Village", and the Chief Representative of JICA in KR, Mr. Kikuchi awarded a certificate and gift to young Aynazik for her placement in the world-wide drawing contest, that was held in Japan. The group also had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the activities of "One Village One Product" and see the manufacturing process of various items. At the end of the tour, the representatives expressed their desire to cooperate with JICA in the future. ●



Representative of OVOP community, JICA representative, JICA volunteer



Chief Representative of JICA in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Kikuchi presents a certificate and a gift to Aynazik

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.