

News^{FROM}Kyrgyzstan

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Kyrgyzstan is **a rich country**



The Ambassador of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr Koike Takayuki, arrived to Bishkek in February 2013. We asked Ambassador Koike about the progress of his work in these 7 months, his impressions about Kyrgyzstan, the potential for development, and his opinion on further bilateral relations.

Ambassador Koike answers:

"In these 7 months I visited Batken, Osh, Issyk-Kul, Naryn, and other places, and my first impression was the beauty of [Kyrgyzstan's] nature. The abundance of tasty fruits is another evidence of the country's richness.

But when speaking about socio-economic development, on the one hand, there is a "wave of motorization" being observed not only in Bishkek, but in other regions of the country. The number of new type cars is increasing which means that the number of people with sufficient income is increasing as well. But on the other hand, I had a feeling that there are still not enough funds allocated for the improvement of social welfare related facilities, such as educational and medical institutions, and so on.

During the 4th meeting of foreign ministers of the "Central Asia + Japan" Dialogue held in Tokyo in November, 2012, representatives of the Japanese Government and the five Central Asian countries shared a common understanding that "peace and stability of the Central Asia are important for the region and the whole in-

ternational community". Based on the results of the meeting, when President Atambaev visited Japan in February, a discussion on what should be a baseline for identifying "further development and diversification of economic relations" was held. In this regard, in my personal opinion, I think it will be difficult to achieve remarkable results in development of bilateral economic relations naturally, so as a practical response, I believe it is necessary to proceed with cooperation aimed at further development of infrastructure and human resources what will be prerequisite condition for Japanese enterprises to start businesses in the Kyrgyz Republic. As I have mentioned before, I think that problem in this country is that "there is both light and shadow in its richness". In other words, the increasing number of cars in the country shows that there is money, but on the other hand, this money does not reach the sector of social welfare, so there is a problem with the mechanism of effective management of financial resources. In addition, the next challenge is how to use the country's asset of a "rich and beautiful nature" for economic development. It is either to add value to the beauty of nature by development of related industries, or to take measures to expand internal and external access to ecotourism. I believe that JICA's priority areas - development of agribusiness and transport infrastructure - are in line with the development of potential of the Kyrgyz Republic." ●

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Bridge&Tunnel maintenance training



Bridges & Tunnels
project is on track.

A gift of tatami for judo



Pedestrian par- adise



The 6th walkathon



For a society equal for
all.

The 1st results of organic project



Country Report

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PROJECT NEWS

Bridge&Tunnel maintenance training



Master trainers started inspection of bridges & tunnels with the technical assistance of JICA experts

In the beginning of July 2013 JICA, in cooperation with Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) of the KR, has launched the new Project for capacity development for maintenance management of bridges and tunnels. A number of Japanese experts on bridges and tunnels has been dispatched to KR for the project implementation period. JICA experts headed by Mr. Mizota have prepared

the work plan for the Project, based on which a series of trainings for master trainers, a database system, and a number of manuals will be prepared. Already training sessions for master trainers have been conducted for the MOTC's staff responsible for bridge & tunnel maintenance. Those trainings have been held in the form of lectures and on-site trainings. Two types of master trainers are to

be prepared under the Project: one is "Technical Trainers" who are responsible for the inspection of bridges & tunnels, condition rating, and maintenance management planning for bridges and the other one is "System Trainers" who are responsible for the operational management of the database system developed in the Project. At trainings master trainers are learning to make inspection sketches, to input data into Excel, etc.

After the completion of trainings, Master trainers will start collecting data on bridges & tunnels for the database system. The system will be utilized for proper planning and budgeting for maintenance management of bridges. Simultaneously, the development of manuals has been done through the support of Japanese experts. Particularly, manuals for technical maintenance, inspection, condition rating of bridges & tunnels as well as the database. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

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"Representatives of State Personnel Service of Kyrgyzstan and Japan International Cooperation Center signed a contract for the provision of services"

A new round of the JDS program for the provision of scholarships to state and municipal employees of Kyrgyzstan for study in Japanese universities has started.

Akipress
August 19, 2013

"4,5 bil.som in investments was received by the Issyk-Kul oblast in 2013"

Foreign investors invested in the development of the Issyk-Kul Oblast JICA project is one of the projects implemented with the help of donors.

Tazabek
August 16, 2013

"All, go to the bank!"

JICA helped to organize a forum on cooperative development in Kyrgyzstan.

Vecherny Bishkek
September 11, 2013

CALENDAR*

OCTOBER

3	Arrival of new JICA volunteers
9	Mission on disaster prevention
22	Central Asia + Japan Conference
22	OVOP study tour
24	Tourism Forum by JICA Alumni Association
30	Kick-off meeting for Project "Promotion of Exportable Vegetable Seed Production"

NOVEMBER

3	Training on parliamentarianism and election system in Japan
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A gift of tatami for judo

On August 30 a solemn ceremony was held to hand over of 1320 tatami mats along with coaching videos for judo training according to the framework of the cultural grant aid by the Government of Japan. The Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to the KR, the Chief representative of JICA in the KR, the Director of the State Agency on physical culture and sports under the Government of the KR, and others took place in the ceremony. Japanese guests could see demonstrations of young and already well-known sportsman, evaluate their level of development.

The sports equipment will be used in the

target sport halls of Bishkek and Tokmok cities. The Japanese side hopes that this support will serve to popularize judo in Kyrgyzstan and contribute to not only the physical development, but also to promote health and train strong will and character. ●



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Pedestrian paradise!

This year JICA Kyrgyz Office also participated in the organization of the 2nd Pedestrian paradise through its small contribution. Page 3



A Japanese tradition dance

On the 10th of September a "KG street festival" took place along Kievskaya street in the center of Bishkek city. The main theme of the festival was "traffic" and the "environment". We were 18 JICA volunteers that participated in the event. We not only danced the Japanese traditional dance "Sohran bushi",

we also helped to sell local products and introduced Japanese culture. In addition we gave a small lecture about the environment. As for the dance "Sohran bushi", this dance is about fisherman. Nowadays it is really famous in Japan. At the festival we danced in front of a lot of onlookers, we were a little bit nerv-

ous, but it was a great fun. As for the shops, some of the volunteers were working for the "One village - One Product" project, and making some souvenirs with local people. This time we helped to sell these products. As for the Japanese culture, we introduced "origami", tattoo painting written using Japanese "kanji" characters, and showed how to make "Eco-bags" from newspapers. Kanji tattoos were the most popular. More than 200 persons became our customers. Through introducing Japanese culture, we had a chance to talk with Kyrgyz people as well. It was good opportunity for us to get to know the people of Kyrgyzstan too. As for the lecture about environment, we tried to show the situation of Kyrgyzstan and asked Kyrgyz people what could all of us do for the environment. We hope it was a small step to think about environmental problems. The festival was really fun. It was really nice opportunity for us to join it. ●

Mayahara Ai, CBT volunteer

The 6th walkathon

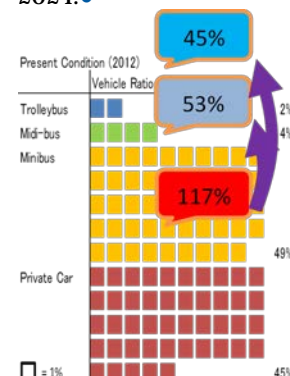
From September 4 to 10, 2013 the 6th Walkathon – a marathon of persons with disabilities, representatives of mass media, JICA volunteers, and others took place in Issyk-Kul. The Walkathon is being held yearly with the goal of addressing the society with a message that all of us are equal in and have equal opportunities regardless of availability and/or a level of disability, or any other criterion. On the way participants visited five rural schools where they presented lectures for children explaining about people with disabilities, their life and dreams, etc. The idea of the walkathon is to go around the lake covering some distance every year. 90 km out of the planned 100 km were covered from 2011 by this year. Next year the Walkathon will start from the village of Bokonbaeva and end in the city of Karakol. ●



Final Report presentation

On August 14, 2013 the Final report of the Study on the improvement of urban transportation in Bishkek city was presented to the public. The main findings of the surveys on traffic, public transportation and parking have been presented during the event. As it is shown on picture below the capacity of municipal trolleybuses and buses is not used fully with an average occupancy ratio of only 45% and 53% respectively. However, minibuses are overcrowded with a 117%

occupancy ratio. Based on the survey results, a Master Plan on the Improvement of Urban Transportation will be developed for the period of 2014-2024. ●



Project News

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The first results of organic farming project

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The Project for the dissemination of organic farming in the Kyrgyz Republic was started at the end of July 2013. The Project established its office in the main building of KNAU and in mid-August the Project started producing compost, for which all the necessary raw materials were provided by Professional School No.43. The Project used the manure compost and wheat straw to balance the moisture content of compost. On August 19th the Project held a training seminar, which was attended by 16 local farmers. Upon its completion 5 farmers were selected as pilot farmers with whom the project is now working on making compost. On August 30th, 2013 the project organized a kick-off meeting at KNAU. It was attended by about 30 people, including representatives of Ministry of Agriculture, KNAU, international organizations and the operators of biogas plants. At the meeting project manager Mr. Kunio Nishizaki made a presentation about the project concept and its activities. The agenda of the meeting had several presentations, in-

cluding presentations by two KNAU professors about results of their 3 year research project on the impact of bio-fertilizers on some crops, as well as the results of their participation in training course in Japan. There was also a presentation by a farmer from the village of Jany-Jer, who shared her experiences with the use of bio-fertilizers.



Mr Hatayama explains how to prepare compost

In the final part of the meeting a project partner provided information about activities to develop and create manure spreaders for the Project. According to the participants, the workshop was a useful learning and discussion platform, which provided new knowledge about organic farming methods.

At present, the Project, jointly with KNAU, is developing a manure spreader, making a comparative analysis of methane effluent, compost, and green manure. In addition, the Project plans around the end of September to construct compost facilities on the grounds of Professional School No.43. ●



Pilot farmer and team of the project

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING JICA COURSES

1. Young Leaders Program "Urban Environmental Management". Deadline for application submission-November 15. Course in Japan from January 30 to February 16, 2014.
2. Young Leaders Program "Policy on Information and Communication Technology Course" Deadline for application submission-November 15. Course in Japan from January 13 to January 30, 2014.
3. Young Leaders Program "Local Governance Course". Deadline for application submission-November 20. Course in Japan from January 27 to February 13, 2014.
4. "Customs Administration for Central Asia and Caucasus Countries". Submission period October-November. Course in Japan from February 24 to March 8, 2014
5. "Necessary Policy Measures and Reform Strategies for Financial System Stability in NIS Countries". Submission period October-November. Course in Japan in January-February 2014
6. "Hygiene and Quality Management of Livestock production". Deadline for application submission - October 11. Course in Japan from November 17 to December 17, 2013.

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.