

# News FROM Kyrgyzstan

DECEMBER 2013 - FEBRUARY 2014 • NUMBER 6(70) • THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## Japanese ODA at 60 and our goals for 2014



Photos from JICA official website

**Japanese Official Development Assistance** began 60 years ago in 1954, when Japan became a participant in the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific. Originally positioned as part of the country's war reparation, ODA came to function as a foreign policy instrument in the 1960s, especially in Asia. Japan's economic boom brought major increases in ODA expenditures. In 1989 the total assistance provided by Japan was the highest in the world. Japanese ODA has taken different forms over the years – technical cooperation, yen loans, grant aid, and volunteer assistance. In all its forms, it has contributed considerably to progress in developing countries. In 2013 JICA set its sights on ODA approaches that would revitalize, or reenergize, all the partners involved— not only the recipients of ODA but also the Japanese participants. Japanese development assistance

remains committed to this goal of invigoration for all.

JICA President, Mr. Ahihiko Tanaka said: "Last year I noted repeatedly the need for JICA to become a more robust organization in order to effectively and efficiently pursue this outcome. And I believe that JICA has grown stronger over the past year. Now, at the beginning of 2014, I have a new resolution to make for JICA: to continue strengthening itself in order to dynamically implement its activities". The issues facing the world today cannot be sufficiently addressed by passive approaches, or through projects that adhere closely to the blueprints of the past. The dynamic implementation of JICA's activities in innovative ways will be a key to invigorating Japan and stakeholders all around the world. So now JICA's vision in near future is "Inclusive and Dynamic Development." ●

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#### News of JICA Alumni Association



General meeting

#### New JICA volunteers



Already in Kyrgyzstan!

#### International volunteers day



During the meeting with students

#### Cost of doing business in the Kyrgyzstan



#### Invitation program for journalists



Interview from Japan

# Country Report

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## News from JICA Alumni Association



Ski Festival

**Significant event held** last time in the JICA Alumni Associations. The first "Forum of JICA Alumni Associations of Central Asian and Caucasus Countries" (hereinafter referred to as "Forum") was held on January 31, 2014 in ethno-complex "Supara". The theme of the forum was "Innovative solutions in tourism sector". The purpose of the forum was to share experience in implementing innovative solutions in tourism sector. The forum was attended by the representatives from the JICA Alumni Associations of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan. From

Kyrgyz side there were representatives from international organizations, Government and tourism associations. After conducting the forum a resolution on cooperation was signed between four Associations and it was determined that the next place for the forum to meet would be Baku. And the 5 festival "Kyrgyzstan-the country of mountain ski and winter leisure-2014" was conducted on February 15, 2014 at Toguz-Bulak ski base. This event has already become a traditional event of the Association. This event had charitable component, all funds raised (65700 som)

were used for the Ak-Suu Woman neuropsychiatric orphanage. The organizers of the festival were the JICA Alumni Association in the KR, the Bishkek Business Club, the Trekking Union of the Kyrgyzstan, the Department of the Tourism and the ski base "Toguz-Bulak". The companies "Shoro" and "Ski.kg" also partnered. And the last event of the Association was conducted in the end of February. And the last event of Association was conducted in the end of February. The annual general meeting of the JICA Alumni Association was held in HYATT. Representatives of other associations from foreign universities were invited as guest as well. Executive Board of the Association gave reports on the activities of the Association in 2013; presented an action plan for 2014. Many members expressed their interest in participating in the activities of the Association. Some members criticized the work of the Board. Everyone understands that criticisms will help to improve the work of Association. ●

## JFM project is successfully completed

**In January 2014, JICA completed** one of its technical cooperation projects in Kyrgyzstan - the Project for Support of Joint Forest Management. Started in January 2009, it supported the introduction of joint forest management (JFM), which is defined as one of the three mainstays of the National Forestry Development Concept. Under the project, JICA strengthened the framework for spreading JFM through the dispatch of experts, holding training in Japan, and providing basic water supply equipment. Through this process, JICA created a system whereby local governments and forest users can participate in the decision-making process. JFM pilot sites were established in nine leskhozoes of the Chui and Issyk-Kul oblasts. In the

pilot sites, fast growing trees or fruit trees were planted by participation of local residents and managed in a way that increased the incomes of the local residents. Moreover, JICA produced a JFM guideline on promoting forest management and held seminars and workshops to spread the use of guidelines with the intent of increasing acceptance and application by the related institutions. The JFM model of three-party management of forested land made a strong impact on participants. Another result of the project was that the model provided a way for residents to operate a forestry business in a sustainable manner on their own without depending on public funds. ●

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

"Ministry of Transport and Communication and JICA experts in January will conduct research of needs of International airport "Manas" in aviation equipment".

In January 2014 JICA mission team together with the Agency of civil aviation will research needs in aviation equipment".

tazabek-kg

January 16, 2014

"And seeds grow"

JICA together with Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration starts implementation of new project "Promotion of Exportable Vegetable Seed Production in the Kyrgyz Republic". Mr. Jumaliev, head of agriculture department of MoAM, said: "Japanese experience in this field will be actively used in our country".

"Slovo Kyrgyzstana"

January 15, 2014

"OTRK received new equipment and spare parts from Japan".

JICA provide Technical Grant Aid to the Public TV

Broadcasting Corporation

(OTRK) in a sum of \$800,000.

Mr. Otorbaev, General Director of OTRK expressed his gratitude to Chief Representative of JICA,

Mr. Oyama for such support.

One of the main steps for democracy is strong and free Mass Media and JICA hope that by providing through this Grant we are supporting the development of OTRK.

akipress.org

December 17, 2013

## CALENDAR\*

### APRIL

**14** Mission on project on rehabilitation of Bishkek - Osh road.

### MAY

**28** Mission for Manas Airport grant aid survey

\*dates can be changed



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## JICA Volunteers page New volunteers

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Yuki Ishida

"I will work at a school in the Naryn oblast, mainly teaching music. I took several classes regarding international relations at college. Besides the school work, I was do-

ing volunteer work for a NGO and led a group of children to do hands on activities in nature. With the knowledge and experience I had, I hope I can provide a memorable

time for the children".

Reina Shimizu

"I will work for an orphanage in Bishkek, helping Children with homework and introducing Japanese culture. Before eing dispatched to Kyrgyzstan, I was working for a pharmaceutical company. In addition, I was engaged in volunteer activity for the prevention of criminal activity. I would like to serve as a bridge to enhance mutual understanding between Japan and Kyrgyzstan".

Yuko Naka

"I will work at a local school as a Japanese teacher in Kochkor, Naryn oblast. Having taken classes regarding world education at college, I had grown my interest in the education systems in a developing country. Through these two years, I will try to be instrumental not only in helping students improve Japanese skills but also in creating a positive learning environment".

Hattori Takanori

"I come to work in the Kyrgyz National Sport Academy and engage in rugby coaching". ●

## International volunteers day

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in AUCA the International Day volunteers held an event devoted to volunteering where students interested in the volunteer movement could become better acquainted with volunteers from JICA, the UN, and the Peace Corps. Three volunteers from JICA who are working in the field of rural development attended the event. During the discussions, volunteers from each organization issued a report on their activities in the local languages of Kyrgyz and Russian. Those volunteers who are fluent in the Kyrgyz language were very popular among the audience. From JICA the performer who oversees Jamaat "Saori" Alysh in a village in the Naryn region delighted the audience. After his speech, the audience asked

the volunteer a lot of different questions, such as "What encouraged to be a volunteer", "Difficulties with which volunteers encountered during their stay in Kyrgyzstan", showing great interest in the volunteer movement. Organizations also put their stands where guests could clearly see what they do with each organization's volunteers. On one stand were products from the JICA project "One Village - One Product." The quality was highly appreciated by the visitors. They could not even imagine that the entire product had been manufactured in the villages of Issyk-Kul and Naryn. This event gave us opportunity to urge students to volunteer and work for the good of the country. ●

## Rugby

4 years ago, I joined the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and spent 2 years as a science and mathematics teacher in Tanzania. I also coached rugby after school. Three of my students were selected to play for the Tanzania U-19 national team. I then became the coach for the Tanzania U-19 national team. We participated in the East African Championship held in November 2011. After this experience, I started thinking that I would really like to teach young players what is really important in life and as a person through the playing of rugby.

It is a great pleasure for me to be attached to the Kyrgyz National Sport Academy and engage in rugby coaching. I would

like to try my best in both rugby development and promotion so that the game of rugby can give the people in Kyrgyz something to dream and live for. ●

(Hattori Takanori, JICA volunteer)



(Rugby team of Tanzania and JICA volunteer)

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## Cost of doing business in Kyrgyzstan

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, a presentation of the Handbook “Cost of doing business in Kyrgyzstan” with participation of representatives of different public, private and international organizations took place in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic (CCI). The project for the compilation of the handbook was initiated by the CCI and implemented by the Finance & Consulting Company “Niet-Araket” with financial support from JICA in the Kyrgyz Republic. The idea of the project was to attempt to solve significant problem regarding lack of information on doing business in Kyrgyzstan.

Information that exists in the country is severely disorganized being neither systemized nor comprehensive. It is difficult for an entrepreneur or investor to find it, analyze it and act on it.

The handbook consists of almost all the necessary basic information for doing business. It explains what kinds of legal forms of business exist, their peculiarities and characteristics; the procedure for opening

and closing of business along with the necessary costs and schedule. More than that, it provides a reader with accurate information on taxation in a very comprehensive and simple way. Information about customs procedures, international trade, licensing, certification, and more is also there. Of course, it is difficult to put everything into one book, but we sincerely hope that this edition will at least guide a start-up businessmen or investor in doing business in Kyrgyzstan and provide them with a good idea of where to find any necessary information that might be missing in the book.

One of the advantages of the edition is its English version that can be useful for international partners and investors.

Since this is the first time a handbook of this type has been issued in the country, the CCI is ready to accept comments, advice, suggestions on improving it in the future. The CCI may issue it on annual basis.

The handbook is distributed freely and can be downloaded at the following links from the website of the Kyrgyz Republic – Japan Center for Human development

[http://www.krjc.kg/uploads/2014/business/\\_.pdf](http://www.krjc.kg/uploads/2014/business/_.pdf) (in Russian), and [http://www.krjc.kg/uploads/2014/business/COST\\_OF\\_DOING\\_BUSINESS\\_IN\\_KYRGYZSTAN.pdf](http://www.krjc.kg/uploads/2014/business/COST_OF_DOING_BUSINESS_IN_KYRGYZSTAN.pdf) (in English). ●



Presentation of the Handbooks

## Invitation program for journalists

From December 1 to 14 representatives of Kyrgyz television companies were invited to Japan to get acquainted with JICA's activities, the contribution of the organization to the development of countries with transition economies, and the results of provided assistance. Advanced Japanese technologies that are taught to trainees coming to Japan from different countries and Japanese experts teaching abroad were also introduced to journalists. They could also visit the private Japanese shops “Muji” where felt goods made by local Kyrgyz communities through the “One village – one product” project is sold. Representatives of the communities visited Japan during the same period to exchange experience and to show the production process of felt goods.

We hope that residents of Kyrgyzstan will watch programs about Japan and JICA on local TV channels in near future. ● (interview in Japan)



## 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.