

# News FROM Kyrgyzstan

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2013 • NUMBER 5(69) • THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

## Learning from the **experience** of Japan

*The delegation from Kyrgyzstan visited the Parliament of Japan*



**From the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of November** a Kyrgyz delegation consisting of members of parliament and members of the working group on strengthening the electoral system of the Kyrgyz Republic (which includes representatives of the President's Office, the Central Election Committee, and political parties) was invited to Japan.

The main purpose of this invitation program was to study the experience of Japanese parliamentary and electoral systems, and to strengthen bilateral relations. Through the structure of the program the delegation had the opportunity to hear lectures from famous Japanese professors. Participants also had a chance to visit actual parliamentary hearings, saw the process of voting inside the Parliament of Japan, and observed the work of parliamentarians in committees.

The program was very intensive. The participants had an opportunity to make parallels

between the parliamentary and electoral systems of the two countries: for instance the Japanese parliament is a bicameral legislature while Kyrgyzstan's is unicameral. Also one of the features of the Japanese parliament is that members in the House of Councilors (Upper House) are elected for 6 years, however an election is held every 3 years, so only half of the members are changed each time. That is to say that a system like this doesn't change the composition of House of Councilors completely and since only half are up for re-election at a time, thereby ensuring succession and stability. The second interesting theme of the program was the electoral system and its features. For example, Japanese voters select not only political parties, but they also fill in names of candidates on ballots.

During their stay in Japan, the delegation was also able to meet with the students from Kyrgyzstan studying in Japan. ●

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General Assembly of JOCV



Road maintenance equipment for 3 more oblasts



A signing ceremony

Development of cooperation through the UN



A new scheme of cooperation between JICA and international organizations has started.

Continued support to vocational school N43



Merger of different schemes will bring good results.

OVOP study tour



# Country Report

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## PROJECT NEWS

### General Assembly of JOCV



New JICA volunteers

**On the 11th of October** the 12th Kyrgyz Republic Volunteer General Assembly was held at Dostuk Hotel in Bishkek. The General Assembly takes place once a year. It is a great chance for Japanese volunteers working in KR to get together, exchange opinions, ideas, and impressions about Kyrgyzstan, its people, culture, work, etc. This time the volunteers could also listened to a lecture by a Japanese expert on the One village – one product project

that is being implemented by JICA. Some of the volunteers are involved in its implementation. There was a fruitful discussion and question and answer session after the lecture. In the afternoon, eight volunteers who have been in Kyrgyzstan for more than a year gave reports about their activities. Volunteers introduced details of their activities one after another, presented points that they had thought about, tested, and their plans for their

remaining terms. Some volunteers that stay in villages with host-families introduced country life in Kyrgyzstan, and shared their impressions and experiences. Volunteers rarely have time to report about the details of their activities to each other. By presenting it one to another at an opportunity such as this, not only those giving the presentations, but also everyone else reviewed their activities. It was a very useful time for all volunteers.

After General Assembly, a social party which served as a welcome party for the seven new volunteers that arrived in early October was held. There are four girls and three boys that will be working in different fields and regions of Kyrgyzstan, using either the Russian or Kyrgyz languages. It is hoped that JOCV General Assembly will continue to be a beneficial meeting in future. ●

Naohisa Yamashita, JICA volunteer

### Road maintenance equipment for 3 more oblasts

**JICA has been continuing its active** support in the development of the road sector in the country. Taking into account the critical situation with equipment on the local level, as well the difficult situation with mountainous roads in the winter time, the Government of Japan has decided to support another Project on the Improvement of Road Maintenance Equipment for Osh, Jalalabad, and Talas oblasts. On October 28, 2013 the Agreement on the results of preparatory survey was signed between JICA and Ministry of Transport and Communication (MOTC). In the framework of this project, road maintenance departments of MOTC which are responsible for the maintenance of the

road network in the three previously mentioned regions will receive about 355 units of machinery and equipment for road repair, snow clearing, post-disaster restoration work, and for the weighing of large vehicles. Four asphalt plants and four aggregate plants will also be installed. Note, previously JICA provided similar equipment to the Naryn, Issyk-Kul and Chui oblasts. ●



## JICA IN THE MEDIA

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*"T.Koike, Ambassador of Japan: Studying of Kyrgyzstanis in Japan plays an important role in mutual understanding between our countries"*

*Graduates of Japanese Universities – governmental and municipal employees participated in reporting session on studied themes and further activities on their working places.*

CA-news.org  
October 29, 2013

*"MoTC is planning to solve problems on construction of avalanche protection galleries on one of the Bishkek-Osh road's sections"*

*Ministry of Transport will use grant component of loan by ADB and JICA for construction of the Osh-Sarytash Road for construction of the above-mentioned avalanche protection galleries.*

Tazabek  
November 1, 2013

*"The Issyk-Kul Brand shop, working in the framework of the One village – one product project, celebrates its one year anniversary"*

*The shop has been renamed to the Issyk-Kul brand shop where only the best products produced by the small communities of OVOP Association will be displayed and sold.*

For.kg  
November 23, 2013

## CALENDAR\*

### DECEMBER

5 International volunteers day

9 Fact finding mission on yen loan

### JANUARY

10 Mission for Manas Airport grant aid survey

16 Completion of the Joint forest management project

\*dates can be changed

# Country Report

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## Development of Cooperation through UN

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*Regional ministerial conference*

**Starting from 2013 the plan of** grant assistance through international organizations shifted from the the Japan Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic to JICA.

Within this plan, in February 2013, the Government of Japan, represented by the Japan Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic and JICA gave a grant in the amount of \$ 2.2 million

for a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of response and disaster risk assessment in Kyrgyz Republic.

Within the framework of this project, in October 2013, a Ministerial Conference "Regional cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction in Central Asia" was held in Bishkek. The conference was organized

by the Ministry of Emergency, the previously mentioned UNDP abd funded by the Government of Japan and other interested organizations. The conference was attended by the heads of foreign policy departments on emergency from Central Asian countries, research institutions, diplomatic missions, NGOs, and international organizations of Central Asia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

In addition, on October 22, 2013 and exchange of notes and the signing of a grant agreement was held in Bishkek between the Embassy of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and JICA, to establish border office cooperation along the Kyrgyz- Uzbek, Uzbek-Afghan, and Tajik- Afghan borders to combat drug trafficking.

JICA hopes that the equipment to be provided under this project will enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies in combating international crime, facilitating the acquisition of experience, confidence, and the development of inter-agency and cross-border cooperation. ●

## Continued support to vocational school No.43

**On November 25 a** signing ceremony for the grant agreement on the "Project for the improvement of learning conditions in professional school no.43" by the Embassy of Japan was held at the Professional school located in Jany-Jer village of Sokuluk District. The Government of Japan will provide financial assistance to the school for the procurement of furniture and equipment worth of \$116.000.

The opening ceremony of the compost house, being constructed under JPP Project for Dissemination

of Organic Farming was held the same day. The construction of this facility will enable the production of compost in any weather, even at low temperatures during winter time and protect compost from rain and snow. Thanks to project trainings and seminars, farmers and villagers in Jany-Jer have learned about composting methods and the benefits of organic farming. According to them, one of the advantages of learning methods for making compost is that the process takes only one

month while the traditional method takes 1-1.5 years. In October 2012 JICA dispatched a Japanese volunteer for 2 years who will teach students and villagers the process for making and applying organic fertilizers.

The support being provided to the school has been made possible thanks to active cooperation by the school with JICA. A cooperation which started back in 2009 under the Project for the Dissemination of Biogas Technology,

when it provided technical assistance in the construction of a biogas plant on the school grounds.

Thus, the implementation of the JICA cooperation schemes above, including Technical Cooperation Project for the Support for the Dissemination of Biogas Technologies, JPP Project for the Dissemination of Organic Farming in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Volunteer Program, as well as the Grant Program of Embassy of Japan has enabled an increase in the effectiveness of the aid provided by Japan. ●

# Project News

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## OVOP study tour

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**For two days, on September 27-28, a study tour on a project implemented by JICA "Community Empowerment Project through Small Business Promotion by One Village One Product (OVOP)" took place.** The goal of the study tour was to deepen the understanding of applying an approach by visiting sites of the project. In a two-day study tour around Issyk-Kul Lake not only representatives from Kyrgyzstan interested in the project's activities, but also representatives from donors' organizations in Tajikistan, partners, and Japanese volunteers participated. In total there were around 30 participants.

During the study tour, participants visited the OVOP Association, workshops for jam, cookies, and felt goods. Guests also visited the shops located in Bishkek and Karakol, got acquainted with their work, products, and variety. In each of the places visited, Mr Haraguchi, an expert from Japan, gave a detailed practical explanation of why exactly this or that approach is being implemented at this particular place. In addition to that, in the building of the Issyk-Kul Region Government Representation, the leader of the OVOP Association gave an explanation of the work being done,

experiences gained, lessons learnt, and the support by the "Issyk-Kul Brand Committee". Also, participants of this tour were fortunate to participate in a last quality check of felt goods – case for mobile phones and figures of animals – before they were sent to shops of Muji – a large network of retail stores in Japan.

Expert from Japan, Mr Haraguchi, highlighted the point that the main focus of the project is an approach or philosophy of using local resources for the production of goods and helping to expand its marketing, and that no money is given to communities for the purchase of equipment and so on. Perhaps this approach differs from ones applied by other cooperation agencies in projects for rural development. I think all of the participants could understand well that the project is based on this clear concept.

Achievements of the project up to the present are that the OVOP Association has tried hard to promote its goods not only to the markets of Japan, but also to other countries, like Germany, France, and so on. As a result Kyrgyz goods are being exported. Thus, the activity of the OVOP project has been raised to the next level. However there is still a task ahead to extend the OVOP

project's model to other regions. There was a lot of information about the project in the Kyrgyz press, so it is relatively well known in the country. But I think that it is still difficult to understand what principles/ideas are involved in the process at every stage starting from production through the marketing of goods in shops. That's why I think that a study tour of this kind is really very useful in terms of "learning detailed contents of the OVOP Project implemented through cooperation from Japan by representatives from other regions".

Oyama Takayuki, Chief Representative of JICA . ●

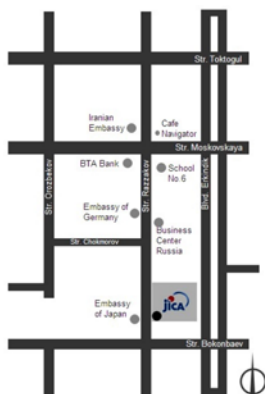


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News from Kyrgyzstan is a bimonthly newsletter which focuses on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details the work of JICA in the Kyrgyz Republic.

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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.