

86 goes to Japan to attend JICA's Training Programme for Young Leaders

86 Filipinos, aged 23 to 35 years old, will go to Japan in 5 batches in September and October this year, to attend the 3-week JICA Training Program for Young Leaders (TPYL). They are selected from among hundreds of applicants on the basis of their leadership potential in their chosen field, which include economic development, legal and judicial system, local administration, health and medical service, and information and communication technology (ICT).

Each batch follows a different training schedule depending on their field of specialization. Those attending the TPYL for Economic Development leave for Hokuriku, Japan on September 10. They will visit various organizations in the area to familiarize themselves with new economic models. They will stay in Japan until September 27.

The next batch concentrates on Legal and Judicial System, and stays around the area of Tokyo from September 24 to October 11. The three other batches will leave for three different Japanese cities on the same date, October 13. Local Administrators will stay in the Tohoku area. Health Service Professionals will train in Tokyo. ICT Specialists will visit the Chugoku area. They will all stay in Japan until the end of October. (Continued on Page 2, "86 Goes...")

In this issue:

This month's issue is about how the JICA Partnership Programme (JPP) touched people's lives through JPP Trainings.

JICA as a Training Institution

Training is one of the oldest—and one of the most significant—parts of Japan's foreign assistance. From its modest beginnings a half century ago, a training program for government officials, academic and private specialists from developing countries has grown into what may be the largest project of its kind in the world.

Every year, more than 8,000 participants from some 140 countries are selected to attend one of hundreds of courses throughout Japan. These highlight the main areas of JICA's development assistance, emphasizing such fields as healthcare, education, agriculture and more recently, the environment, climate change and information technology.

Since the project began, more than 250,000 people have attended the courses spending an average of two months in Japan, not only studying the latest technical advances in their particular field but also receiving an introduction to Japanese culture.

In addition to JICA, some 300 Japanese organizations play various important roles in training projects. These organizations include the central government, local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, and the private sector.

An additional 12,000 participants attend 'in country' or 'third country' programs each year. 'In country' or 'third country' programs are trainings conducted outside Japan, through the help of JICA.

The trainees are expected to return to their countries, not only to apply their knowledge to their own jobs, but also to become teachers themselves to national colleagues and work closely with JICA field programs.

*Above text is taken from a JICA Brochure



Ms. Donato of the City Government of Makati shares her experiences as a participant in the Training on **"Urban Environmental Improvement through Environmental Education: Water Resource Management"** 3-14 August 2008, Yokohama, Japan
Story on page 2



Ms. Molina of Center for Disaster Preparedness reports on the applications of the **"NGO Training on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia"** 3-14 December 2007, Kobe, Japan
Story on page 3



Dr. Concepcion relates how the training on **"Mitigation and Preparedness in Disaster Medicine"** made an impact on Pasig City's disaster preparedness 1-28 February 2006, Kobe, Japan
Story on page 4



Mr. Elmer delos Santos quotes: *"Hindi namin pababayaang PO kahit hindi na kami nakaupo, dahil responsibilidad namin iyon sa mga tao bilang napiling ipadala sa Japan."* (We will not abandon the people's organization even if we are not in office anymore, for it is our responsibility to the people having been chosen to train in Japan.)

Mr. delos Santos is a former barangay captain in Legazpi City and one of those sent to Japan to train on the Participatory Local Social Development, under the JICA Partnership Programme with the Nihon Fukushi University.

Reflections on Environmental Education

By Lydia Donato

As a participant in the two-week training jointly conducted by JICA, CITYNET and Yokohama City, I was able to know more about various issues on global warming and climate change—its impact, mitigation and adaptation.

The training program entitled “Urban Environmental Improvement through Environmental Education: Water Resource Management” was held in Yokohama, Japan on August 3 to 14. The program included study visits, training and capacity-building, as well as city to city knowledge sharing.

During the training, I learned so much about the environmental strategies of two Japanese cities: Tokyo and Yokohama. This training program likewise increased my awareness on urban environmental issues, especially on solid wastes, water resource management, environmental education, public-private partnership and community participation.

Combating global warming is indeed a matter of utmost importance today. It affects everything in the planet. The world must thus address it with a full sense of immediacy.

I learned that Environmental Education forms an important part in every program or activity for the environment. In Japan, children as young as four years old are taught about the environment. They are brought to the forest to make them aware of the importance of protecting natural resources. By receiving environmental education at an early age, these kids will become more environment-oriented citizens in the future.

During the study visits, we were brought to several important sites in Japan like Nishiya Purification Plant, Kikuna Water Plaza, Yokohama Water Works Bureau, and Tokyo Water Works Museum. The Doshi Village, Miyagase Dam Katabira River and Tsurumi River Basin were likewise visited. The sharing of experiences and information gained in the field broadened my knowledge on integrated water resources management.

The exchange of ideas, experiences and expertise between Makati, PHILIPPINES and the three other participating countries created synergy and numerous opportunities. Other participants were representatives from the following cities: Dhaka, BANGLADESH, Da Nang, VIETNAM, and Colombo, SRI LANKA.

During the training, participants came up with an action plan to mitigate and adapt to global warming. Some of the best practices from the other countries can be replicated in Makati. The outcomes of the identified action plans will be presented in a congress to be held in September 2009 in Yokohama, Japan.

I am deeply indebted to the CITYNET and JICA for considering me as the city’s representative to the Training Programme and for allowing me to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. It was indeed a pleasure to have known and worked with you.

Note: Ms. LYDIA F. DONATO is the Chief of Parks and Green Division, Department of Environmental Services in the City Government of Makati. She attended the training in Japan with Ms. Vissia Marie Aldon, City Human Resource Officer. Two representatives from the City Government of Makati attended a similar training earlier this year. They were Ms. Kathleen Almonte, Planning Officer of the Department of Environmental Services and Ms. Mildred Castillo, Head of Support Services Division. Both trainings were conducted as part of CITYNET and Yokohama City’s project under the Regional Type – JICA Partnership Program.



86 Goes... (Continued from Page 1)

Before leaving for Japan, the participants attend a pre-departure orientation seminar (PDOS) where they undergo a primer on the Japanese culture and Japan’s official development assistance. At the PDOS, each batch comes up with a synthesis of the current state of the Philippines, focusing on each field of specialization. This helps prepare the participants for the training program. Through this learning opportunity, JICA hopes to further enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants in order for them to become better leaders for the Philippines. JICA accepts applicants for TPYL every July through the Office of the Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs. #

Children Creating a Safer Environment

Jointly written by: Jesusa Grace Molina of the Center for Disaster Preparedness and NGO JICA Japan Desk's Eloisa Romero

How does it feel to have guardian angels watching over your town, who are especially concerned in times of disaster? The concept of Town Watching is akin to this; and JICA played a role in training these “guardian angels”.

Town Watching means observing your town, to identify the causes of disasters like flood, and solving these together as a community. Its participatory nature encourages the use of local knowledge and promotes ownership among the locals.

The Town Watching concept was pioneered by Professor Yujiro Ogawa, Dean of the Disaster Management and Environment Department of the Fuji Tokoha University in Japan. Since its launch, various Asian countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam have successfully practiced the tool as one of their risk reduction measures.

In the Philippines, the use of the Town Watching method was made possible through the NGO Training for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, a joint program of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and JICA. Last December, during the first year of implementation of Town Watching, a training for trainers was conducted in Japan. This enabled organizations engaged in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in 6 countries to acquire innovative ideas and tools on DRR. Ms. Jesusa Grace Molina of the Center for Disaster Preparedness represented the Philippines in the said training.

One of the training sessions focused on the Town Watching Process, wherein the participants were made familiar on how it is done. These training participants were then tasked to pass on the knowledge and instill the culture of safety in the grassroots level in their home countries.

How is it done?

The training's results manifested in the experience of Buklod ng Kabataan (Children Bonded Together), a core group of children aged 9 to 17 in the urban flood prone barangay of Banaba in the municipality of San Mateo, Rizal. 25 children took part in the Town Watching exercises in Banaba. They were divided into two groups and were asked to go around the barangay, particularly in the two areas which suffer the greatest impact of flooding. Each group assigned a leader, documenter, photographer and presenter.



As they examined the vicinity, the children were able to identify the vulnerabilities prominent in the community, as well as the existing capacities which help people respond during an emergency. Among the major issues which they have listed down and photographed include the following: rampant waste dumping in the river, canals and drainage systems, houses made of light materials, exposed electric lines which might trigger fire and open pig pens which bring health risks. On the other hand, some of the resources which may help in DRR are the following: accessible evacuation areas, rain gauge, reading centers, solid waste management program which provides alternative livelihood for residents, and the presence of an active people's organization (PO) called Buklod Tao (People Bonded Together).

The field observations of the two groups were then used to produce a hazard map highlighting the safe and dangerous places. After creating the map, a group discussion was done focusing on the following questions: (a) what are the problems which increase your vulnerabilities; (b) what are the possible measures to be adopted in response to the problems; and (c) who will implement the measures. The results of the discussion were then put in a matrix and a plenary presentation followed.

The common issue brought up by the two groups was the improper waste disposal which largely contributes to flooding and widespread diseases. From this, the children made the following recommendations: extensive information campaigns and clean-up day to be done by POs and NGOs, with the children's participation. The children pointed out the need to repair drainage facilities and strengthening the river banks, both of which are to be implemented by concerned government offices.

Indeed, the Town Watching activity opened a dynamic learning opportunity for the children to become actors in advancing community welfare. The activity has likewise made them realize that despite their minimal experience, they possess the capacity which can bring about significant changes. They became teachers of older generations, since the information they shared helped adults to better understand their precarious living conditions. They became ‘doers’ and not just ‘recipients’ of help. They became the town's guardian angels.

Children in other towns can do the same. Let this story serve as a model.

Pasig City & Disaster Preparedness

NGO JICA Japan Desk's interview with Dr. Jorge Concepcion,
Chair- Pasig City General Hospital Disaster Committee

"The experience is unforgettable. I envy the preparedness of Kobe for disasters. I wish we can replicate it in Pasig." Dr. Jorge Concepcion said in recollection of the training he attended in Kobe, Japan in February 2006.

Lessons Learned

Over 10 years ago, Kobe was not as prepared when a strong earthquake hit the area and claimed more than 6,000 lives. People from this area learned their lesson and rose to be one of the world's models for disaster preparedness. These lessons are what Dr. Concepcion and his Filipino colleagues learned at the training programme on "**Mitigation and Preparedness in Disaster Medicine**".

Six (6) Coordinators of Health Emergency Management Units (HEMU) of various Philippine hospitals attended the said training. Ms. Mylene dela Cruz of the Department of Health and Mr. Leo Chiong of the Davao City Medical Center went to Japan with Dr. Concepcion in 2006. Mr. Elmer Collong (Philippine Heart Center), Mr. Alvin Agustin (Davao Regional Hospital) and Dr. Alfonso Nunez III (East Avenue Medical Center) attended the training in 2007.

The trainees together with their counterparts and trainers from Hyogo, Japan shared their experiences to Filipino HEMU workers at the 4th National Convention on Health Emergency Management for Health Sectors in the Philippines, held at the Pan Pacific Hotel Manila in December last year. In the convention, Dr. Haruki Ueda talked about Lessons Learned from the Kobe Earthquake, while Dr. Shinichi Nakayama talked about Building the Remains of the same disaster.

Lessons Lived

For Dr. Concepcion, lessons learned did not stay inside the classroom. He inspired Pasig City's existing Emergency Management System (EMS) to be more active and responsive to the needs of the people. Dr. Concepcion's inputs from the training likewise helped in the emergency preparedness exercise which the Pasig City Disaster Coordinating Council conducted at the Medical City and in various public and private offices in Ortigas Center.

The new layout of the renovated Pasig City General Hospital Emergency Room (ER) was influenced by some hospitals in Kobe which Dr. Concepcion visited during the training.



Pasig City Emergency Management Unit

The new ER layout is expandable, corridor type, with sections for pediatric and other care levels—whether critical, acute or primary. According to Dr. Concepcion, this arrangement is good for hospitals in order to respond better to patients' needs, especially in times of disasters and emergencies. The new ER was inaugurated in January 2008.

Dr. Concepcion, however, could not have done all of these by himself. His colleagues in Pasig City have all been supportive. He is especially grateful to Dr. Paulo Castro, the Pasig City General Hospital Medical Director, for supporting the implementation of the plans that he prepared during the training. JICA hopes that all training recipients, like Dr. Concepcion, are able to put their new found knowledge into action.

We'd love to hear from you!

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