



LEAF NEWS

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First Joint Coordination Committee Meeting was Held



On June 28th 2007, JICA/LEAF Project held Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting. The opening remark was made by Mr. Ken Yamada, Deputy Resident Representative of JICA Afghanistan office. He referred to the Bonn Conference Commitment and reiterated continuous support to literacy education in Afghanistan.

Following the remarks, representatives of each Working Groups (WG) made presentation on their progress of activities. In this presentation, the representatives of WG clearly explained purpose of activities, progress and future plan. The WGs activities focused mostly in Kabul area last year, however, they are supposed to expand their activities to Balkh and Bamiyan Provinces this year.

At the meeting, issues of literacy class expansion by contracted NGOs were also discussed. It was recognized that the Literacy Department and NGOs, not just LEAF partner NGOs, should establish coordination and communication tools.

JCC was aimed at sharing progress of activities as well as to find solution for problems and constraints of the activity among stakeholders. The first meeting was fruitful in view of sharing the progress of activities. The next meeting will be held in February 2008 to review this year's activities and discuss the next year's plan.

Study Tour to Pakistan Punjab Literacy Promotion Project

In March 2007, 3 members of Literacy Department personnel, two from Planning Unit and one from Kabul center, visited JICA Project "Punjab Literacy Promotion Project (PLPP) in Punjab, Pakistan. The purpose of the visit was to understand development and use of Literacy Information Management System (LitMIS) in Punjab and to learn lessons from the development of LitMIS for Afghanistan.

The Study Tour members received comprehensive lectures of non-formal basic education in Punjab and the Project activities. The members were interested in household survey and the database consisted of survey data. They were especially impressed with district implementation plan developed by each district using the database. The members visited one of literacy course established by the district plan in Khanewal district, in Punjab province. The district plan was developed based on the survey result in consideration of budget, area population, and needs of the area.

From the visit to Pakistan, the members found that literacy data management system of Literacy Department should be reviewed in Afghanistan. The members reported three major recommendations for improvement of data management in Afghanistan

- Literacy Data Management System should be computerized.
- The Literacy Data Management Officers should be trained.
- Implementation of Module Survey



Working Groups Functioning very Effectively

Three working groups were established in July 2006. Since then, the members of these groups worked very hard to implement activities. Once or twice a week, the meeting were held

The group for literacy class management is working for training and manual making, as well as preparation for training for supervisors which implements from August. The training was held in Balkh and Bamiyan in coming autumn.



Working Group for Literacy Class Management

The group for teaching materials management prepared for distribution for this year. They also facilitated some workshop in Balkh and Bamiyan at the end of August.

Those

Working Group members will play a key role in promote JICA/LEAF activities in Provincial level.



Technical Working Group for Teaching Materials Management

At the JCC, the member of working groups made presentation. It was very good opportunity for them to make good presentation about their activities. At the same time, high officials of Literacy Department were able to better understand the results of the past one year activity facilitated by JICA/LEAF project.

FROM EDITOR

From July to September, LEAF Project implemented many activities, and it was impossible to cover entire events and activities in this edition. We will cover those events in the next issue.

Next edition will be issued in March 2008. The next edition will report workshops and training conducted.

How to contact LEAF Project

(Support for Expansion and Improvement of Literacy Education in Afghanistan)

Tel: 070-004351

Literacy Department, Ministry of Education, Kabul, Afghanistan



Visit to Balkh Province



Governor of Balkh Province Mr. Atta Mohamadd Noor (right) and LEAF Team Leader Mr. Ishii

The team leader of LEAF Project, Mr. Tetsuya Ishii, visited Balkh Provinces from 21st to 26th June. During this visit, he made courtesy call on Balkh Provincial Governor and the Director of Department of Education to explain LEAF's activities in Balkh Province.

The Governor thanked JICA and LEAF Project for supporting literacy education in Balkh Province. H.E. Mr. Atta is the one of the most enthusiastic governors in Afghanistan to make efforts to improving education sector. He was noted for his efforts to improve education situation in Balkh by the Government of Afghanistan.

Mr. Ishii also visited literacy classes operated by LEAF partner NGO, ANAF AE (Afghan National Association for Adult Education). He monitored class operation as well as encourage learners to continue the nine month class. These classes will be continued till the end of November. From October LEAF will establish another literacy class for 1000 learners in Balkh Province from October.



Photo by Mr. Tachikawa