

## 1. Our Events

### ***Second Foot Marathon “For Equal Opportunities” (August 8 -18, 2009)***

On August 8, 2009 Deputy Chairman of “Ravenstvo” (Equality) Union of Disabled of Issyk-Kul Region, wheelchaired Mr. Janaliev Rinat and eight volunteers from Japan (notably, Ohashi Masakazu, Kita Ayaka, Matsuyama Kyoko, Ota Chika, Takayama Momoka, Baba Kaori, Yoshizawa Yumiko, Wakari Yoshino) started the Second Foot Marathon in support of rights of disabled people. Under the slogan “WHERE ARE WE HEADING TO?” a group of nine people walked from Balykchy town to Karakol town, a distance of 220km for 10-day period making night stops in guest houses of villages along the road or at their friends who were happy to provide accommodation to such a courageous participants of the marathon. Similar marathon was held in 2008.



*Janaliev Rinat greets his friend.*

This year the philosophical slogan in the form of a question has not been selected accidentally. Its aim was to make people think of where our society is moving to, where we will be tomorrow and how we can make sure that tomorrow will have place for everyone, including disabled people so that every person could realize his/her capacities.

In such an unusual way the guys want to help disabled people believe in their forces and make their dream come true, as well as to attract attention of the community to the problems of disabled people, including inadaptability of infrastructure to the needs of the disabled people, as well as to call for healthy way of life through sports and to show that despite various nationality the friendship is the most important thing.

The marathon was held under support of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Embassy of Germany in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mayoralty of Balykchy and Karakol towns, Issyk-Kul Region state administration, as well as private companies, Abdysh-Ata and Shoro.

Minister of Labor and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Tashpaeva Nazgul Askeroovna made a welcoming speech at the opening ceremony of the marathon on August 8, 2009 in Balykchy City.

Marathon participants together with their supporters, including inter alia disabled people, JICA employees, journalists and all others who care about the future of our society overcame 7 km during the first day of the marathon. Then only 9 people continued the marathon. On the last day of the marathon, August 18, 2009 friends and supporters again joined the marathon participants during the last 5-km distance from the Street Police Point to the 1<sup>st</sup> of May Square in Karakol City. The marathon was over by festive meeting of participants and a concert. The marathon participants had tears on their faces: they have become such a good friends during the 10-day period and they

were sorry to say good bye to each other (Monastyrskaya Daria).

### **JICA Alumni Formed Association**



*Long Awaited Opening!*

On September 5, 2009 official opening ceremony of JICA Alumni Association in the Kyrgyz Republic was held in Shayr Conference Hall of Hyatt Regency Bishkek hotel. All alumni of JICA courses who studied in Japan have become members of the Association. As of today over one thousand of civil servants, journalists, physicians and representatives of other professions took part in JICA training programs in Japan. General meeting of members of the Association will from now on take place on an annual basis.

The goal of establishing the Association is to increase efficient use of Japanese experience for economic and social development of Kyrgyzstan, support of communication and information sharing among the training courses' participants to make a contribution into the development of social and economic life of a country and friendly bilateral relations between Kyrgyzstan and Japan. Such Associations exist and effectively operate in 97 countries throughout the world, successfully implementing various development projects.

A Charter of the Association and one-year plan of activities was approved at the event. The meeting was held in a friendly environment: many interesting ideas were expressed. A decision was made to have charitable relay race as the first activity of the Association (Monastyrskaya Daria).

### **Famous Japanese Journalist, Mr. Sugishita Visited Kyrgyzstan**

Mr. Sugishita Tsuneo is a famous Japanese journalist with huge experience. During 1967 till 2000 Mr. Sugishita worked as a journalist in Yomiuri newspaper. During 2000 till 2008 he worked as a lecturer at Ibaraki University. Starting from 2008 till present time Mr Sugishita is the Senior Advisor of Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Public Relations Issues.

It is not the first time when Sugishita-san visited Kyrgyzstan. He has already been in our country in 2005.

Japanese journalist together with Kyrgyz journalists visited projects and met with local mass



*Mr. Sugishita is interested in manufacturing industry of Kyrgyzstan.*

media representatives for discussion of political situation in Japan. He made a lecture at Bishkek Humanities University on "Relationships Between Mass Media and the Government: A Case of Japan" for students of journalisms and international journalism faculties of the said University, Kyrgyz National University and Kyrgyz Russian-Slavic University. He also met with managers of publishing houses of Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Sugishita says: "I think that Kyrgyz journalists are highly qualified specialists, yet they lack common interests and are not organized. But the general impression is quite positive" (Monastyrskaya Daria).



*Sugishita-san is sharing with his professional skills*

## **Manual GPS Receiver for Foresters**

In September this year training on use of GPS system was organized under the framework of the Project for the Support of Joint Forest Management (the "Project SJFM). Employees of Forestry Divisions and land specialists of ayil-okmotu participated in the training. The event was highly appreciated by the majority of participants as it covered new technologies on land mapping. The procedure of GPS use is quite simple and reliable comparing with standard measurement methods. Moreover it is affordable for local companies: for instance, the cost of one GPS receiver amounts to the price of two sheep. Forestry Divisions and ayil okmotu use small and high-precision GPS receivers, Garmin-H model, provided by donors. The major function of such manual GPS receivers is travel and cruises navigation. However for foresters this system is useful for data collection about specific territory such as leased pastures. For this purpose manual GPS receivers may help them receive data on longitude, latitude and altitude;



*Mr. Usuda with participants of training in DFSED*

however these data can not be applied for the reporting system in official institutions. Therefore, JICA Project offered the Department for Forest Eco Systems Development (DFSED) to develop new reporting standards with the use of manual GPS receivers. DFSED employees jointly with JICA expert, Mr. Usuda developed manual and conducted pilot training in Issyk-Kul Region and Chui regions.

Mr. Usuda developed special table for identification of area and mapping. Foresters can automatically receive the reporting format by downloading the information about locations from GPS receiver. Manual calculation and mapping is also applicable to this system. Many land specialists of ayil okmotu tried to learn the manual calculation method during the training.

By the end of this year the DFSED should finalize the guidance on GPS use and disseminate it among the Forestry Divisions of the country. In its turn SJFRM Project calls upon joint partners to disseminate information not only among the participants of the forestry sector, but among all persons involved in land use issues (Kimura Yuzuru, Chief Advisor of SJFM Project).



*Training participants during field tests of GPS receiver*

## **2. Japanese Volunteers**

### **Apricot Festival in Ak Terek Village**

South of Issyk-Kul Lake, where Ak-Terek village is located, is virgin nature with many beautiful corners. This place is also famous for its apricot gardens. Summer is a special season for local people as it is the time when apricots ripen. Sweet and juice fruit is very tasty. It then becomes a jam, compote or dry fruits which are made in every family in Ak Terek. Yet not everybody knows apricots have a prospective future in cosmetics and food industries!

Volunteer from Japan, Shoko Vada, who works in Ak Terek village under the Community Empowerment Project together with villagers organized Apricot Festival on August 29, 2009. Various products made of apricot, jam, liquor, pies, juices and many other tasty things were presented during the festival. Games and competitions were conducted during the event such as who is the fastest in eating apricot or Miss Apricot, as well as national horse games. Local and foreign guests visited the festival. In general the event was joyous: beautiful nature of the



Shoko Vada, the major organizer of the Festival

southern shore of Issyk-Kul, nice weather and hospitality of local people did their part: by the end of the festival no one wanted to leave Ak Terek village. This is what Ak Terek habitants say: "Ak Terek is a nice and quite developed village which attracts many tourists. Everybody is coming here to taste the tastiest Issyk-Kul apricot and products made of it. Every local person is proud of his/her village, Ak Terek, whereas children dream about continuing the business of their parents, i.e. apricot processing. It is exactly how we imagine the future of Ak Terek village and hope that our festival will become the first step toward achieving this goal" (Monastyrskaya Daria).



Japanese girls – JICA volunteers can not be distinguished from Kyrgyz beauties!

### ***New Shift***

End of September this year is marked by an important event: the biggest group of volunteers that ever visited to our republic, 13 people, left our country on September 22. We can surely say that this group made invaluable contribution in developing bilateral relations between Japan and Kyrgyzstan. Tears were gleaming on faces of volunteers and their colleagues and friends who have become very good friends of Japanese volunteers during the two years and who came to say good bye.

A new group of volunteers came to Kyrgyzstan on September 30, 2009. They will continue the work of their predecessors.

Mr. Suzuki Shota will work in the Association of Porters and Guides in Issyk-Kul Region.

Ms. Muramatsu Nagisa will go to Alysh village in Naryn Region and will continue the work initiated by Ms. Fukuda Kayoko on activities of women of Saori zhaamat on production of applied arts works in demand among the urban population.

Ms. Kasahara Yukiko will work at Jayil psycho neurology boarding house for women. Kazahara-san is musician: now she plans to improve vocal capacities of women and renew the repertoire by adding several new songs in Japanese and Russian languages.

Our volunteer, Ms. Vada Shoko who used to work in Ak Terek village for 2 years became the most popular person, especially thanks to the Apricot Festival, was replaced by Ms. Kavamura Yayoi, who will put into practice joint ideas of habitants of Ak Terek village.

We would like to wish success to new groups of our volunteers and hope that during the next two years of their lives will bring only positive emotions so that the volunteers could make their contribution into development of our country. (Imanalieva Ainura)



From left to right: Muramatsu-san, Kavamura-san, Kasahara-san, Suzuki-san

## **3. JICA Alumni Association Column**

### ***By Ekiden Relay Alumni started activity of the Alumni Association***

*JICA Kyrgyz Channel – August - September, 2009*



Ready! Steady! Go!

On October 3, 2009 Ekiden relay, the first charitable event of the JICA Alumni Association, was held at the old city square. The aim of the event was to send a message to the society about importance of healthy way of life and strengthening of friendly relationships among the alumni. This event was also of charitable nature: all persons could make donations, which will be used for purchase of furniture for children TB hospital # 1.

Many citizens did not stay aside and took active part both in the relay and donations.

The following categories of participants took part in the relay:

- Category of students of secondary schools and lyceums (40 teams);
- Category of students of higher educational institutions (68 teams);
- Category of adults and veterans of sports (30 teams).

Overall 138 teams, *i.e.* 690 people took part in the relay. A member of Jogorku Kenesh, Mr. Nazarov Orzubek, Mr. Iizuka Yuichi, Charges d’Affaires of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic, representatives of National Olympics Committee and Municipal Sports Committee attended the event.

Winners of the relay were as follows: “Almaz” team won the first place among male and female teams in adults and sports veterans’ category; “SDYuShOR of Pervomay district” won the first place among students and lyceums in both categories; Biatlon team among male teams and EEL#65 team among female team both from the schools category. CONGRATULATIONS!

This relay was organized by JICA Alumni Association and JICA Representative Office in the Kyrgyz Republic under support of the Mayoralty of Bishkek City, National Olympics Committee, Federation of Athletics, Shoro, Kyrgyz Concept, SIDOK, Inter Alliance, and others (Ibraeva Burul, Alekova Svetlana).

### ***For the promotion of reproductive health rights among women with disabilities***

Together with my disabled colleagues Muratalieva Ukei, chairwoman of Public Association “Nazik Kyz” and Gulmira Kazakunova, manager of Public Association “Ravenstvo”, I have been conducting series of seminars on Disability Equality Training (DET) and Gender. Gender is broad issue but we focus on women with disabilities. The seminar is held not only in the capital but also in regions inviting persons with cross disabilities as well as non-disabled persons.

The purpose of the seminar is to promote the rights of women with disabilities as equal rights holders as non-disabled women, in particular, reproductive health rights.

In reality many women with disabilities are discouraged to be married and raise their children. Lack of facility in medical institutions, lack of personnel, lack of knowledge and skill among medical personnel are some of the reasons. Sometimes families and people in the community also do not support the idea for women with disabilities to have family life. Women with disabilities themselves also are not aware of their reproductive health is a right ensured by the society.

One purpose of the seminar is to instill confidence into women with disabilities that they can also be mothers. We provide information to women with disabilities about sexual and reproductive health rights. We also motivate them to come out of the shadow where they were for a long time and help them speak up about their desires and needs.

Another purpose is to inform the society that we, women with disabilities have rights to love, to be loved and to give birth as full-fledged members of the society. We need to take actions in order to



Ainura (second from the left) with colleagues during training

remove existing stereotypes in society. One or two women with disabilities cannot solve this problem, therefore, we all must work together and then only our voice can be louder and effective. After this seminar, our next step is to establish maternity hospitals to be equipped with facilities and personnel to ensure safe delivery of child for pregnant women with disabilities.

The idea of these seminar and project came from Gender, Development and Disability training which I participated in Thailand in March, 2009. I was sent there by the Project for Inclusion of Person with Disabilities into the Society in Kyrgyz Republic. I was inspired by participants from other countries that women with disabilities have specific needs and issues to tackle. And as a women with disability myself, I need to voice out my needs and take action.

The change, we must bring ourselves.

(Ainura Teleusheva, member, Movement of Young People with Disabilities PA).

---

*The goal of this Newsletter is to inform interested entities and individuals about activities of JICA, to disseminate the information on participation in programs, to assist in friendly sharing of information among alumni of JICA training courses. The Bulletin is disseminated among individuals and entities interested in JICA's activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. If you would like to post information in the Bulletin or have any other questions about JICA's activities in the Kyrgyz Republic, please, contact us by the following e-mail address: [jicakg-info@jica.go.jp](mailto:jicakg-info@jica.go.jp)*

*JICA office contact information: Chokmorova Str., 115, Bishkek City, 720001, the Kyrgyz Republic; Tel.: (+996-312) 900 270(-7), Fax: (+996-312) 900 279, Alelekova Svetlana, PR Manager.*