



5  
Year

Together with JICA

Nr.10



2014

# 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary JICA Alumni Association of Kosova



JICA Alumni Association of Kosovo,  
Established on 13 April 2009

This year JICA Alumni Association of Kosovo (JAAK), celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In the past 5 years, we have grown from 30 to 87 members. In the past 5 years, working on a volunteer basis, we have organized events on different thematic, scientific, societal and cultural topics on a very professional level and those have a positive effect to our colleagues and relevant organizations, introducing what we have learnt in Japan. Our alumni have become a partner known and respected among different institutions and organizations in Kosovo. We are convinced that JAAK has a long and important future ahead of it, especially if the alumni keep its various aspects - its mix of professional interests, friendships, volunteerism and the desire to give something back. We have every reason to be proud of our association.

We think that our activities will meet the goal to introduce and share our experience gained in Japan. The impact to the communities will also be very positive and the compactness between members will strengthen through open communication and cooperation.

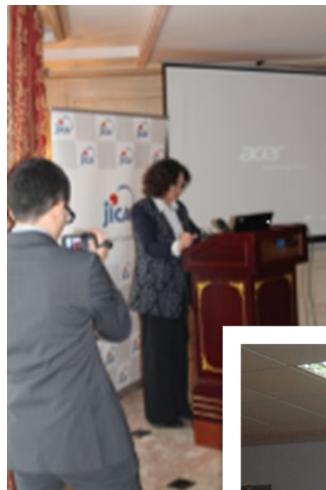
Planned activities for the future will serve for promoting the role of Japan Government and JICA support, on development of Republic of Kosovo, open new bridges between two countries and their people as well as giving a remarkable contribution for the regional cooperation.

JAAK Members, 84  
Board Members, 7

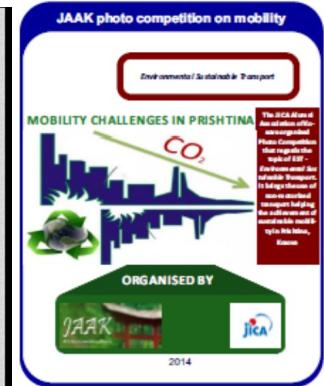
## 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the JAAK establish-

### JAAK Activities/ Cooperation

- Collaboration with different Kosova institutions
  - Different Ministries
  - University of Kosovo
  - Municipalities
  - JICA office
  - Liaison Office Entrusted by the Government of Japan
  - Schools, etc.
- & JAAK Young Volunteers**



### Publications



## 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the JAAK establishment

The Annual General Meeting for JICA Alumni Association of Kosovo, to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the association, took place on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at Sirius Hotel, in Pristina. The meeting was attended by Mr. Tsuyoshi Kawahara, Director of the Japan Information and Culture Centre in Vienna, Ms. Terui Kanako, JICA Expert/ODA Advisor, in addition to different foreign organization, different Kosovo institution, JAAK youth, JAAK members and ex-participants of JICA trainings.

Ms. Nezakete Hakaj, President of JICA Alumni Association of Kosovo (JAAK) in her opening remarks welcomed the participants and said- Our association is established upon the request of alumni trained by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency [JICA] who wishes to continue contacts with Japan and increase bilateral relations between the Republic of Kosovo and Japan through different activities. There are currently 84 JAAK members.

On the occasion of this anniversary, on behalf of all participants trained in Japan, I take the opportunity to thank Japanese government and JICA who made possible, that a high number of officials from government and other institutions of Republic of Kosova to be trained in different areas that added value to our knowledge and expertise, which we are trying to utilize in our country from developing our country. JICA Alumni Association of Kosovo aiming to achieve objectives through stimulating friendship relations among alumni, JICA trainers, by supporting cultural and humanitarian exchange and developing of various professional events that experiences gained to be reflected not only in our working place but also to distribute even wider in Kosovo.



JAAK, acting in cooperation with many institutions and organizations to provide public support to build the capacity of professional, research, raising awareness at different levels and other programs

On behalf of JICA Balkan Office Ms. Terui Kanako congratulated the JAAK 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary and added that, JICA Balkan Office is happy to see JAAK's continuous effort for disseminating knowledge and experience gained from the JICA training program in Kosovo. Further, Ms. Terui elaborated the collaboration between JICA and Kosovo institutions by saying that since 2009, JICA has been cooperating with various institutions in Kosovo for its sustainable nation-building, with primary focus on 1) developing social and economic infrastructure towards sustainable nation-building, and 2) enhancing administrative

capacity and human resources. Also, she highlighted the importance of the JICA training participants by saying that the participants are one of the most valuable assets as their insight gained through training is a valuable resource which could help us identifying further cooperation areas and projects. Ms. Terui Kanako, finished her speech by saying that, JICA look forward to actively communicating with JAAK for future cooperation.

Mr. Tsuyoshi Kawahara, Director of the Japan Information and Culture Centre in Vienna thanked JAAK for the invitation. He continued his speech by saying that, the times of reconstruction after the conflict have passed and economic growth can be observed nowadays. All of them who have participated in JICA training programs in Japan, have greatly contributed to the nation-building of Kosovo in various field.

Mr. Kawahara stressed the biggest problem that Japan faces today is the decreasing birth rate and the ageing population, while Kosovo, on other hand, is a vigorous country with an extremely young population and very appealing to Japanese eyes. One might say that Kosovo's future development will revolve around education and training these young human resources, said Mr. Kawahara. In this sense, JICA training programs that effectively pass on Japanese knowledge and experience are highly significant;

He continued his speech by saying that the activities of all of you accomplish Kosovo's further development, so hopefully your ties with Japan become even deeper and Japanese government will continue to support the stabilization of the economic and social base for the sake of Kosovo's further economic development according to the country's needs.

In conclusion, Director Kawahara, heartily thanked Ms. Hakaj for planning and organizing this JICA Alumni Association ceremony and as hoped that this meeting will strengthen the network of former JICA training participants and will inspire fresh ideas and energize the friendship between Japan and Kosovo.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the JAAK establish-



Performance by Mr. Valton Beqiri, composer/piano player and Mr. Liridon Sadriu Kosovo tenor singer;

Pieces:

*"Asaman"* traditional Albanian song

*"Torna a Surreinto"*, composer E. De Curtis



After performance Mr. Driton Blakçori, board member of JAAK, presented the JAAK 5 years activities, with 84 members



In the end

Recital by two young enthusiasts of the Japanese language ;  
Liza Sahatçiu, student and  
Dora Tarani, student (both age of 12)



## Fundamental Technology and Measures for E-Government Promotion

Seminar was organized on 10 September 2014 in the premises of the High Technical School “Arkitekt Sinani” in Mitrovica by Ms. Ms. Igballe Fazliu and znj. Lindita Muja

In the seminar participated staff of mentioned School, students and Ms. Arbërore Riza, TC, JICA.

Ms. Igballe Fazliu welcomed the participants and thanked the Japanese Government and JICA for the support given towards Japanese experience in Kosovo.

The purpose of this seminar has been tracking the experience of participants trained in Japan, regard-

ing Fundamental Technology and Measures for E-Government Promotion”

Based on the experience gained in Japan, she identified the problems in the work:

- Students' records are not managed effectively because of lack of database for handling students' records.
- Lack of laboratories and computers cabinets.
- Students' records are not manage effectively

Lack of internet infrastructure

To resolve the identified problems and improve Students' records management they prepared Action Plan; Develop consolidated Database for Effective Management on Students records for staffs; Students records include: students' CV, certificates, progress records etc.



## Promotion and Dissemination of Biomass Utilization Technology

Seminar on Exchange of experiences gained during the training held in Japan, is organized in Ex Media buildind “Rilindja”, Red Conference Room on 23 January 2015, by Dr.sc. Violeta Lajqi Makolli and Ms. Nezakete Hakaj.

The purpose of this seminar has been tracking the experience gained in the JICA training in Japan, regarding Promotion and Dissemination of Biomass Utilization Technology.

Ms. Nezakete Hakaj – President of JAAK and Head of Environmen-



tal Protection Division –MESP, opened the seminar. She presented the activity of JAAK, and thank the assistance that Japanese government offers us in different aspect of support and also in the field of environmental protection, biomass utilization etc. She stressed the importance of the environment issues and importance for engagement in this sector.

Ms. Arberore Riza - TC, JICA in Kosovo, informed participants with JICA mission in Kosovo and she thank the Japanese government for continued support of the Kosovo institutions and stressed that JICA and Japanese Government will strengthen its cooperation for the technical capacity with Kosovo institutions.

The seminar was attended by representatives of JICA office in Kosovo, JAAK members, former participant in the training in Japan, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of

Economic Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development and University of Prishtina. Dr.sc. Violeta Lajqi Makolli from MESP, presented an overview of JICA and Japanese culture, also thank them for making the possibility to participate in the training in Japan. She presented the experience gained from training of 1.5 month for Biomass Utilization Technology in Japan, in Higashihiroshima” and Kochi City, Maniva Municipality etc. She presents short and clear presentation with pictures, calculation, examples, which are important and interesting about recourses, using and utilization of biomass as renewable energy, that raised the interest of the participants

After presentations has opened the discussion:

Participants propose /asked to continue with other seminars or workshop regarding this thematic and also to hold this lecture at universities in Kosovo that will inform students with the Japanese experience, regarding recourses and utilization of biomass.

Finally, it proposed the conclusions of the need to use Japanese experiences in Kosovo as best practices for Biomass Recourses Utilization System and Technology.

### Conclusion from the seminar:

Utilization and use of biomass as renewable energy with impact in:

- Reduction of environmental pollution
- Replacement of fossil energy sources with biomass resources
- Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> impact on climate change





## Seminar on Food, Land and Water

JAAK volunteers- on **18 December 2014** organized Seminar. Student- Mrs. Nitë Pallaska. The Seminar was opened by member of JAAK, Mrs. Elvida Sahatciu Pallaska, on behalf of JAAK, in which she unfolded Kosovo issue on the topic covered in the training in Dresden. She then gave the word to Nitë Pallaska, JAAK volunteer, to showcase her presentation over her seven day experience in training in Dresden.

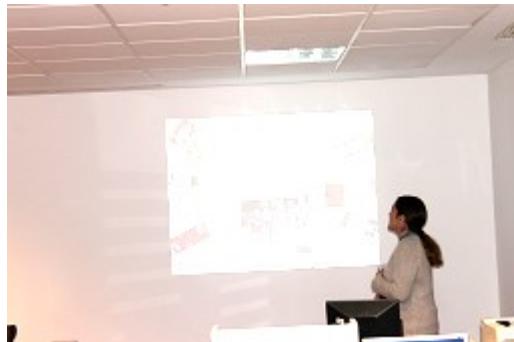
She has participated in an environmental project supported by the *European Council* organized by the *Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe* during the dates: **26<sup>th</sup> October - 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014** in Dresden, Germany.

The project has taken place in the form of the training session on the topic of "*Food, land, water and efficient distribution of exhaustible natural resources*", the theme of which was addressed in many informal methods such as games, discussions and numerous field visits.

Our volunteer presented the training program by unveiling the daily agenda and issues affected.

Mainly seminar had covered topics : Land Grabbing, the use of EU Subsidy System and its effects on

agriculture either that being positive or negative, Human Rights issues, Water Privatization, Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and the Millennium Development Goals .



training in Dresden with photography's which were with the intent on giving the participants a complete visual idea on the training and its scenes.

Among other things, there mentioned were also the Kyoto Protocol, the Seventh Principle of the Rio Declaration and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

During the presentation there were also featured the study visits held in the Water Plant "Tolkewitz" Ecumenical Information Center and First Aid Tech Center in Dresden, Germany. Presentation followed presenting the five practical workshops conducted during training which included: calcu-



lating ones environmental footprint, the discussion on bottled water against tap water, environmental migration and the creation of wallets by the use of Tetra Pak and the make of the Ecological News. After the first presentation, there followed the second one which showed the whole experience of the





## Japan Day in Gjakova



Japanese Culture Day has been organized in Gjakova city on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015 by JAAK in collaboration with Municipality of Gjakova, JAAK young volunteers and Japanese nationals working in Kosovo under the support of JICA,

The Japan Day was advertised in JAAK website, Kosovo media and also by the flyers which was widely distributed in Gjakova city and also Japan and Kosovo flags.

First part of the Japan day was hold in the amphitheater of Music school of Gjakova. Over 100 people participated.

Japan Day was organized to promote Japanese culture and tradition.

Japan Day opened Ms. Mimoza Kurteshi.

This event began with a Japanese song interpret the music school choir, under the direction of the school principal Mr. Kastriot Sada



First she give floor to Ms. Nezakete Hakaj, President of Jica Alumni Association of Kosovo. She thanks the Mayor of Gjakova for the support to organize this day. She said "The purpose of today's meeting is to promote Japanese cultural diversity that will offer us a new horizon to get to knowledge of the Japanese culture and ancient tradition and also to offer a wide range of cooperation between Ko-



sovo and Japan, not only in culture but also in other areas. On behalf of Gjakova Municipality speech has given by Ms. Arbnore Isniqi. She thanks the Japanese Government for the support of Kosovo in different areas. Also she thanks the JAAK for the initiative to organize the Japan Day in Gjakova, as a city with old history and culture. Speech has gave and Ms. Kanako Terui JICA expert/ ODA adviser, she spoke for JICA activities in Kosovo and the expectations of JAAK future activities.

## Japan Day in Gjakova

Young enthusiast of the Japanese culture, Lisa Sahatciu and Dora Tarani, both 12 years old, did a recital in Japanese language: All present, were impressed with this kid's recitals and forwarded with a great Applause.

After their recital students from students from primary school "Emin Duraku", Gjakovë made interpretation of a dancing In the and was presented DVD - JICA Introduction "[Japan's Experience in Promoting 3R's](#)"



In the afternoon session, in the lobby of the Music school was prepared:

- Exhibition with the photos of Japanese people, Japanese nature, Japanese Food and JICA's activity in Kosovo,
- Demonstration "Origami", and was served traditional Japanese and Kosovo food



## Concept of the Industrial Policy

On February 12<sup>th</sup> 2015, Mr. Hoxha, from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, presented the Concept of the Industrial Policy 2020. Opening speech was given from Ms. Valbona Dushi, MoTI, welcomed the participants and gave the explanation of the aim of the seminar, she said; that this compiled presentation is a help toward MoTI for further development in this sector where the main focus is the transformation of the economy will be realized through appropriate



measures. In the and she gaven a floor to Minister, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ms. Hykmete Bajrami, she welcomed all participants and added; This document is a platform of objectives and measures for cooperation with all stakeholders of this field. Kosovo needs for creative policy making. Mr. Adnan Hoxha, Senior Officer of Industrial Policies and Projects/JICA ex-training participants and member of JAAK, made a presentation.

First and foremost he emphasized the fact that his participation in the seven-week training program in Japan, focused mainly on the Industrial Policy, had significantly benefited him! Subsequently, he explained the phases that he as the leader of the inter-ministerial Working Group, responsible for designing the industrial policy, had gone in order to prepare such a Document.

Such phases were: conducting of numerous studies at the industrial and cluster level in Kosovo and relevant data analysis, followed by a relatively intensive dialogue with the representatives of the private sector.

The Seminar was attended by the representatives of the stakeholders with regard to the industrial development in Kosovo, including, but not limited to, private sector, relevant donors, non-government institutions, public institutions, etc.

Mr. Hoxha started his presentation by explaining the methodology of preparing this Document, and the arguments why they have adopted the Modern Approach of designing the industrial policy of Kosovo instead of the Classical one. Further, he pre-



presented the main challenges to the industrial development such as the low GDP per capita, slow pace of economic growth and poverty, large current account deficit, low net export, misallocation of current transfers-remittances, low direct investments, relatively high level of unemployment, but low participation in the labor market, and cost and access to finance.

Then, he went on to elaborate the main imperatives of the CKIP including: industry modernization, internationally competitive clusters, agricultural development and efficient use of natural resources, and environment for entrepreneurship development.

Also, in order to reach such objectives, the following were presented as the main measures: finance capacity building and skills upgrade at the MTI, KIESA, Private Sector, Academia, the education system (lowering the skill gap) and relevant stakeholders included in the IP, establish a coherent development finance system (institution) in partnership with private sector and external donors, covering all stages of enterprise financing not served by private sector, develop export-oriented clusters/incubators for collective efforts in entering new foreign markets, set up matching grants / subsidized loans for replacing existing manufacturing technology, for automation of industrial and business processes, set up matching grant mechanism for facilitating the investment in enterprise-oriented infrastructure by offsetting additional costs of underdeveloped public infrastructure (access roads, electricity, water/ sewage, etc.) to individual firms of sufficient size and firm clusters.

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The Workshop on Environmental awareness- Fresh water- Bistrica River, region of villages Bistrica, Cerajë, Koshtovë and Leposavic municipality, was organized in the primary school "Kadri Bistrica" in the village Bistic, on 26 February 2015 , by Mr. Xhelal Shabani, JAAK member, form Mitrovica Directorate of Environmental Protection.

The aim of the project was to know importance the quality of the water of rivers, not only for the natural beauty that offers (no bad smell, people can swim in the river, etc.), but also for the diversity of the living organisms in the benthos but also for people's health.

Through students to send a message to teachers, families and community about the importance of the water quality, also for teachers to take initiatives for such activities and to develop the



capacities for students in order to take actions on local and regional (through active citizenship) and promote this idea.

In the beginning of the workshop, Mr. Shabani in his presentation presented the history of education in Japan, as well social, cultural and traditions in Japan and for importance of protection of the environment. At the end was introduced video broadcasting with theme on nature, environment that reflects our health.

After the presentation it was open discussion about the actual situation in their region.

All participants showed big interest,

to organize in the future similar lec-



tures for students, teachers and community. To share the experience gained from this workshop respectively Japanese experience.

In the end to the children were delivered pastel color pencils to draw. To them were given the task to draw how they perceive the nature and importance of the protection of the environment- water.



## Guidance session on Japanese Scholarship for 2014



Guidance session was organized from Liaison Office of the Embassy of Japan with support of University of Pristina, American University of Kosovo, JICA Alumni Association of Kosovo.

The aim of this guidance session was, to inform applicants well about this scholarship in advance and also give a chance to hear the first-hand experience from previous scholarship holders.

Objective:

To widely spread of an idea of studying in Japan to university students

To initiate and foster cooperation with universities

To provide a forum to interact people interested in fostering a better friendship between Kosovo and Japan

In the session was present students, interested for the further studies.

During the session the applicants had the opportunity to be informed well about this scholarship in advance and also give a chance to hear the first-hand experience from previous scholarship holders.

## The Joint Commemorative event- *REMEMBER* *3/11 - Lessons from Japan*

On the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the great earthquake that occurred in Eastern Japan, was organized joint commemorative event on March 26, 2014.

The aim of this event was to provide the opportunity to jointly commemorate the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March 2011 and also to contribute to enhance awareness of disaster prevention and safety among Kosovo citizens.

The event was held in two sessions;

- Film screening - "Tough it Out : after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami 2011", and

Interactive talk session by experts about disaster prevention

- Session conversation with experts from Kosovo Institute of Seismology, Kosovo Red Cross and Kosovo Security Forces, Emergency Management Agency, on how to prepare and respond to earthquake

This event was organized by UN Development Programme - Kosovo Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative Team and UN Volunteers and supported by Embassy of Japan in Vienna, University of Pristina, Radio Television of Kosovo, JICA Kosovo Alumni Association and others.



Prepared by Nezakete Hakaj