

WRIC News Letter

April 2006

1. Joint Coordinate Committee (JCC) was held on April 12th.

JCC was held on April 12th at the HQ of Ministry of Irrigation with attendance of total 21 related Syrian and Japanese officials of GOWR, Embassy of Japan, JICA Syria Office, JICA experts and WRIC directors. JCC is the most authorized decision making committee for WRIC project implementation. This time the main topics of JCC were following.

1) Organization Reform of MOI

Dr. Bacher, director of WRIC explained the new organization chart of MOI and GOWR. Accordingly Director General of GOWR mentioned that local center of WRIC will be established in every each governorates and approximately 20-25 engineers will be assigned to each local center of WRIC step by step.

2) 2nd edition of Water Resources Report (WRR) and 4th Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium

Dr. Bacher explained the contents of WRR briefly and mentioned that 2nd Edition of WRR will be prepared by June 2006. Concerning 4th Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium, it will be held on June 8th at Conference Hall of Ministry of Electricity in Damascus.

3) Progress and Plan of Activities

Mr. Mori, chief advisor of WRIC presented the outputs of WRIC as well as the major problems we are facing such as personnel, task sharing in GOWR. Personnel problems, especially such as resignation of core members and low motivation of WRIC staff, are very serious. Some measures should be taken urgently to solve these problems in order to keep the sustainability of WRIC.

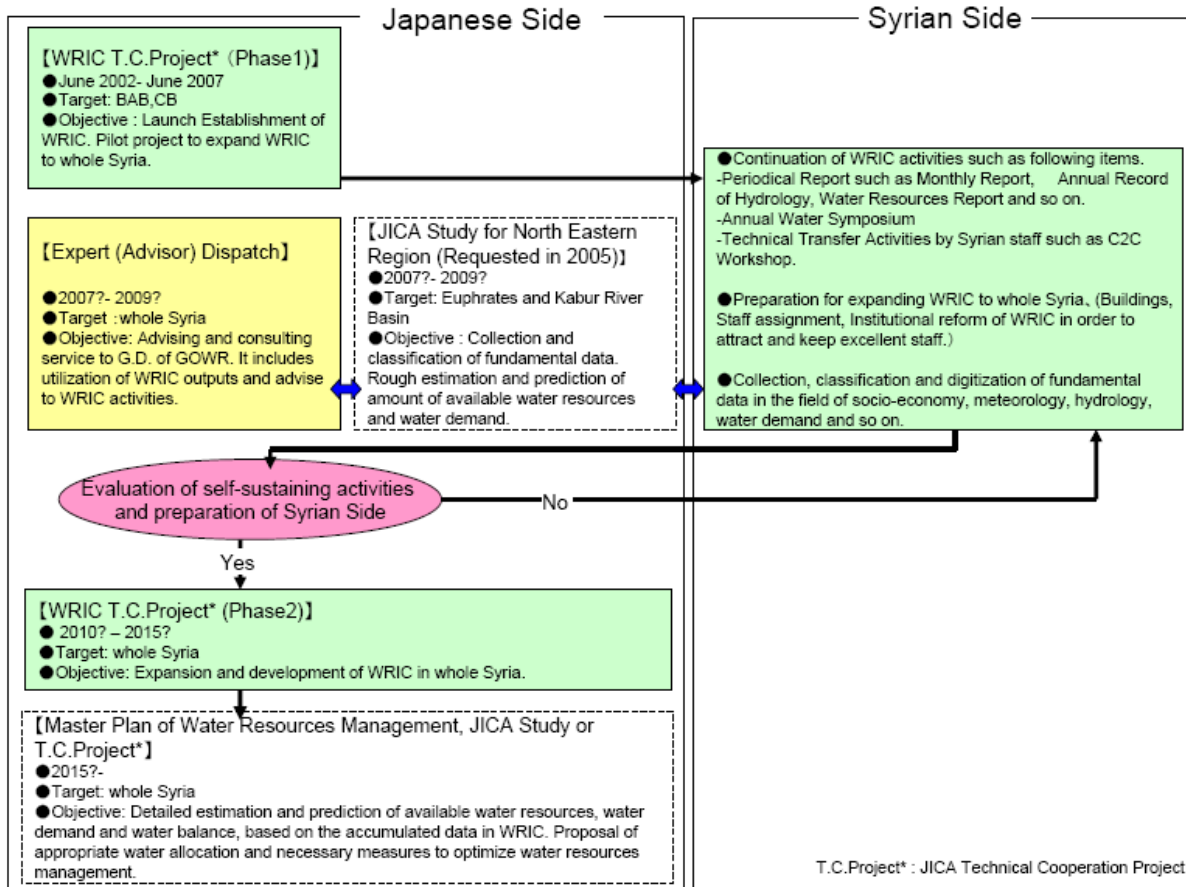
4) Plan of Future Japanese Cooperation* for WRIC (refer to the chart below)

Mr. Mori explained the draft of future strategy of JICA cooperation for WRIC especially after the completion of present technical cooperation project in June 2007.



JCC on April 12th, 2006





Plan of Future Japanese Cooperation for WRIC*

As the result of the active discussion, JCC members confirmed the following matters.

- 1) The plan of future Japanese cooperation* for WRIC was approved.
- 2) WRIC local center will be established in every each governorate (Mohafazat) by GOWR.
- 3) Concerning the WRIC activities, Directors such as Dr.Bacher, Eng. Samir Haifa, Dr. Jamil Falouf, Eng. Abdel Latief Ahmad and so on have the responsibility for the implementation.
- 4) By the next Joint Coordinating Committee, Syrian side will hopefully solve the obstacles which were pointed out in JCC today.
- 5) Implementation of JICA third country training courses in Syria might be one of measures to activate Syrian side. However the technical and institutional capacity level of MOI Syria should be taken into consideration carefully to judge the feasibility of such advanced project.

This time the discussion was much more active than any past JCC so that Syrian side and Japanese side were able to share the idea of the



problems to be solved and the future strategy to develop the WRIC activities.

2. C2C Workshop

On April 9th and 11th, Eng. Kassem Natouf held the C2C Workshop in WRIC Main Center focusing on the utilization of application software ‘Surfur’. This time 12 trainees attended it from WRIC centers and other directorates of GOWR.



Workshop by Eng. Kassem Natouf

3. Investigation Mission of Ministry of Finance of Japan (MOF) visited WRIC

On April 5th, investigation mission team of MOF visited WRIC to check the activities and utilization of equipment and so on. The main purpose of this investigation is to check the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of Japanese governmental budget execution. WRIC was one of the sites visited by investigators and questioned about the outline of project, progress of project, relationship between technical cooperation of JICA and grant aid project of Japanese Government and so on.

After discussion at the WRIC Main Center, they moved to our surface water observatory at the Barada River to see the actual utilization of the observation equipment granted by Japanese government and the demonstration of current measurement. We hope that the investigators understood the actual situation of Japanese ODA activities and it will contribute the appropriate implementation of ODA.



MOF Investigators visit to Main Center



Site visit (Surface Water Station at Barada River)



4. New WRIC Directors of Lattakia and DRD

In Lattakia WRIC Center, Eng. Fahim Assad was assigned to WRIC Director, as a successor of Eng. Nimer F. Assad who had been dispatched to Japan to study in the master course of Saitama University.



Eng. Fahim Assad



Eng. Kassem Natouf

Moreover, Eng. Kassem Natouf was assigned to WRIC Director, as a successor of Eng. Ahmad Abdullah who left WRIC to move to another project in ACSAD which is being conducted by BGR, German government organization.

We hope that these two new WRIC directors will do their best to achieve our goals from now on.

5. 3 Grant Aid vehicles allocated to WRIC local centers

Total 3 of Nissan Pickup Trucks which were granted by Japanese government were allocated to DRD, Lattakia and Tartus WRIC center. These vehicles are to be used for meteorological and hydrological observation activities of WRIC and it is expected that these new 4WD vehicles will enhance the efficiency of observation activities in each local WRIC center.

At the same time, the vehicle has logo stickers of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) saying "From the People of Japan". We hope that it will contribute to visibility of Japanese ODA for the better understanding of Japanese activities in Syria.



Vehicle Granted by Japan

Contact

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