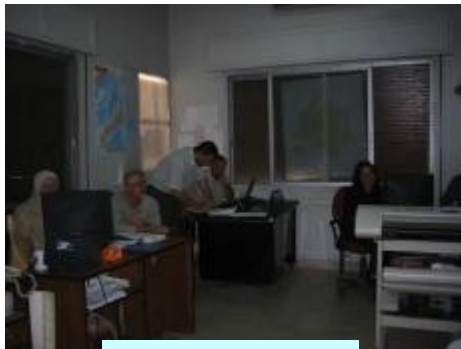


**WRIC News Letter****Oct. 2005**1. C2C Workshop was held on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

C2C Workshop was held on Oct.3<sup>rd</sup> in WRIC Main Center and GDBAB Center. Training of SQL and GIS was conducted in Main Center, and training of basic office application as well as hydrological observation & data processing was done in GDBAB Center by WRIC Syrian C/Ps. We received total 41 trainees this time. Next C2C Workshop will be held in National Water Training Center of MOI in Raqqa next month.



Hands-on Training



Lecture in GDBAB

## 2. Mr. Kanayama and Mr. Umeda finished the assignment and left Syria.

Mr.Kanayama, expert for computer application development, and Mr. Umeda, GIS expert, finished their task in this year on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr.Kanayama had stayed in Syria for about 5 months and his main focus of this year was to develop application software to process the observation data of automatic observatories granted by Japanese government in March, 2005. Besides this task, he developed the application to assist the preparation of Monthly Report for meteoro-hydrological monitoring result. Moreover, he held total 30 times of seminars for Visual Basic programming for WRIC staff. By using the application, observation data of automatic observatories will be uploaded to WRIC database as soon as possible.

Mr.Umeda stayed for 2.5 months and his task was training and preparation for GIS maps, installation



Mr.Umeda (Left) and Mr.Kanayama



of GIS file servers to each WRIC center and so on.

We appreciate their great effort and contribution for WRIC project and hope that they will be back again next year.

### 3. Construction work of MOI new building on going.

Japanese experts visited and checked MOI new building which is now being constructed next the existing GDBAB building in Harasta. It is planned that WRIC Main Center will move to 7<sup>th</sup> floor of this building. The layout of the 7<sup>th</sup> floor was completely changed based on Japanese expert's request that almost all the walls should be removed to create big spacious office rooms in order to enhance information and knowledge sharing in daily work.

At the present time, directorates and sections of MOI HQ are fragmented in many places in Damascus city, and it definitely hampers smooth and efficient information sharing and coordination of work in MOI. After the completion of this building in Harasta, almost all the MOI HQ officials including Minister will gather in one place, and the problem of poor communication will be solved hopefully.

The MOI building is newly constructed. However, it is quite old actually because MOI started the construction work more than 25 years ago. Until now, it seems that more than 90% of construction work has been already done. However, the specific schedule of completion is unclear yet. Probably it might depend on the will of God. "Insha Allah"!!



MOI HQ Building under construction



Office room

### 4. Visit NSCL (National Standards and Calibration Laboratory).

Mr.Mori, Mr.Sugiura and Mr.Kato, Japanese Experts visited NSCL



with Mr. Nagasawa, JICA Syria Office Representative. NSCL was established by JICA technical cooperation project in 1987. The main task of this laboratory is to provide calibration services related to mechanical standards (mass, length and pressure) as well as electrical and thermal standards in order to assure measurement results reliable. This project was the first JICA technical cooperation in Syria. JICA has conducted NSCL project phase1 (1987-1992) and phase2 (1995-1999).

The purpose of our visit was to learn the lesson to keep the sustainability of project, especially after the completion of JICA cooperation period. As for NSCL project, it seems that Syrian C/Ps have kept and developed quantity and quality of their activities by themselves. Moreover, almost all the Syrian C/Ss are remaining in NSCL even now after the completion of JICA project. Dr. Eng. Samir Al Zaher, NSCL Director, told us that the secret of the success of this project is the highly competitive staff of NSCL. NSCL was established under SSRC (Scientific Study and Research Center) which is the most important and high-level governmental research institute in Syria. SSRC recruits the top elites from all over Syria with much higher salary than that of any other public sector. Such elites should work very hard and it is said that they are not allowed to resign SSRC freely. It is high-salary and hard-working system.

On the other hand, WRIC staff is not receiving any incentives from Syrian Government and it affects the motivation of staff unfortunately. If Syrian government wants to keep sustainability and development of WRIC, drastic change of labor system to “Merit System” is definitely necessary.



#### Contact

WRIC Web Site: <http://www.wric-sy.org>

E-mail: [wric\\_moi@yahoo.com](mailto:wric_moi@yahoo.com)

Tel : +963+11+31399023-4

Fax: +963+11+3127831

**\*Back Numbers of WRIC News Letter are uploaded to our Web Site.**

