



# LEBAJICA

Edited by the Cultural cooperative  
of the LEBANESE JICA-ALUMNI

Issue No. 1 - May 2006

**For a Stronger Partnership between  
Lebanon and Japan**





# Index

## The opening

LEBA-JICA for propping up efforts

**Tokumitsu Murakami**

**Japanese's Ambassador**

**3**

## JICA projects

World peace to secure

Japan's peace

**4**

## Japanese Embassy

Projects for rebuilding Lebanon

**10**

## LEBA-JICA

- For a stronger partnership

between Lebanon and Japan

**14**

- JICA for capacity development

**Kasuhide Nagasawa**

**16**

## Publications

**17**

## Japan's trips

Work and pleasure go together

**Muhammad Youssef**

Memories in Japan

**Abdul Kader Charamand**

"You Can't Say Good Bye"

**Ali Shami**

See Japan with Lebanese Eyes

**Marwan Khadaj**

**18**

**19**

**20**

**22**

## BUMC-TOYOTA/LEXUS

**23**

## Why LEBAJICA!

The Lebanese- Japanese relationship had witnessed a new phase and became tidier after the international convention "the friends of Lebanon", in which Japan has participated. And through the believe that the security of Japan is related to the peace and security of the world, and since Lebanon is considered to be one of the middle east's most important gates towards war or peace; therefore it was clear that Lebanon should be granted the means necessary to build up itself.

Through this understanding our friends in Japan made sure to give Lebanon all the help possible to build its economical and social structure. It was clear for the Japanese experts that Lebanon and Japan share many qualities: The number of population compared to the size of the area. Both countries suffer from the lack of natural resources; therefore, they are totally dependent on its human resources. That is why, all financial aids, loans, grants, and workshops were devoted to develop the training and technological skills of the workers in the different governmental institutions and ministries, with the help of JICA and the Japanese Embassy.

In this Edition and the ones that are coming in the future, we are going to emphasize on explaining the importance of the work of the different parties trying to train and develop the human resources.

# LEBAJICA

Edited by the Cultural cooperative of the LEBANESE JICA-ALUMNI

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## **LEBA-JICA** **FOR PROPING UP EFFORTS** **JAPANESE EXPERTS** **FOR LEBANESE EXPERTS**

Having been in Lebanon for almost three years now, I can say that Lebanon and Japan share some common characteristics. Firstly, the two countries are suffering overpopulation in small areas. Secondly, both haven't any natural resources. Finally, both share a long and deep history. Therefore, the main assets of Lebanon and Japan are their highly educated and civilized human resources.

Therefore, it is our pleasure to be of any assistance to the Lebanese people in developing their country. Under the scheme of technical training program, many Lebanese officials can join training programs offered by JICA in Japan; and learn the know-how and technology directly from Japanese experts. Actually, I believe that person-to-person contact is the best way to understand and respect one another.

The people who participated in this training program, JICA Alumni Association in Lebanon, organized LEBA-JICA. Their activity will not only contribute to developing their country but also enhance the relationship between Lebanon and Japan, which I will continue to exert my utmost efforts to prop up.

For all the above and in a step to empower those efforts, I would like to congratulate all of those who worked on the publication of the LEBA-JICA magazine.

March 2006,

**Tokumitsu Murakami**  
Ambassador of Japan in Lebanon



JICA a Japanese cooperation for building human resources

# World Peace to secure Japan's Peace



Ms. Sadako Ogata  
President of JICA

**O**fficial Development Assistant (ODA) is an organization that contributes to peace and development of the international community, through providing the money for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which provides the training programs that are essential for developing human abilities, and thereby helping to ensure Japan's own security and prosperity.



JICA's participants

## The beginning

the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was founded in 1974; it is an implementation agency for technical assistance, focusing on institution building, organization strengthening, and human resources development that will enable developing countries to pursue their own sustainable socio-economic development.

JICA works a broad in scope and reflects international concerns and changing needs in the developing countries. Its main concern is traditional sectors such as agriculture and social infrastructure. It has recent-

ly added assistance to combat infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and SARS, support to encourage free market economies or set up legal systems, and support peace-building and reconstruction efforts in such countries as Afghanistan and Iraq.

## Initiatives of New JICA

JICA became an independent administrative institution on October 1st 2003, ending nearly 30 years of work as a special governmental public institution. Using a new perspective of three pillars (human security, efficiency and speed) as a



field-oriented approach, JICA took the opportunity of the new start, through which it reviewed its programs and organizations, putting in mind that there were still further reforms to implement more effectiveness and efficiency in the international cooperation.

Firstly, a field-based approach is to be promoted. Developing countries have a variety of problems depending on their respective political systems, cultures, and historical backgrounds. Japan's assistance has to be extended to each developing country and in order to do that, JICA needs to grasp and understand the actual needs of the people in these countries and then tackle them in a prompt manner.

Secondly, a concept of "human security" is to be incorporated in JICA's cooperation programs. Today, not even the strongest states can fully meet the multiple security needs of people living within their borders. Poverty, conflicts, envi-

ronmental degradation and other infectious diseases are some of the examples of cross-border security threats confronting us. Human security is the concept of protecting the norms, processes, and institutions, which shield people through establishing the rule of law, through accountable and transparent institutions and democratic governance structures that empower people as actives and participants in attaining better lives.

Thirdly, JICA's programs and projects are to be implemented in a more efficient manner. A result-based management will be introduced to review the current work methods and organizational structure; that in turn, will contribute to improving cost-efficiency in project management.

#### Country-Based Approach

To address the diverse development issues affecting particular countries, JICA uses its network of overseas offices to formulate project implementation plans for individual countries and to decide on how

these should proceed. JICA also participates in "ODA task forces," which are established locally in developing countries and involve the Japanese Embassy and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and other institutions. Furthermore, we modify our programs to suit local circumstances and work to ensure that local views are incorporated.

### Issue-Based Approach

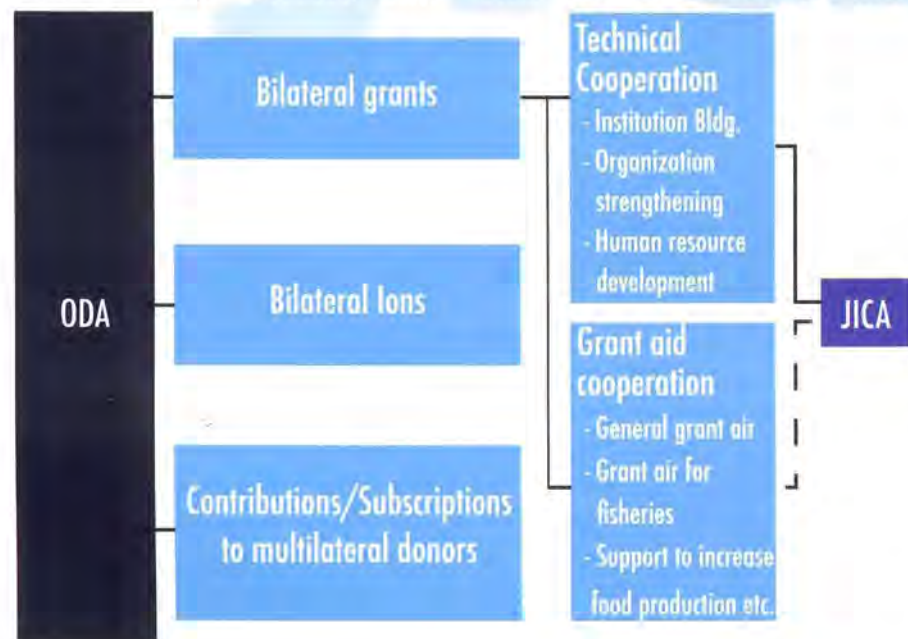
With full respect for the developing country's ownership, JICA uses an issue-based approach to comprehensively analyze issues to be resolved and to expedite the following types of programs:

- Technical Cooperation Projects
- Accepting Trainees
- Development Studies
- Grant Aids
- Emergency Disaster Relief
- Citizen Participation as:
  - Volunteers
  - JICA Partnership Programs
  - Youth Invitation Programs

### Technical Cooperation Projects

Technical cooperation projects are one of JICA's main types of overseas activities.

They are results-oriented, with Japan and a developing country pooling their knowledge, experience and skills to resolve specific issues within a certain timeframe. The projects may involve the dispatching of experts from Japan to provide technical support, invitation of personnel from developing countries for





training, or the provision of necessary equipment.

Technical cooperation projects are implemented according to the plan set through consultations with the recipient country. In order to address the problems each country can encounter, cooperation plans are tailor-made and implemented jointly with the recipient country.

Cooperation with Respect to Ownership

Japan's cooperation is provided based on the concept of supporting the self-help efforts of developing countries. Technical cooperation projects are implemented jointly by Personnel from the recipient country and Japan. Ownership of the project lies strictly with the recipient country and Japan's status is that of a cooperating partner.

Personnel from the recipient country (the government, local governments, NGOs, citizens, etc.) exercise ownership in the project.

## Planning and Evaluation

In planning a project, the significance and validity of the project are examined as an ex-ante evaluations, which is performed in terms of five criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. This evaluation is designed to estimate the outcome of the project as quantitatively and objectively as possible in order to set a clear target.

The purpose of mid-term and terminal evaluations is to study and analyze the project on the basis of the same five criteria used in ex-ante evaluations to

determine whether or not the project is justified before commencing. Terminal evaluation is made to determine whether a project should be terminated or extended taking into consideration the need for other follow-up measures.

## Acceptance of Trainees

### Technical Training Program

The acceptance of Technical Training Participants Program involves the transfer of knowledge and technology required by respective countries through the training of key administrators, technicians and researchers in developing countries and regions. This is the most fundamental human development program implemented by JICA.

### Methods and Features

The acceptance of Technical Training Participants Program enables more mobile and direct assistance.

There are three features and advantages in implementing this program in Japan.

1. Participants are able to see how new techniques and ideas not yet available in their own countries are applied.

2. Japan's experience is transmitted to the world at large.

3. Participants have the chance to exchange ideas and experiences with colleagues from other countries that are facing similar issues.

JICA Scholarship Program

In addition to conventional training programs, JICA started a long-term training program in

fiscal 1999, which accepts foreign students who wish to obtain graduate degrees in Japanese universities with the aim of acquiring more advanced and specialized knowledge and skills. Young administrative officers and researchers, who are prospective leaders of their countries, can participate based on requests from government-affiliated organizations in the program. At present, about 250 people take the program each year.

## Development Studies

Development studies are made to support the formulation of plans for public projects that are beneficial to social and economic development in developing countries. They can also transfer planning methods and survey the analytical skills of counterparts in the recipient countries. Skills transferred in this way are utilized when recipient countries work on projects and carry out other studies with their own funds.

These reports, prepared on the basis of study results, may also offer international organizations and donor countries resources for studying the need for financial aid and technical cooperation. In many cases, plans proposed in these reports have been realized with financial assistance, such as loans and grant aids.

Recently, the number of projects that incorporate direct policy proposals has been increasing, revealing a trend that should open up a new phase for development studies.



## Examples of Components of Development Studies

Master Plan Studies (M/P): are conducted to formulate comprehensive and long-term sectoral development plans for an entire country or for specific regions.

Feasibility Studies (F/S): examine objectively whether or not individual projects accorded priority in development studies and policies can be implemented. Feasibility is examined from various angles, including technology, economics, finance, social concerns, administrative organizations, institutions, and environment.

Policy and Program Support Studies: aim to formulate basic strategies and comprehensive plans for promoting policies to ease the process of transition to a market economy and to open up markets through monetary and financial reform, adjustment of legal systems, and privatization of state and public enterprises.

## Grant Aid

### Outline of the Japanese Grant Aid Program

Grant aid is a form of ODA involving the provision of funds to the governments of developing countries without the obligation of repayment. The aim is to cooperate with economic and social development by helping the government of the recipient country to introduce and upgrade its facilities and equipment. The main categories of grant aid are:

(1) General grants:



General project grants (including grants for child welfare, rehabilitation, support for human resources development bases, anti-personnel mine clearance, Soft Component Support and clean energy), debt relief grants, non-project grants (including sector program grants for environment and social development), overseas students' grants, and grassroots projects grants;

(2) Fisheries grants;

(3) Cultural grants (including grants for cultural properties);

(4) Emergency grants (support for disaster relief, democratization, reconstruction and development);

(5) Food aid (Kennedy Round [KR]);

Of these categories of grant aid, JICA deals with general project grants and overseas students' grants, fisheries grants, cultural grants, food aid, and aid for increased food production.

JICA's work includes:

(1) prior studies as part of the technical cooperation with the recipient country; to check the content of requests for grant aid, the scale of the project, and

the approximate cost;

(2) supervision aimed at ensuring that a grant aid project begins after the signing and exchange of an intergovernmental agreement;

(3) follow-up to maintain and enhance the effects of a project.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides the funds for grant aid cooperation projects.

## Program Targets

Countries eligible for grant aid are those that qualify for interest-free financing from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank. The projects are concerned with nation building and poverty alleviation in developing countries, which are unable to undertake the projects with their own funds and borrowing capacity. Projects entailing commercial profit, high-tech projects out of line with the technical levels of the recipient country, and those which run the risk of being channeled to military ends are ineligible.



Grant aid is made available mainly for social development in such fields as education, health and medical care, everyday water supply, and agricultural development; upgrading of public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and airports; and environmental conservation projects.

The grant aid program thus gives priority in particular to projects that answer the most basic human needs (BHN). It contributes to nation building in recipient countries while ensuring a wide-range linkage with technical cooperation provided by Japan and other donors.

### Project Topics

#### Strengthening the Implementation System

Improving operational quality and strengthening our implementation system are constant concerns for JICA, since we must be certain of our capacity to respond appropriately to the increasingly diverse and complex needs of the recipient countries.

In particular, we try to identify and formulate high-quality projects by adopting an approach that involves establishing closer links with technical cooperation. We make effective use of organizational structures and personnel both within JICA and from outside cooperation experts.

#### Improving Project Management

Grant aid projects are realized after JICA has performed basic design surveys to calculate the

approximate costs involved. In order to make effective use of funds, stringent investigation of the most appropriate design standards and calculation details in line with requests from recipient nations is undertaken.

JICA has set up an examination office to raise the levels of basic design work in cooperation with outside experts. Grant aid researchers have been sent to facilitate the exchange of opinions with everyone involved at the implementation stage.

We are also revising the content of the "Procurement Guidelines" which sets out basic approaches to project implementation.

#### Information Disclosure and Publicity

Enactment of the Public Disclosure of Information Law has made it all the more important to provide the general public with information on ODA projects.

To ensure total transparency, JICA releases information on the results of studies and tenders and we are currently considering how best to disclose the results of projects to allow for maximum accessibility. We are creating a website explaining how grant aid works and presenting projects now under way in various countries, we are also preparing videos and pamphlets on our operations to keep the Japanese people fully abreast of JICA activities.

#### Emergency disaster Relief

JICA's Disaster Relief Program dispatches Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams and provides emergency relief supplies when major disasters occur, mainly in developing areas, in

response to requests received from the governments of affected countries or international agencies.

Japan's disaster relief activities date back to the late 1970s, when medical teams were dispatched to assist Cambodian refugees. In September 1987, the Japan Disaster Relief Team Law (the JDR Law) was enacted to enhance dispatch systems for rescue and expert teams. A partial revision of the Japan International Cooperation Agency Law, which involves the addition of emergency relief supplies, led to the establishment of Japan's comprehensive emergency disaster relief system.

JICA's Disaster Relief Program dispatches rescue teams, medical teams, and expert teams in ways of personnel assistance and provides emergency supplies as material assistance.

In the wake of a large-scale disaster, the Self-Defense Forces can be dispatched when such a dispatch is deemed necessary. SDF personnel carry out emergency relief activities (rescue activities, medical activities, stopgap measures, reconstruction), transport activities using ships, aircraft and helicopters, medical and disease prevention activities and water supply activities using water purifiers.

The provision of materials includes emergency relief supplies, such as blankets, tents, water purifiers, generators and pharmaceutical products to assist in the recovery process.

#### Citizen Participation

In response to requests from developing countries, JICA pro-



motes programs under which various groups or individuals in Japan work together with local residents to participate in assistance activities.

## Volunteers

### Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

JICA dispatches volunteers eager to make use of their skills and experience acquired in Japan to developing countries; to work together with local people. The four major types of volunteers are the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (ages 20 to 39), the Senior Overseas Volunteers (ages 40 to 69) and the Volunteers and Senior Volunteers for Japanese Communities Overseas.

The Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program assists and promotes the overseas activities of young people who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development of developing countries, in response to requests from such countries.

JOCVs generally spend two years in developing countries, living and working with the local people while taking part in cooperative activities. Furthermore, the experience also benefits the volunteers themselves as they strive to overcome the various difficulties they face in their personal relations and work.

The program began in 1965. As of the end of March 2004, 80 countries had exchanged notes concerning the dispatch of JOCVs with Japan. As of the end of March 2004, 2,331

volunteers were deployed in 69 countries, making a total of 25,184 since the program's inception.

### Senior Volunteers

The Senior Volunteer Program is a scheme aimed specifically at middle-aged people who have a strong interest in technical cooperation activities in developing countries and want to make use of their skills and experience. Under this program, volunteers with extensive skills and plentiful professional experience between the ages of 40 and 69 are recruited.

Since 1991, Japan's ODA budget has been amongst the largest in the world. As interest in assisting developing countries has increased, the public have come to realize the importance of providing cooperation with a clearly visible profile.

### JICA Partnership Program

*Members of a Japanese NGO with local children in the Philippines.*

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) was introduced in 2002 to support and cooperate with the implementation of projects formulated by Japanese NGOs, Japanese local governments and Japanese universities to utilize their accumulated knowledge and experience in assistance activities for developing countries.

JPP is a technical cooperation program implemented by JICA to contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries at grass-

roots level in collaboration with "Partners in Japan," such as NGOs, universities, local governments, and public corporations.

The main objectives of JPP are as follows:

- 1.Meeting the diverse needs of developing countries by utilizing the knowledge and experience of partners in Japan for international cooperation activities.
- 2.Strengthening collaboration between communities in both developing countries and Japan by promoting the participation of Japanese citizens in international cooperation activities.
- 3.Encouraging local citizens in Japan to employ their knowledge, experience, and technologies for international cooperation activities, which in turn revitalize Japanese communities.

The target countries are those that have accepted JPP presence and where JICA overseas offices or JICA/JOCV offices are in place.

The program is implemented by JICA in collaboration with Partners in Japan based on proposals submitted by the Partners. The recipient government's approval is necessary prior to implementation of the program or individual projects, in accordance with the procedures agreed upon between the two governments. Because JPP is not based on official requests from the recipient government, there is no requirement for an international agreement between the governments of the recipient country and Japan.



## Achieving peace and economical stability Projects of Japanese embassy

# Loans, grants, technical training for rebuilding Lebanon



**P**ushing towards Active cooperation, training workshops are the main descriptions of the Japanese embassy work in Lebanon. Its aids to Lebanon were presented taking the needs and the abilities of this country, rather than creating new ones. In this perspective a high light will be shed on the history of the embassy, the training programs, and the aids that were distributed in many parts of Lebanon.

### Lebanon-Japan Cooperation

Putting the aim of promoting friendly relationship with Lebanon as a set goal, and through the understanding that achieving peace and stability in this country is important for the stability of the Middle East, Japan has been extending its cooperation to the rebuilding process. The Japanese measure assisting roles were plaid by (ODA) the Official Development Assistance which its offers includes grant aid and loans that were provided by the Japanese Government, technical co-opera-

tion, capital subscriptions and contributions to international organizations. And the other is (JICA) the Japan International Cooperation Agency, along with many other important agencies, with the cooperation of the Japanese embassy in Beirut.

The economic and cultural assistance offered to Lebanon were in the form of grants, loans, and technical training courses in Japan. It had included the following forms of cooperation.

### Yen Loan

In July 1996, the Ambassa-



dor of Japan to Lebanon and the Republic of Lebanon signed an exchange of notes under which JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) would grant Lebanon a 13.02 billion yen loan (about US\$120 million, with a 2.5% interest rate, 25-year repayment period including a 7-year grace period) for the implementation of the Coastal Pollution Control and Water Supply Project in Sidon and Kesrwan. This project is under construction now.

In March 1997, a Loan Agreement of US\$120 million, with a 2.5% interest rate, 25-year repayment period including a 7-year grace period was signed between the representative of the Government of Japan and of the Government of the Republic of Lebanon. The loan was financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for the implementation of (realization, agreement) the Coastal Pollution Control and Water Supply Project in Sidon and Kesrwan.

### Technical Cooperation

Technical cooperation is a form of aid that seeks to transfer technology from Japan to developing countries, thereby improving their technological levels. Person-to-person contact is the cornerstone of this form of aid. The cooperation programs are formulated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then implemented by JICA.

Under this scheme, Japan invited many Lebanese to participate in various training courses. Where distributed as the follow-

ing. In the year 2003, 9 Lebanese participated. In 2004, 7 Lebanese were invited, but only 5 were able to participate. Finally, in 2005, 8 Lebanese were invited, but only 6 were able to participate.

Nowadays, two types of technical cooperation programs are currently performed in Lebanon:

1. Acceptance of trainees and other personnel in Japan.

2. Development Study: in this perspective two development studies were conducted in Lebanon:

- a- Environmental Friendly Integrated Transportation Plan for Greater Tripoli: For a period of one year starting October 2000, a JICA study team has been engaged in studying the Transportation Master Plan for for greater Tripoli.

- b- Master Plan Study on regional Water Resources Planning: The Study was conducted in 2001.

### Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)

The Japanese Government offers small grant as assistance programs Known as "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP)", for development projects that meets with the various needs of developing countries. this scheme supports projects proposed by various bodies such as non-governmental organizations and local government authorities. The GGP program has acquired an excellent reputation because it provides flexible and timely support to

development projects at the grassroots level.

Under this scheme, Japan has provided the following donation, in the year 2003, 24 Projects were granted approximately 1,293,262 US\$. In 2004, 16 Projects were offered approximately 1,078,723 US\$. Finally, approximately 1,006,066 US\$ were granted to 18 Projects in 2005.

These small grant assistance programs usually offered to development projects conducted by local government authorities, municipalities, NGOs, hospitals, primary schools, research institutes and other non-profit associations.

### Cultural Grant Aid

The cultural grant aid, is a type of Japan's ODA programs, lends support to developing countries in their efforts to promote cultural activities, by achieving economical development.

Under this scheme, Japan has provided donation estimated in the year 2003, for Supplying audio-visual equipment to the Ministry of Culture (UNESCO Palace), with the some of 418,000US\$.

In 2004 the Ministry of Culture (Department of Cinematography, Theatres, and Fairs) was supplied with audio-visual equipment with a 438,000\$ grant.

The hard mission was accomplished in 2005 in the project of improving the Lebanese National Television Station program and broadcasting equipment for the sum of 411,000.



## Specialist Dispatch Program by the Japanese Fondation

It concluded two kinds of programs, Athletic Instructors' Dispatch Program, and Cultural Properties Specialists Dispatch Program. Under the later, the cultural grant aid provides support to developing countries in their efforts to promote cultural activities in order to achieve economic development. The Japanese government aims through applying the Cultural Grant Aid to "assist in the improvement of equipment in cultural and higher educational facilities, support the preservation of the recipient country's indigenous traditional culture and heritage, as well as artistic and research activities, encourage the introduction of Japanese culture overseas, and further promote cultural exchange between Japan and other countries, including academics and sports."

To put this goal in action Veteran Japanese Specialists are sent to countries all over the world to give advice and guidance regarding preservation, restoration, and repair cultural properties in those countries, as well as guidance concerning Japanese ancient artwork held in foreign collections, and how to carry out investigations.

Under this program, Trad: ism, a group of Japanese neo-trad music player, came Lebanon and played music in September 2005.

Also in January 28, 2005, The YWCA, Ain Mraisseh in collaboration of the Embassy of Japan in Lebanon hosts Japanese language course for 30 sessions with Mr. Mukai, Japanese language teacher. The course takes place at the YWCA, Ain Mraisseh premises.

And finally, the Japanese Government has invited Lebanese students, journalists and

others to Japan. And we will continue these supports for enhancement of relationship between Lebanon and Japan.

This friendship and support to Lebanon will not end with what has been granted until now. It is a continuing process will last till Lebanon becomes totally dependent on itself.

## Historical Background

The Japanese embassy was opened in Beirut in September 1954. After the civil war started in 1975, it was moved to Damascus in 1986, and stayed there until February 1995, when the Embassy was reopened in Beirut; it marked a new commencement of cooperation and support with Lebanon. In December 1996, Japan declared in "Friends of Lebanon Conference" at Washington D.C its support regarding feasible projects to help Lebanon rebuild into a stable and prosperous nation.

## JICA-training course Policy making for the development of SMEs in Arab countries

JICA-Chubu Center in Nagoya City hosted a regional training course that included 6 Arabic countries which are Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Syria & Lebanon, between the 6<sup>th</sup> of February and the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2006. The main focus was finding creative solutions for the development of small & medium size enterprises. Professor HIBINO S., from Cyukyo University, conducted the training.

Professor Hibino with Lebanese participants in Nagoya city



## "جاياكا" تنظم دورة تدريبية لأنماء المؤسسات العربية الصغيرة والمتوسطة

بين ٦ شباط و ١٠ آذار الماضي استضاف مركز "جاياكا - شوبو" للتدريب في مدينة ناغويا دورة تدريبية إقليمية، شارك فيها مندوبون من ست دول عربية (مصر، العراق، الأردن، فلسطين، سوريا ولبنان). وركز البحث الأساسي في هذه الدورة على تطوير وإنماء المؤسسات الصغيرة والمتوسطة في مختلف القطاعات الاقتصادية. وأشرف على الدورة البروفيسور شوزو هيبينو من جامعة شيوكيو، والذي يعتبر من كبار علماء التخطيط الاستراتيجي في اليابان.



## Cultural Activities under the frame of 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan

July 17, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the Off Byblos Festival, as part of the International Festival of Byblos activities and as the 1st event of this year's program, a Jazz concert for the "Satoru Shionoya Unit" was held with the participation of 2 local artists: Charbel Rouhana, Oud and Georges Barbar, percussion at the Port. The event was assisted by Byblos and The National Higher Conservatory of Music.
July 30 – 31, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the International Festival of Baalbeck, held two drum performances by "Osaka Dadada-dan Tenko" at the Jupiter Temple. The team's powerful drumming and the sound of the traditional Japanese musical instruments were fused to create a unique performance of dance and music that left the audience breathless.
September 23 - 24, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, under the High Patronage of the First Lady Mrs. Andrée Emile Lahoud, The Embassy of Japan in Lebanon and the Japanese-Lebanese Economic and Cultural Association (JALECA) held a Japanese dance performance "Okinawa Song and Dance Theatre Chura" at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut.
September 24, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, under the High Patronage of the First lady Mrs. Andrée Emile Lahoud, The Embassy of Japan in Lebanon held a Japanese dance workshop by "Okinawa Song and Dance Theatre Chura" for all interested in Japanese traditional culture and dance at the UNESCO Palace in Beirut.
October 8, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, the President of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan held a concert by the Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra with Ms. Hisako Matsui on piano at Eglise Saint Joseph des Peres Jesuites in Ashrafieh, Beirut
October 12, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, the President of the National Higher Conservatory of Music and the Ambassador of Japan in Lebanon held a recital of harp by Ms. Hisako Mitsui, at Amphitheatre Pierre Y. Aboukhater, Campus des Sciences Humaines USJ, Beirut.
November 4 - 11, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the Lebanese American University held an exhibition of "Japanese Prints 1950 - 1990" at the Student Lounge, Byblos Campus.
November 7, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, The Lebanese Aikido Federation and the Embassy of Japan, held a BUDO Day Japanese martial arts demonstration (Aikido, Judo, Karate and Shorinji Kempo) in the presence of the Japanese delegation for Judo at Mont La Salle. The Judo delegation headed by Naoki Murata Sensei, 7 Dan stayed for one week and visited schools and clubs of judo all over Lebanese territories with the collaboration and organization of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.
November 17 – 22, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, the Embassy of Japan and the Institute of Fine Arts II (Lebanese University) with the collaboration of the Japan Foundation held an exhibition of "Japanese Prints 1950 – 1990" at the Institute of Fine Arts II, Furn El Chebak, Beirut. This exhibition was organized to introduce the contemporary prints of Japan. It included 75 art works, of 46 artists. 1950 was set as a landmark year when Japanese printmakers began to gain a high international reputation by winning prizes at various international competitions.
December 3, 2004	In the frame of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Lebanon and Japan, the Embassy of Japan presented a seminar on "Ikebana: the Japanese flower arrangement" presented by the Japanese artist Mr. Kosen Ohtsubo at Monroe Hotel, Beirut. Ikebana's art goes back to 500 years of history and is considered one of the most famous Japanese traditional arts.



LEBA- JICA a network among JICA members worldwide

# For a Stronger Partnership Between LEBANON and JAPAN

In an attempt to understand the activities of LEBA-JICA, we have issued a publication that would deepen the public understanding of the work we have been doing in the last few years. Those activities aimed in the first place to emphasize the deep friendship between Lebanon and Japan.



Mr Nagasawa with LebaJica's board members

## Administrative body

LEBA-JICA Alumni was established in January 1998. Its administrative body consists of the president of the alumni and under his administration, work the vice president, secretary, treasurer and three members. The body also includes three substitutes whose role is to replace any member in case of absence during the board meeting.

The administrative body consists of three members, the president himself and two of the members. Their work is mainly concerned with financial

issues, which are, monitoring the budget of the alumni, presenting financial reports to the members during the election of the executive board and the approval of the annual expenditure. However, the members of the alumni are distributed in the different governmental offices as set in the following table.

## Objectives

The association aims to enhance its members' economic and social standards by working on:

- 1- Establishing relations on



scientific, cultural, economical and social cooperation with Japan through JICA.

2- Reinforce the relation between the members by creating various activities.

3- Exchange of Managerial, Technical and Support Experiences with JICA.

## Partnership between stakeholders

The wide distribution of LEBA-JICA ex-participants holding key positions in the Lebanese administration opens the door for the Japanese embassy and JICA to the Lebanese sector through:

- 1- Providing information on these administrations.
- 2- Preparing and organizing meetings with government officials (ministers and general directors).
- 3- LEBA-JICA can form work teams of its experts to study, evaluate and monitor projects of different topics.

## Members Distribution

• Ministry of public works	7
• Ministry of Agriculture	6
• Central Bank of Lebanon	4
• Ministry of Transport&Civil aviation	2
• Ministry of Water and Energy	4
• Electricity of Lebanon	1
• Ministry of Labor	2
• Civil service Board	7
• Public Corporation for Housing	1
• MOI & Industry Institute	3
• Ministry of Telecommunication	1
• Ministry of Public Health	1



H.E. Ambassador of Japan with LebaJica's members

4- LEBA-JICA can assist the embassy in the logistics and organization of visitors' trips to Lebanon and through Lebanon. For example, the Barouk Ceder trip in February 2004 with JICA Syria office team and volunteers.

5- LEBA-JICA can assist the embassy in conducting cultural events, workshops and seminars. Such as the seminar held on August 20th 2004 under the title: Ministers of Lebanon and Needs. With JICA Syria office team and volunteers.

6- LEBA-JICA can assist in the organization of bi-lateral visits for training purposes. Such as the workshop on agriculture and environment, with the Faculty of Agriculture at the USG in Taanayel on October 1st 2005.

## Our vision

The vision of this partnership is to highlight the cultural image of Japan and strengthen the Hipon-Lebanese cultural exchange. Part of which is attending events such as invitations sent through Japan's Em-



Mr Nagasawa

bassy, musical events, Gala dinners, activities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Japanese embassy, etc. In addition, we are trying to reflect the Japanese progress in the fields of science and technology.

## New alternative

The year 2003 was a turning point for the LEBA-JICA path, as JICA achieved its new status; JICA Syria office lunched a new initiative to intensify the relations with LEBA\_JICA. The latter responded voluntarily and quickly to this initiative and began a series of activities with JICA.

The following is a list of the joint activities:



## Activities

- Reception of the Ambassador of Japan Residence.  
H.E Mr.Tokumitsu MURAKAMI  
Feb 6, 2004
- Barouk Cedar Trip June, 2002
- Faraya Skiing Trip Feb, 2004  
With JICA Syria Office Team and volunteers.
- Seminar : Ministries Of Lebanon And Needs.  
Holiday Inn-Dunes Hotel  
20, August, 2004
- Trip to Kadisha Valley  
Oct. 17-18 2004  
With JICA Syria Office Team and volunteers.
- Cedar Trip Oct. 17-18, 2004
- Gala Dinner/On the Occasion of 50th Anniversary of the diplo-

matic relations between Lebanon & Japan - Crowne Plaza Hotel Dec, 3, 2004

- Workshop on Agriculture And Environment  
Faculty Of Agriculture – USJ  
Taanayel, October 1st, 2005
- Baalbeck Trip Nov. 11, 2005  
Reception Of H.E For LEBA-JICA @ Ambassador Residence  
February, 11, 2006

## Proposed 2006 Action Plan

- 1- Organize workshops and joint exhibition.
- 2- Establish a Japanese library with periodical releases about LEBA-JICA.
- 3- Improving the relationship with JICA and establishing contacts

with alumni associations worldwide.

4- Setup the network for regional cooperation amongst alumni associations.

5- Exchange programs and experiences in common activity fields.

## Conclusion

We hope to develop and maintain strong ties between JICA and LEBA-JICA, for the interest of both our people. Therefore, we hope to preserve and establish friendship and exchange of experiences and information with the ex-participants of JICA in all countries, as well as in Syria and the Arab world.

## JICA FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### LEBA-JICA establishing good mechanism

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has supported Socio-economic development, especially human resource development to the partner country, as a public institution of Japan. Human resources development is supported by various methods, such as dispatching Japanese experts, accepting trainees in Japan and so on. JICA is a unique organization that offers hundreds of training programs amongst the donor organizations.

Recently, the importance of the Capacity Development (CD) lies in providing effective aid; especially since training is the essential role of CD. Moreover, the training follow-up requirements are substantial if

the training results are to be maintained. To this end, JICA is providing support to the activity of Alumni Associations in each country.

JICA Alumni Association in Lebanon, LEBA-JICA, is establishing a good mechanism that can facilitate the exchange of information among members and implement activities such as workshops, seminars and excursions. Another role is to contribute to strengthening the cultural interaction between Japan and Lebanon.

I hope that these activities will be implemented continuously in the future.

January 2006

**Kazuhide Nagasawa**  
Resident Representative  
JICA Syria Office



## Japans Excellence: 5W1H ?!!

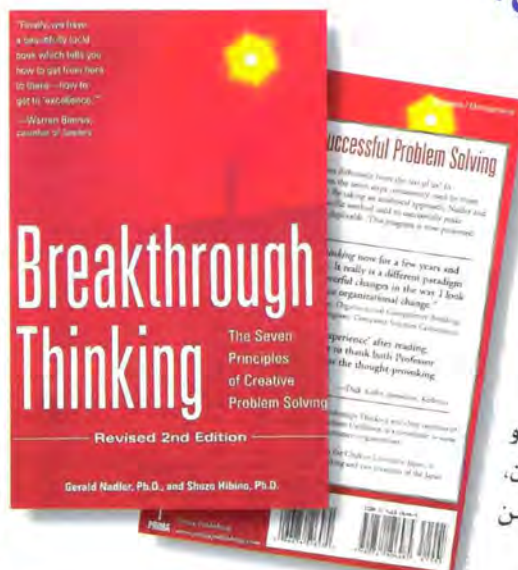
It is a series of books by Hibino, Shozo (Ph.D) Chairman of Japan Planology Society and Professor at cyukyo University That contains the answers to "WH" questions that reveal the secrets behind Japan's excellence.

Some publications of Professor Hibino, jointly with other worldwide recognized researchers tell us about the "Secret" of Japans success and excellence. By solving two formulas:  
Excellent outcome = excellent Plan x excellent Action  
Effective outcome = effective Plan x effective Action

In an answer to the question: How to turn knowledge into a source of power for finding solution? He says:" Action by "Breakthrough thinking" is the power by itself!"

The key points that are concluded from the books:

- Don't care about the past.
- Don't discuss the problems of today.
- Think about a new method. (Be creative)
- Learn from the future!
- Co-create! (collective thinking)
- Create effective and comprehensive systems.
- Determine substantial Purposes.
- Determine values and measures for your objectives.
- Keep looking forwards...



## "التفوق" الياباني: أأك ال ٣م ؟!!

"التفوق" الياباني: أين، كيف، لماذا، من، ماذا ومتى؟ تعاليم مكتسبة من كتب الدكتور شوزو هيبينو (دكتوراه علوم) رئيس "الجمعية اليابانية لعلوم التخطيط"، وأستاذ في جامعة شيوكيو.

تطلعنا بعض الكتب المنشورة للدكتور هيبينو بمشاركة مجموعة من الباحثين العالميين، عن سر نجاح وامتياز اليابان، انطلاقاً من المعادلتين الآتيتين:

١- نتيجة ممتازة = خطة ممتازة x فعل ممتاز

٢- نتيجة مجدية = خطة مجدية x

فعل مجدي

ويجب هيبينو على السؤال:

"كيف نجعل

من المعرفة

قوة لإيجاد

الحلول؟" بأن

الفعل المرتكز على

"التفكير الخارق"

هو بحد ذاته القوة!

أما أبرز المبادئ

المستقاة من الكتب فهي:

● "لا تشغل البال بماضي

الزمان".

● لا تناقش مشاكل

الحاضر.

● فتش وجد مسلكاً جديداً

(كن مبدعاً).

● تعلم من المستقبل.

● شارك في الإبداع (تفكير جماعي).

● أنتج نظاماً مجدية وشمولية.

● حدد الغايات المادية.

● حدد مقادير ومقاييس أهدافك.

● تطلع دائماً إلى الأمام.

... وإلى الأمام سر.



### UNFORGATABLE JOURNYS OF ALL TIMES

# Work and Pleasure go Together...



Dr. Youssef in the innocent city: Hiroshima 1988

**M**aking long distances short, bringing the world together, fancy titles we always use to describe our longing to other parts of the world. That is why man has always created the means to reach the goal of seeing as many countries as one good lifetime could allow. The pleasure and knowledge that can be gained through visiting new places and meeting new people around the world, learning about their cultures, way of living, norms and habits, is the ultimate pleasure, that only the travelers know and can tell true stories about. Even if the trips were meant for business, not pleasure.

Dr. Mohammad Youssef, Chief of the Electronics Laboratory at ITI, Chief of Electricity Committee for the Official Exam in the Ministry of Education and High Teaching talks about his First East and Best Trip to Tokyo.

### Konnichiwa...

In February 1988 around 11:00 am, while I was teaching my class, my colleague and ex-professor, came by and asked me if I am still single!!

"Yes, I am", I said.

"Would you like to visit Japan?"

I was surprised: "To Japan! I have to think about it."

"There is no time for thinking, yes or no?" He replied.

"Yes, but.... yes."

"Ok, tell your students to leave and come with me to visit the office of Mr. Sbeihi, the general director of the "Technical and Professional Teaching" located at the Concord building in Beirut". He said.

### Go for it single man

When we got there, my ex-professor told his Excellency that he couldn't participate in the JICA Vocational Training Staff Course since he wasn't able to leave his wife and children alone, for a whole year. Therefore, he nominated me to participate in that course. It seems that he considered me a serious and active, as he had observed my work as a professor for ten months. His Excellency provided me with an application form to fill out in 24 hours, stressing

the fact that all the courses are going to be in English. I spent the day filling out the application form and preparing all requested documents. Fortunately, I finished on time.

### Take me, or not take me

In the following twenty days, I passed by the consulate of Japan, located at Rawcheh, twice a week without any response. I started feeling that I lost my chance in the offered course. Therefore, the number of my trips to the consulate decreased every day.

One day, as I was walking to work, I passed by the consulate to check Mrs. Habry's office for any news. To my good fortune, She called me immediately, and informed me that she was trying hard to contact me, but there wasn't any answer.

She was correct, both my friend's and the school's telephones were out of order due to the war conditions in Lebanon in the 80's. She instructed me to book a ticket with Middle East Airlines at Gevinor building, and then to return to the consulate. Meanwhile, she would prepare the required documents to be taken to the Japanese Embassy located temporarily in Syria to get the visa.





At the opening of the ceremony of the course



In Samurai clothing

### Finally, in the air

The departure to Tokyo was planned to be in the next 45 hours. And I had to prepare my baggage, say good-bye to my family, friends and professors, and leave to Syria to get the visa. As the airplane was taking off, I was sitting on the left side watching the southern suburb of Beirut where I left my parents behind. I cried for the first time in eleven years!!

Our flight took four hours to get to Cairo before we switched to Japanese Airlines (JAL). The Japanese plane's team, stood in one line, respectfully welcoming us in their own native language. I met a JICA participant coming from Jordan, we spoke, gossiped and expressed all our emotions and anxieties. It was an unforgettable trip.

### Snowing in Tokyo

When we arrived at the airport in Tokyo, it was extremely cold and snowing for the first time in 40 years, we were told. A reception team was awaiting us, holding welcoming posters with our names on them. We were 5 participants; I from Lebanon, another from Jordan and another three from Turkey.

At ten thirty in the evening, we arrived at JICA Hachioji International Training Center (HITC). It had been eighteen hours since I left Beirut. A welcoming party was prepared for us at the center. Then we were each offered a delicious meal packed in a box. Finally, we headed to our rooms where I fell asleep immediately.

**Mata aimashō Sayōnara**

## The Ever Lasting Memories In Japan

# Understanding the World Through The Cultural Interaction

**T**he enduring memories of Japan are still conveyed to us with love, through those, who still carry Japan in their hearts. The Co-Founder & Member of The Board of LEBA-JICA, Abdul Kader Chara-mand is another person with a new experience to tell.

Forever it will remain to be the special and precious thing that truly marked my life. It is my trip to Japan. The smile will always accompany my face whenever I remember how the Japanese used to call me "ABUDO SAN", as a nickname for (Abdul-Kader).

We stayed in Sapporo Japan, the famous capital of Hokaido the northern island that hosts the international Olympic winter games. The city is well known for its famous international yearly snow festival, in which my friend and I proudly represented Lebanon with our humble sculptures.

It is not only the memories that gladly cross my mind, which I shared with my children, family and friends. Or the technical aspects I learned through the Microelectronics Engineering Course that

truly affected me. It is the cultural and social benefits I got by watching the strong communal cooperation and bonding interpreted into honesty and dedication.

Spending time amongst people with such qualities helped me to emulate them and try to improve my own community.

I will always hold in my mind that four-year-old child, who ate "BAKLAW" using chopsticks. It is still a fascinating memory to be. He is the son of a nice Japanese family that offered me a place to stay in one weekend; in return I offered them the famous Lebanese sweets. To me what happened was a symbol of the times I had there, and how people of different cultures can bridge their differences through mutual understanding, respect and love.





في حفل توزيع شهادات التخرج



مدينة هيروشيما

الساموراي القديمة، أرض الحداثة والعلم، مدينة هيروشيما، حيث أمضيت أربعة أيام بين الحلم واليقظة. رهبة مخيفة تملكنتني عندما رأيت الهيكل الأسود للمبنى الوحيد المتبقي من آثار القنبلة النووية. أدت نظري إلى تلك الأشجار الخضراء الشامخة في كل أنحاء المدينة، حتى على سطوح البنايات في هيروشيما، وأدركت مدى جبروت الشعب الياباني، وأن العمل من أجل السلام والمحبة هو من أهم الأهداف التي يجب أن يعمل لأجلها كل مثقف ومتحضر.

## قطار "شينكسنين" الصاروخي!

عندما ذهبنا إلى محطة القطار للسفر إلى كيوتو عاصمة اليابان القديمة، رأيت قطارا لم أر شيئا له في حياتي، بدأت أصلي في نفسي عندما انطلق بنا، إذ شعرت أن قلبي سيتوقف عن الخفقان، وكنت أتخيل أنه سيخرج فجأة عن قضبان السكة الحديدية، وتحل الكارثة! لكن مع مرور الوقت، تزودت بالمعنويات من ابتسامات مرشديننا اليابانية اللطيفة، فبدأ الخوف يزول شيئا فشيئا. وكنت أؤمن بأن الدولة اليابانية اتخذت حتما جميع احتياطات السلامة والأمان، لذا لا داعي لخوفي وقلقي، وبأن عودتي إلى ربوع الوطن هي مسألة وقت فقط.

كانت دهشتي تزداد كلما اخترق هذا القطار الصاروخي الجبال عبر الأنفاق، حيث لا يملك المرء في تلك اللحظات شعور بعظمة الشعب الياباني وإرادته التي لا تعرف الاستسلام. عشر سنوات مرت على الرحلة وما زالت جعبة ذكرياتي عامرة. وربما كانت هذه الذكريات تصلح نواة لكتاب سأنشره مستقبلا، ولكن من المؤكد أن تلك الرحلة هي رحلة العمر من دون أي مبالغة.

المهندس مروان خداج

الضرورية فقط، متمنيا نقل هذه العدوى أيضا إلى لبنان، كي أستبدل شرابي صناديق الليمون و شلحات البندورة والخيار بحبات قليلة منها. لكن إبائي وكرمي اللبنانيين رفضا ذلك، فاستمرت البعزقة كما كانت قبل سفري إلى اليابان!

## هيروشيما

أجمل الذكريات وأروعها هي تلك التي أحملها من أرض الشرق البعيد، أرض

خصوصاً وأني كنت أجلس في المقدمة أمامه تماماً!

## شراء الحاجيات

في أيام الإجازة كنت أجوب شوارع طوكيو على قدمي، مستمتعا بنعمة المشي، وممتعا نظري برؤية المحال الجميلة والشعب الطيب. وأتذكر كيفية شراء اليابانيين للفاكهة والخضار بالحبة الواحدة، أي موزة واحدة أو خيار واحدة حسب حاجاتهم

## "YOU CAN'T SAY GOOD-BYE"

When you close your eyes to see the beautiful things around, you can't.

When you shut your ears to hear the significant poem of a bard, you can't.

Once you are in Japan and you want to lift your hand to say good bye, you can't.

Once you are there, you feel the kindness, the love and nothing is bad.

You are happy and never sad.

You are at home, embracing your land.

Everyone is helpful working hand in hand.

When you turn to leave Japan waving good bye.

You just can't, you just can't!!

Say, bye-bye Japan.



Ali Shami





صوره تذكاريه للمجموعة التدريبية

من الهزات الأرضية رحمة بأطفالنا!  
ضمت مجموعتنا التدريبية عدة زملاء من جنسيات مختلفة تنوعت بين إندونيسيا، ماليزيا، بورما، هونغ كونغ، تايلند، بوليفيا، هندوراس، كينيا، وتانزانيا.  
كنت حريصا على تمثيل لبنان خير تمثيل، فأثرت حضور المحاضرات واللقاءات الرسمية بكامل أناقتي، مرتديا الزي الرسمي وربطة العنق!  
كان ذلك في الأيام الأولى فقط، بعدها بدأت أتحرق تدريجيا من اللباس الرسمي.

### بشرة اليابانيين صفراء!

نعم هذا صحيح! تأكدت بالعين المجردة من أن بشرة اليابانيين صفراء فور مقابلتي لمسؤولة مجموعتنا التي كانت ترحب بي وتطلعنني على حقوقي وواجباتي فيما أنا مستغرق في النظر إلى وجهها ولونه. كانت تسترسل في الشرح بلغة ظننت أنها يابانية قريبة من الإنكليزية، ما جعلني أعتقد أن اليابانية لغة سهلة. ولكنني استنتجت لاحقا أنها كانت تتكلم الإنكليزية بلكنة يابانية لا أكثرا!

### تحية جبل فوجي

كنت أستيقظ باكرا، وأستهل يومي بالنظر عبر النافذة إلى البعيد حيث يربض جبل فوجي، لأتأكد من وجوده (1)، ولأوجه له التحية الصباحية. ثم أبدأ برنامجي اليومي الطويل بحصة الرياضة اليومية مستمتعا بالهواء الطلق والأشجار الخضراء النظيفة، الخالية من الغبار والدخان الأسود والسموم والملوثات الصناعية.  
في كتابه "مشروع ليابان جديدة" يقول إيشيرو أوزارا: إن اليابان مؤهلة بصفة خاصة لقيادة المسيرة العالمية من أجل استعادة صحة الهيئة، وعلينا أن نأخذ المبادرة في هذا المجال.

أينما كنت في اليابان، كنت أحاول أن أتأقلم مع الاحترام العميق الذي يكنه اليابانيون للغرباء ولبعضهم بعضا. وكلم حلمت أن تنتقل عدوى الاحترام إلى لبنان، متخيلا أنني ألتقي جاري، أو جارتني، صباحا، وألقي التحية عليه مرات ومرات، منحنيا ومركزا نظري على الأرض كما يفعل اليابانيون!

### العلم اللبناني كان هناك

في قاعة من قاعات مركز "هاجيوجي" كنت أنظر إلى تحف وتذكارات من دول العالم المختلفة، وفجأة رف قلبي حين رأيت علما اللبناني. تأملت به باحترام ولهفة، ووقفت أمامه دقائق قليلة، وكأني أنشد النشيد الوطني اللبناني. ولا حظت مرشدتي ذلك فقالت: "إن العلم كان هدية من مواطنة لبنانية اسمها هلا شخبي سبق وتدرجت في هذا المركز."

شعرت بالفخر والاعتزاز، خصوصا وأني كنت أعرف شخبي سابقا.

### الطعام الياباني

تأقلمت مع طعام تلك البلاد على الفور، لا سيما أنني من عشاق الأرز والسمك. وكنت أحاول تناول طعامي بواسطة العيدان الخشبية الشهيرة، علني عند عودتي لربوع الوطن أنقل بعض مظاهر الحضارة اليابانية وأعلم أطفال وزوجتي اختراعا جديدا في طريقة تناول الطعام، ولكنني لم أفجح في ذلك وباءت جميع محاولاتي بالفشل الذريع!

### زيارات ولقاءات

الشعب الياباني شعب عظيم، وعظمته ممزوجة بتواضع أعظم. كان ذلك يترسخ في ذهني يوميا خلال الرحلة التي تضمنت عدة لقاءات وزيارات لاماكن ومؤسسات ومدن عديدة، منها:

- شركة "توشيبا" للإلكترونيات والهاتف الخليوي.
- مدرسة أوساوا مينامي في طوكيو.
- مركز الإحصاءات والتنسيق في طوكيو.
- مطابع جريدة "أساهي".
- المعابد الدينية: أساكوسا في طوكيو، وجوكوكو - جي في كيوتو.
- مركز الاستخدام والسلامة في كيوتو.

- مكتب تفتيش العمل في هيروشيما.
- النصب التذكاري في هيروشيما.
- متحف القنبلة النووية في هيروشيما.
- قصور الامبراطور في طوكيو وكيوتو.
- مصنع العملة اليابانية في هيروشيما.
- مصنع النسيج في كيوتو.
- وزارة العمل في طوكيو.
- الجزيرة السياحية في هيروشيما.

### الأعمال الإضافية

خلال سهرة في مطعم يحتل الطابق الأخير من بناية شاهقة في العاصمة طوكيو، لفتتني روعة المناظر المحيطة بالمطعم المطل على أنوار متلألئة، كما أثار فضولي وجود أناس يعملون في مكاتب في الأبنية المحيطة بالمطعم، وعندما استفسرت عن الموضوع، أجابني أحد أصدقائي من المسؤولين اليابانيين: هؤلاء الذين تراهم يعملون، فقلت: ولكن الساعة متأخرة من الليل، فهل يعقل أن جميع هؤلاء يعملون؟ أجاب: نعم! إنهم يقومون بتنفيذ أعمال إضافية، متسائلا: ألا تؤدون في لبنان أعمالا إضافية مثلنا؟ فقلت على الفور: "طبعاً! نقوم بتنفيذ أعمال إضافية مثلكم تماما!!"، داعيا الله، في سري، أن يسامحني على كذبتني البيضاء... وتذكرت كيف تسجل لنا أحيانا أعمال إضافية نفنذها بطريقة غير يابانية!!

### زوجتي تهددني!

أذاك كانت معرفتي بالكومبيوتر محدودة. وهناك، على الأرض اليابانية، بدأت أتعلم استعماله، وبدأت علاقتي الغرامية به، والتي ما زالت مستمرة حتى يومنا هذا، إلى درجة دفعت زوجتي المسكينة، إلى تهديدي بتحطيم جهاز الكومبيوتر إن لم أخفف من حبي له ولشبكة الانترنت، متسلحة بسلاح فعال هو فاتورة الانترنت الباهظة!

### دروس اللغة اليابانية

الساعات التي أمضيتها في تعلم اللغة اليابانية، على مقاعد الصف، كانت ممتعة رغم ذاكرتي الضعيفة التي كنت أستعين بها لترداد الجمل والعبارات اليابانية. فتلك الساعات أعادتني بالذاكرة إلى سنوات المدرسة الرسمية في الضيعة عندما كنت تلميذا صغيرا، حيث كان أستاذ اللغة العربية يطرطننا ب ما تيسر من فمه،



٤٥ يوماً في ربوع طوكيو وكيوتو وهيروشيما

# اليابان بعيون لبنانية



جبل فوجي

## لماذا ليبا - جيكا؟

شهدت العلاقات اللبنانية اليابانية مرحلة جديدة وعبرت نحو أفق أرحب، بعد مشاركة اليابان في المؤتمر الدولي الذي عقد تحت عنوان "أصدقاء لبنان". وانطلاقاً من إيمان اليابان بأن أمن الشرق الأوسط يمثل حجر أساس في الأمن والسلام العالميين، فهو بالتالي جزء من أمن اليابان، وبما أن لبنان يعتبر أحد بوابات الشرق الأوسط الهامة، والتي يمكن أن تفتح باتجاه السلم أو الحرب، لذا اتجهت البوصلة نحو منح لبنان الاهتمام والعناية اللازمين.

من هنا فإن الأصدقاء في اليابان حريصون كل الحرص على تقديم المساعدات والخبرات للبنان، والتي يمكنها أن تساعد على النهوض الاقتصادي والاجتماعي. لا سيما وأن اليابان ترى في لبنان شبيهاً لها من حيث الكثافة السكانية، أو لناحية النقص في الموارد الطبيعية، كالبتروول والمعادن وغيرها. وبالتالي فإن اعتماد لبنان الكلي يكون على موارده البشرية أولاً. وبالتالي فقد وجدت فيه صورة مصغرة عن وضعها، ولو على المقلب الآخر للمعمورة، فقدمت له المساعدات المالية والقروض الطويلة الأمد والمنخفضة الفوائد، كما نظمت الورشات التدريبية للأفراد العاملين في المؤسسات والوزارات لتطوير مهاراتهم في مجال التكنولوجيا والمعلوماتية والتعامل مع الكمبيوتر، من خلال الوكالة اليابانية للتعاون الدولي "JICA" بالتنسيق مع السفارة اليابانية والوزارات المعنية في لبنان.

وتعتبر نشرة "Lebajica" نتاج هذا التنسيق، والتي يمكن من خلالها الاطلاع على نتاج الأعمال المشتركة بين البلدين، والمشاريع التي قدمت كمساعدات للبنان، خصوصاً وأن القائمين عليها هم من الأعضاء القدامى والجدد في "Lebajica" وشاركوا في ورشات التدريب التي أقيمت في اليابان وفي أماكن متفرقة من العالم، كما عملوا على توطيد أصر التعاون والتنسيق بين البلدين.

إن مجرد إصدار نشرة تعريفية تشرح أهمية التعاون الدولي القائم بين لبنان واليابان، وكيف يمكن تسخير الدعم لخدمة الإنسان وتنمية الموارد البشرية وتطويرها، يعتبر خطوة في اتجاه مجتمع الشفافية المنشود.

**بحكم عملي في وزارة العمل، وخلال مسيرتي الدراسية في مجال الهندسة، تنقلت بين عدد كبير من البلدان في آسيا وأوروبا وأفريقيا، فزرت فرنسا، إسبانيا، إيطاليا، يوغوسلافيا، اليونان، تركيا، قبرص، روسيا الاتحادية، أوكرانيا، هنغاريا، أرمينيا، بيلاروسيا، بولندا، مصر، ليبيا، المغرب، السعودية، الأردن، العراق، الكويت، الإمارات العربية، تايلند، هونغ كونغ، واليابان.** تركت هذه البلاد أجمل الذكريات في مخيلتي، خصوصاً لجهة آثارها الرائعة وعادات وتقاليدها، فضلاً عن كونها شكلت فرصة طيبة للتعرف بزملاء مسؤولين وأصدقاء ذوي كفاءات علمية رفيعة ومن جنسيات مختلفة.

ولكن من بين كل هذه الرحلات التي قادتني إلى مختلف بقاع العالم، تبرز رحلتي إلى ربوع طوكيو وكيوتو وهيروشيما في اليابان، حيث أمضيت ٤٥ يوماً من أجمل الأيام في حياتي.

الدولي بسلام. عند هبوطها كنت أعتقد أن أقل ارتجاج تتعرض له الطائرة بفعل هبوطها هو ناتج، ولا ريب، عن هزة أرضية، على اعتبار أن اليابان تتعرض لهزات أرضية شبه يومية. لازمني هذا الشعور طوال إقامتي هناك. لا بل أن أول عبارة قرأتها، فور دخول غرفتي في مقر الإقامة في المركز الدولي للتدريب هاجبوني، كانت نصيحة بضرورة الاختباء تحت الطاولة عند حدوث هزة أرضية! عندها بادرنى شعور بالندم على عدم كتابتي وصيتي في لبنان قبيل سفري، خصوصاً وأنه لم يكن قد مر عام بعد على كارثة زلزال كوبي التي نكبت اليابان عام ١٩٩٥!

اتكلت على الله، و دعيت ربي أن يحميني

كان ذلك في أواسط عام ١٩٩٦. قبيل سفري تزودت بإرشادات ونصائح من الزملاء الذين سبقوني في دوراتهم التدريبية إلى اليابان، وفي طلبعتهم الزميل الصديق رئيس جمعية ليبا جيكا أنطوان غريب. تحت عنوان إحصاءات العمالة من أجل التخطيط انطلقت دورتي التدريبية في اليابان بين من ٣ حزيران و١٤ تموز ١٩٩٦.

## الخوف من الزلازل

١٢ ساعة من الطيران استغرقت الرحلة إلى اليابان، شملت محطات استراحة في دبي، تايلند وهونغ كونغ. هبطت الطائرة على مدرج مطار طوكيو



# BUMC

## Toyota / Lexux

### خطى ثابتة نحو المستقبل

تعتبر تويوتا، الشركة الرائدة عالمياً في مجال تطوير السيارات الصديقة للبيئة والتي تبعت كميات ضخمة جداً من الغازات، ونجمة السيارات المحافظة على البيئة هي تويوتا Prius التي تستعمل محرك هجين يمزج بين الطاقة الميكانيكية والكهربائية التي تولد العزم على السرعات المنخفضة بدون تلوث البيئة داخل المدينة وبدون الحاجة إلى إعادة تعبئة. المحرك يستعمل البنزين لتأمين العزم المطلوب على السرعات العالية، كما أنه يمزج بين مختلف الطاقات ليزيد إلى الحد الأقصى مواطن القوة وللتعويض عن مواطن الضعف. إن التناغم بين البطارية والمحرك يجعل من Prius السيارة العملية الوحيدة الصديقة للبيئة والمسوقة تجارياً في العالم في آن معاً.

#### - ما هي آخر الابتكارات؟

تويوتا شركة دائمة التجدد، فكل سنة يتم تطوير وإطلاق عدد كبير من الموديلات الجديدة. أما جديد هذا العام فهو:

- Yaris: السيارة الصغيرة والعملية.

- RAV4: موديل جديد تماماً للسيارة الدفع

الرباعي الشهيرة.

- Fortuner: سيارة دفع رباعي جديدة تماماً

بسبعة مقاعد. متوفرة بمحرك 4 اسطوانات، 2.7

ليتر، ومحرك 6 اسطوانات 4 ليتر.

- Innova: سيارة العائلة الفسيحة. متوفرة

بمحرك 2.7 ليتر من 4 اسطوانات.

- ما هي توقعات الشركة للمستقبل؟

تحتل الشركة المرتبة الأولى في البيع منذ شهر

تشرين الأول الماضي حتى الآن، وتتوقع احتلال

المركز الأول في المبيع هذا العام أيضاً. لذلك فهي في

صدد افتتاح فرعين رئيسيين لها، الأول في منطقة

فردان كورنيش المزعة، وهو فرع كبير جداً سوف

يتواجد فيه خدمات 3S Sales-Spare

Parts-Services.

أما الثاني فهي اواخر العام الجاري وهو الـ

Toyota City على اوتوستراد الزلقة، وسيكون

كناية عن مجمع متكامل من صالات العرض،

المكاتب، مراكز الصيانة وقطع الغيار، بالإضافة

الى مقهى يستريح فيه الزبائن.

BUMC شركة تتطلع الى المستقبل بنظرة

ثاقبة وبخطى ثابتة.

العام الماضي.

وقد بذلت الشركة جهوداً كبيرة مكنتها من الحصول على ثقة الزبائن وتقديرهم. وعملت على تنمية المبيعات في كافة المناطق من خلال اعتماد موزعين معتمدين في طرابلس، الزلقة، الروشة، صيدا وصور.

ويتكون فريق عمل الشركة من حوالي 70 موظفاً، موزعين على مختلف الأقسام، كلهم من أصحاب الشهادات والخبرات في مجال عملهم، كما تقوم الشركة بتنمية قدراتهم من خلال إخضاعهم لدورات تدريبية في شركة تويوتا في اليابان.

- كيف تصف العلاقة التجارية بين الشركة واليابان وحجم التبادل التجاري بينهما؟ وماذا عن الاستثمارات وفرص العمل؟

تعتبر شركة تويوتا من أبرز شركات السيارات حول العالم، إنتاجاً ومبيعاً. رئيس الشركة ومديرها العام في لبنان الدكتور فرد بستانى تحدث عن تأسيس الشركة وتطورها في لقاء هذا نصه.

- هل لنا بلمحة عن تاريخ شركة تويوتا

في لبنان؟

تأسست شركة BUMC Toyota / Lex- US عام 2001. نائب الرئيس والمدير التنفيذي للشؤون الإدارية بيار بستانى. نائب الرئيس والمدير التنفيذي للمحاسبة والشؤون المالية سمير بستانى.

ان ارتباط تاريخ عائلة بستانى بتويوتا يعود الى أكثر من 50 عاماً، لذلك فإن فريق العمل



أحدث موديلات PRIUS

العلاقة التجارية التي تجمع BUMC Toyota / Lexus باليابان علاقة مميزة جداً، إذ تعتبر الشركة من أكبر المستوردين في لبنان للبضائع اليابانية.

كما ان الشركة في تطور مستمر، لذلك فإن فرص العمل لديها لأصحاب الخبرات متوفرة بشكل شبه دائم.

- هل تعتمد الشركة التكنولوجيا النظيفة الصديقة للبيئة؟

في الشركة كان سريعاً في تطبيق كافة المستلزمات التي تفرضها شركة تويوتا في اليابان لضمان تأمين أفضل خدمة للزبائن في مختلف أقسام العمل، البيع، القطع وخدمة ما بعد البيع.

- كيف تطورت الشركة؟ وكم هو عدد

عاملينها؟

تطورت BUMC Toyota / Lexus بسرعة فائقة، فاحتلت أحد المراكز الأولى الثلاث في المبيع منذ عامها الأول وحافظت على المركز ذاته حتى



# ليبيا حايكا

نشرة تصدرها الجمعية الثقافية لخرجي  
الوكالة اليابانية للتعاون الدولي

العدد ١ - أيار ٢٠٠٦



## نحو شراكة أوثق بين لبنان واليابان

