

Progress of JOCV activities in Sri Lanka

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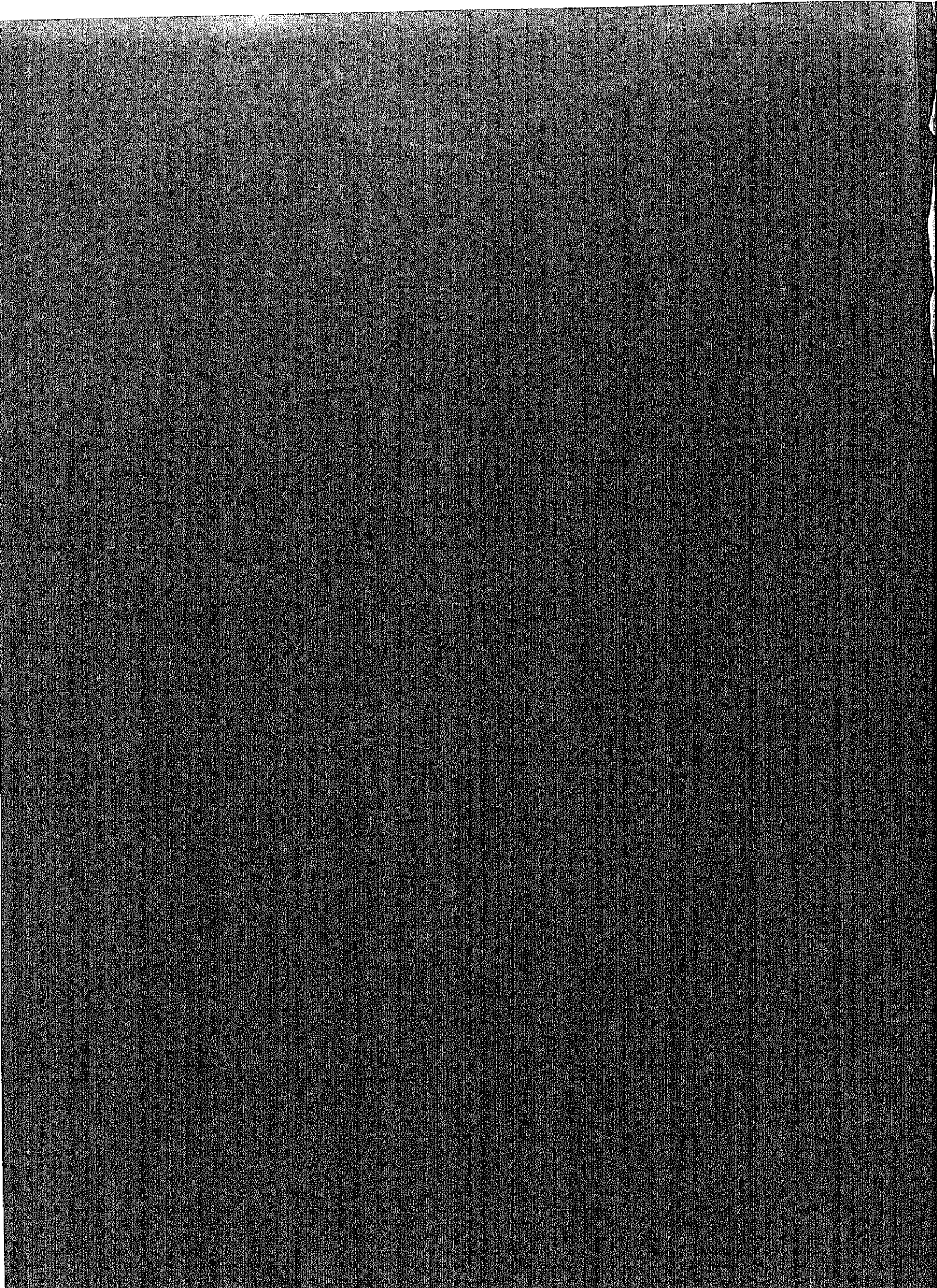
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MESSAGE from Mr. J.C.RATWATTE, SECRETARY MINISTRY of
FINANCE, and MINISTRY of POLICY DEVELOPMENT &
IMPLEMENTATION

I wish to thank the Government of Japan for extending its generous cooperation towards development activities of Sri Lanka, through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) Programme.

This 20th Anniversary is of special significance to me, personally, since, when I was Chairman of the National Youth Services Council and Director General-Youth Services in 1983, I signed the first agreement under which JOCV volunteers served in Sri Lanka for the first time.

Japanese volunteers, who have been working under the JOCV Programme during the past 20 years, have made immense contributions towards social and economic development activities in Sri Lanka. The JOCV's initiatives in the establishment of National Youth Center under grant aid and the Model Pre-school & Pre-school Teacher Training Institute in Kurunegala, with the support of grass root assistance of the government of Japan deserve much appreciation.

Some other remarkable achievements that could be attributed to the efforts of JOCV members include the rural and urban community development, managing disable persons, IT management, Sports, Japanese Language, Western Music, Health & Nursing Management etc.

The JOCV Programme, which is a vital component of the technical Cooperation Programme of the Japanese Government's Bi-lateral Grant Aid Programme, has greatly contributed towards the capacity building activities in Sri Lanka.

In the Sri Lankan context, the work carried out by JOCV members is greatly valued by the citizens of this country and its benefits will continue to be enjoyed by the generations to come.

We should be thankful to the Government of Japan for sending 532 JOCV members during the past 20 years to work at the grass root level in Sri Lanka, covering almost of all sectors.

日本政府が実施する JOCV の派遣に対し深く感謝の意を表明します。

この 20 周年記念は私個人にとっても特別な意義があります。1983 年、私が NYSC のチェアマンであり、ユースサービスの DG として席を置いていた時期にスリランカ初の青年海外協力隊の要請文書に署名をしました。

この 20 年間 JOCV ボランティアの人達はスリランカの社会経済の発展に多大な貢献をしてきました。彼らの活動が無償資金協力による NYSC センターの設立や、小規模無償によるクルネーガラモデル幼稚園・幼稚園教諭養成校の設置につながったことは特筆に値するものです。

他にも、農村・都市コミュニティ開発、障害者支援、IT、スポーツ、日本語教育、西洋音楽、保健医療などの分野において JOCV の功績を見ることができます。

日本政府が実施する 2 国間技術協力の中核である JOCV プログラムはスリランカの人造りに偉大な貢献をしてきた。スリランカ JOCV の活動はスリランカ一般国民によって高く評価されており、その恩恵は次世代へと引き継がれて行くでしょう。

過去 20 年に渡り、あらゆる分野において草の根レベルで活動する 532 人もの JOCV を派遣して頂いた日本政府に感謝します。

Message from T. Sugihara Resident Representative of JICA Sri Lanka Office

The dispatch of JOCV members to Sri Lanka commenced in 1981. The first batch of JOCV members was made up of three volunteers who specialized in the fields of vegetable growing, handicrafts, and bamboo craft. By March 2001, the total number of JOCV members dispatched to the country stood at 532. During the past twenty years, there was a period in which the number of JOCV members exceeded 100. However, due to the adverse security situation in the country that prevailed during certain periods, the number of JOCV members present in the country was reduced to around 30.

The 532 JOCV members who have contributed towards various development activities have covered a wide range of fields from agriculture, fishery and forestry to education and culture. These volunteers, after returning to Japan with the valuable experience gathered in Sri Lanka, have become catalysts in the development process of their country.

Although it is difficult to carry out a quantitative assessment of work carried out by JOCV members, it is certain that they have constructively contributed towards development in both Sri Lanka and Japan. The smooth implementation of the JOCV programme during the last 20 years could be considered a great achievement.

The dispatch of JOCV members to Sri Lanka continued even after ethnic violence erupted in July 1983. The continuation of the JOCV Programme was possible by reducing the range of the distance to which JOCV members were dispatched and by introducing mobile communication equipment.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all staff members who were engaged in this endeavor.

The dispatch of 532 JOCV members to Sri Lanka would not have been realized if not for the support and cooperation of the many who were involved in the implementation of this Programme. Among those who provided such cooperation, and to whom I would like to extend my gratitude are the parents of the JOCV members' counterparts, officials of the Government of Sri Lanka, and the coordinators of the JOCV Programme at JICA Office.

The performance of JOCV during the last twenty years is the result of the joint efforts made by a large number of people involved in the implementation of this Programme.

I take this opportunity to thank you very much for the cooperation extended to me, and look forward to your continued cooperation in future.

JICAスリランカ事務所所長よりのメッセージ

1981年4月に野菜、手工芸、竹工芸の3名の隊員がスリランカに派遣されて以来、2001年3月までの20年間に532名の隊員がスリランカで活動を展開しました。この間、活動中の隊員数が100名を超える時期もありましたが、治安状況の悪化により30名前後まで低下した時期もありました。

この532名は、農林水産や教育文化等の分野でスリランカの国の発展のために貢献すると同時に、帰国後は、スリランカでの経験をベースに日本社会に様々な影響を与える存在になっています。それらは、双方の国にとってどの程度のものであったのか定量的に示すことは不可能ですが、極めて大きな成果であったことは間違いありません。スリランカにおける20年間の協力隊事業の重みを感じる次第です。

スリランカにおける協力隊員の派遣事業は、民族紛争が顕在化し、戦闘が激化した1983年7月以降も続けられてきました。隊員の任地の限定、緊急時の連絡体制の強化等の措置を講ずることにより、派遣を継続してきました。関係者の熱意と努力に心より敬意を表したい。

532名の隊員の活動が可能となった背景には、様々な人々の理解と協力があったからに他なりません。まずご両親、そしてカウンターパートの人達、スリランカ側関係者、ボランティア調整員等々。スリランカにおけるこの20年間の協力隊事業も、実に大勢の人々に支えられ実現したものです。皆様、本当にありがとうございました。そして、これからもご支援をよろしくお願いします。