



## The Project of Strengthening of Local Health System in the Province of Benguet

In April 2006, the Province of Benguet in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency launched a 5- year health project in Benguet. The Project aims to achieve five (5) outputs, 1-To establish support system of providing health service with better quality by RHU, 2-To strengthen health governance capability of the province, 3-To strengthen the financial system of health care of the province, 4-To review drug supply system, 5-To share the lessons and outputs of the project with DOH and other provinces.

First, Technical Working Group (TWG) was formed. Members are; Municipal Health Officers (MHOs) of 13 municipalities, Chief of hospitals, PhilHealth, NEDA, DOH representative Provincial Health Officers (PHOs), and JICA Expert team. Kick-off meeting was held in April, second meeting in May, and third meeting recently held in August.



TWG meeting is going to take place periodically for next five years, to formulate project activity plans, to monitor the progress of implementation, and to exchange/share opinions and experience among members.

TWG is subdivided by four Interlocal HealthZones :BLIISTT, Atok, Kapangan-Kibungan, and Bokod- Kabayan. These Interlocal Health Zones will play key roles in planning, implementing and monitoring the project activities, and JICA Expert team will technically and financially assist their activities including various kinds of trainings.

Professor Toby\*, What is Interlocal Health Zone??

This year, as the initial stage of the Project, Baseline Survey was conducted to accurately assess the situation of the medical/health status of the Province.



The results were presented at the third TWG meeting in August and will be taken into consideration when each Interlocal Health Zone comes up with its health plans with own priority to achieve Project Outputs. In November, each Interlocal Health Zone is going to present more specific and detailed plans about how they are going to implement the activities. Then the implementation phase will begin!!!!

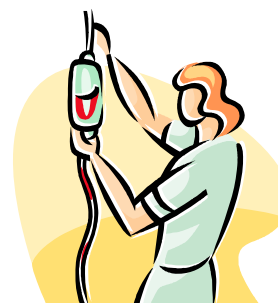
A big progress is already being made. For Output 1, to bring about better health service at RHUs, JICA is now on the process of procuring medical equipment necessary for SS certification and PhilHealth accreditation. So, shortly, medical equipment according to each RHU's needs will be provided by JICA and RHUs will be better equipped for community people.

It is to share the resources among municipalities in the zone, for more effective and better health services!!  
Ask me anything!!

JICA is also funding a training in Japan. From the second year of the Project, a couple of qualified trainees will be selected each year for this great training opportunity. Next TWG meeting in November will start preparing the training program, soon followed by selecting candidates.



**A Plan is to Implement !!**



\* Prof. Toby: Mr. Makoto Tobe, a JICA expert with Yale University's MPH degree. His hobby is to work, successfully maintaining marital- status ABSOLUTELY SINGLE.