

## OVOP News Letter *One Village, One Product*

Oita OVOP International Exchange Promotion Committee, JAPAN

### <Visitors in January>

#### Minister of Finance, Malawi (20th)

Mr. Ken Edward Kandodo, Minister of Finance, invited by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Oita. They observed Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific Univ. and a bamboo handicraft studio in Beppu City, and had a lecture on OVOP by President Hiramatsu. They exchanged opinions on financing system for OVOP producers in Malawi.



#### JICA program for Iran on management of forest (21st)

We received a delegation from Iran for the first time, only 4 people though. They visited Japan to learn the management of forest, since they are government officials on the field. Before we ask, the leader of the delegation explained the reason why they requested to visit Oita that they have been interested in OVOP and would like to learn it. Here is the leader's story.

“Almost 100 % of forest in Iran is national forest. 8 million people, 12 % of the total population, live in the forest area.

Since all forest belongs to the national government, there is no forestry family that earn their living from forestry industry. As they promote the administration on the raising, management and preservation of forest, they came up with an idea that **to protect the life of people living in forest area is to preserve the forest**. Most of the people in forest area are poor. So they have been paying attention to OVOP that aims to increase income and to improve the quality of life in rural area.



#### JICA program for Malawi on development of community (26th)

Through a JICA program. 10 people from Ministry of Development, Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Finance and Office of President. They had a lecture on OVOP and visited Oyama Agricultural cooperative and a bamboo handicraft museum in Beppu City.

### JICA program for Colombia on OVOP (31st)

Through a JICA program, 15 OVOP producers in Colombia had a lecture on OVOP. They are the representatives of OVOP producers that had a good reputation at an OVOP competition in Colombia. They spent 2 weeks to learn



### JICA program for Turkey on management of forest (31st)

We received again a delegation that visited Japan to learn the management of forest. 98% of forest in Turkey is national forest, same as Iran. The problems on the management and preservation of forest in Turkey seem more serious than Iran. Of course there are people living in



the forest area in both countries. There are also nomads in Turkey and leave their sheep and goats in the forest as meadow. These animals eat not only grasses but also new buds. They have been making their living, since prehistoric time, by moving for grazing lands for summer and winter, and they seem to move over a wide area. The delegation members would like to let nomads live in one place by introducing OVOP.

## Information of February

### <Visitors>

- 2日 JICA program for Central Asia, 9 people
- 14日 JICA program for Africa on local administration, 15 people
-  14日 Shanxi Province, China, 12 people
-  16日 Thammasat University, Thailand, 38 people
-  17日 Chongqing City, China, 4 people
-  23日 Henan Province, China, 18 people
-  24日 Burapha University, Thailand, 49 people