

JICA project seeks to reduce water loss percentage

NAGOYA - The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will start implementing a nationwide project mid-2011 that will significantly reduce the water loss percentage in the Kingdom, according to a Jordanian water official.

The project, fully funded by JICA, entails the replacement of domestic water connections across the country, Qasem Ahmad Ababneh, non-revenue water department director at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, said in an interview with The Jordan Times earlier this week during a visit to the Nagoya Waterworks Bureau in Japan.

“When it comes to the water sector in Jordan, Japan has implemented a series of very important projects and this project is really needed in the Kingdom as the majority of water connections in houses are installed incorrectly and thus contribute to water loss in the Kingdom,” he said.

According to Ababneh, who is participating in a training course on non-revenue water management arranged by JICA Chubu, water loss in the Kingdom currently stands at an average of 43 per cent, while in Zarqa Governorate it reaches 47 per cent.

“The project, which will start in the central region in the Kingdom and gradually extend to cover the northern and southern regions, entails replacing worn out water connections in houses,” he said, noting that the project will support the country’s strategy to reduce water loss by 2 per cent every year.

A group of Jordanian water experts and technicians have already received training in Japan, and they are currently training other experts and contractors who will implement the project, according to Ababneh.

The project is expected to start in June, he said.

Meanwhile, the official said JICA is working on the implementation of several awareness campaigns to reduce water loss in the Kingdom, especially in Zarqa.

He added that a series of JICA-funded projects that seek to enhance the water supply in the Kingdom are already in the pipeline for next year.

“JICA is the top supporter for Jordan when it comes to the water sector. With their help, we significantly reduced the water loss percentage across the country and their support through projects and training is very significant for us,” Ababneh said in the interview.