

JICA RWANDA News

APRIL - JUNE 2019 • NUMBER 39 • KIGALI

“ODA to Catalyze Private Investment for Attainment of SDGs” the JICA Senior Vice President at the Presentation of the SDGs Three-Year Progress Report

INSIDE PAGES



JICA Senior Vice President Hiroshi KATO delivering the key note.

From the 12th to 14th, June 2019, a continental conference organized by the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) was held in Kigali. Delegates from Global, Regional and National bodies discussed progress towards achieving SDGs in Africa.

Preceded by two pre-conferences, the main conference on June 14 was graced with presence of H.E Paul KAGAME, President of Rwanda; H.E Edgar C. LUNGU, President of the Republic of Zambia; H.E Jewel Cianeh Howard TAYLOR, Vice President of the Republic of Liberia and H.E Moussa Faki MAHAMAT, Chairperson, African Union Commission and representative of development partners including JICA

Senior Vice President, Mr. Hiroshi KATO.

The Leaders oversaw the Launch of SDGC/A “Africa SDGs three-year reality check Africa report” and held a panel discussion on a three-year journey of SDGs implementation in Africa since their adoption in 2015.

As he was commenting on the steps made by African countries Dr. Belay BEGASHAW, the Director General of SDGC/A, stated, “African countries will need to raise over \$500 billion in additional funding every year to achieve their SDGs by 2030.” “SDGs are very ambitious projects and the funding gap is very high,” Dr. BEGASHAW commented on the report’s findings.

The SDGC/A estimates that a large financing gap, between \$500 billion to \$1.2 trillion every year, is

derailing SDGs implementation in Africa. African Countries should step up mobilization of domestic resources as well as private capital by utilizing a wide range of available innovative financing instruments.

JICA Senior Vice President Mr. KATO clarified how SDGs are not incompatible with ODA (Official Development Assistance) from the preliminaries to their realization “As a representative of an ODA organization, ODA is now changing. If I may talk about my case; Japanese ODA is certainly changing in such way that more resources will be mobilized for the creation or forming the private public partnerships though we continue to engage in conventional government to government type of projects”. He also explained, “Since the private sector would not easily find interests in remotest areas or poorest areas, ODA provider and private sector will form a new type of collaboration.”

JICA has collaborated with the SDGC/A since its early stage in 2016. Under the framework signed Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in 2017, JICA has been one of the key partners cooperating on a variety of activities (most recently two surveys on higher education and nutrition status in Africa) as well as providing kind cooperation. ●

Universal Health Coverage Is a Nation Building Issue” Says Dr. Toda, JICA Vice President



Dr. Takao TODA

JICA Exploring the Potential of Coffee Tourism Promotion in Rwanda



JICA coffee expert Mr. Jose KAWASHIMA

Meet the Staff



Mr. Mikio MASAKI

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“Universal Health Coverage Is a Nation Building Issue” Says Dr. Toda, JICA Vice President



Vice President for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr. Takao TODA speaking about “Unlocking the Potential of Digital Healthcare in Africa”.

The fifth edition of “Transform Africa Summit (TAS)” took place from the 14th to 17th May 2019 with the theme “Boosting Africa’s Digital Economy”. The event is a high-level platform for discussing the strategic role of ICT for the rapid transformation of Africa. It was a unique opportunity to discuss the way forward to achieving digital revolutions and displaying fruits of previous TAS agreements and a platform through which Japanese Tech Companies and institutions exhibited their latest technologies.

JICA Vice President Dr. TODA Takao who spoke about Universal Health Coverage(UHC) at “Unlocking the Potential of Digital Healthcare in Africa” stated that contrary to pessimists, he strongly believes in achieving digital healthcare in Africa. For him, Africa might not have big financial means but can count on using the available technologies to find solutions to current health issues in an effective way. He mentioned examples of countries that have been using health applications in smartphones and other smart devices, including feature

phone to curtail plagues and improve quality services in the region and in South East Asia.

Dr. TODA reminded the audience “Universal Health Coverage is not a health issue as many perceive it but a nation building issue”. He made this declaration in a session that was co-organized by Imbuto foundation and Babylon Health. He emphasized that because health is among the sectors that have been lagging behind in terms of digitalization, ICT experts’ involvement is vital to achieving UHC.

Various officials from the Government of Japan and Japanese Private Sector attended Transform Africa Summit. Those include Honorable Katsuya WATANABE, the Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and Communication of Japan. He spoke about potential Japanese collaboration with Africa at “Policy Harmonization as A Tool for Bridging the Digital Gap in Africa”. Seventeen Japanese companies exhibited their most recent technologies at a Japan Pavilion.

Previously at TAS 2018, the University of Tokyo and its partners exhibited their space related services at the Japan Pavilion. As a result, they signed a MOU with the Government of Rwanda, which was to train Rwandan Engineers to build the first Rwandan Micro-Satellites. This partnership did not delay to yield and during the TAS2019, the trained Rwandan Engineers in collaboration with a team of Engineers from the University of Tokyo built a satellite named “JP-RWASAT 1”. The satellite brought vibrant curiosity and multiple questions to the summit participants. ●



The Associate Professor Dr. FUKUYO Takayoshi handing the Satellite to the Minister of ICT and Innovation

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JICA Exploring the Potential of Coffee Tourism Promotion in Rwanda

The low Global Market price of coffee remains problematic to farmers and coffee traders in Rwanda. However tough that goal seems to be, consumers from various countries still assert the Rwandan Coffee has enough potential to dig into the specialty coffee global market. In order to achieve stable high exporting prices of Rwandan coffee, there is one of the challenges the famous "Potato Taste Defect (PTD)". This has been the main discussion topics of the seminar organized on Wednesday, 24th April 2019 in Kigali, co-organized by JICA and NAEB to tailor Rwandan coffee quality to the global market demand.

During the seminar, Mr. Jose KAWASHIMA, a coffee expert from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), emphasized on potentiality of Rwanda coffee to compete on worldwide coffee market despite the smallholding nature of the sector. He referred to the similar case of El Salvador, smaller than Rwanda, which became the world's third largest producer in 1975. He also mentioned that to win not only Japanese market but also worldwide recognition and survive against other producers' competition, Rwandan coffee need to get rid-off PTD. It would be equally important to improve on standards and consistence in supply.



JICA coffee expert Mr. Jose KAWASHIMA

Reflecting on PTD in Rwandan Coffee, Mr. Eric RUGANINTWARI, a senior manager in NAEB stated, "The problem has manifested in exported coffee since the year 2001 where it was at the rate of 10% of the total production. Today, the PTD rate has been decreased at a rate of 5%. It has various side effect on the production," he acknowledged.

To support government and farmers effort to decrease PTD smell, CUP Rwanda, a three years project for coffee value chain improvement between JICA and NAEB has been tirelessly conducting countermeasure activities. Project frequently organize community work in coffee field to reduce the incidence of antestia bugs at farm level and introduced coffee bean sorting practices from collection centers all the way to the coffee washing station. ●

Meet New JICA Rwanda office staff

Mikio MASAKI arrived in Rwanda in end April 2019. At JICA Rwanda Office, he is a program advisor in Charge of Aid Coordination/Sustainable Development Goals Promotion. It is not his first time to work at JICA Rwanda since he was in charge of Agriculture from December 2016 as Program Advisor for Agriculture and Aid coordination (SDGs Center for Africa) and ABE initiative, the duties he accomplished in February 2018.

As he says, for him, it was a good news to come back to Rwanda. He liked the people and the country; that is why he came back. He said, "The country is safe and the people are gentle and the office environment is nice. I like Rwanda otherwise I could not have come back again."

Masaki does not see himself just as a JICA staff but goes beyond that "I am not necessarily into achieving only for JICA but all I

am interested in is how we could improve human resource development wherever I am offered that opportunity." He responded when was asked about what he would want to achieve in life.

Before coming to Rwanda, he was a lecturer at Hokkaido University in Japan. He also worked as an expert at the United Nations Centre for Regional Development for 4 years, (1991-1995), worked with different JICA overseas offices including Laos for 5 years (1998 - 2003) and Ghana for 3 years (2004 - 2007) as well as expert on aid coordination to Cambodia (2007-2009). ●



CALENDAR

JULY

JICA President Visit to Rwanda

ICT Sector Project: Closing Ceremony for ICT Human Resource Development

ICT Sector Project: Commencement of 250 Startups 3rd Batch

Welcoming 7 new volunteers

AUGUST

TICAD 7 in Yokohama, Japan

JICA Vice President Visit

Rwanda ICT Companies delegation to Japan.

Coffee Project: Golden Barista Championship

Future and JICA: Launch of the 1st Artificial Intelligence Training Course

ABE Initiative: Send- or the 6th Batch and SDGs Global Leadership

SEPTEMBER

ICT Project: 250 Startups 3rd Batch Graduation

Departure of 5 Volunteers

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Government Launches a Model Project to Sustain Irrigation Scheme

The New Times
12th May 2019

Japan donates \$ 270 thousand to assist Mahama Camp Refugees

Igihe
13th June 2019

African Leaders Propose New Financing Options for SDGs

The New Times
14th June 2019

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A Five Years JICA Project to Improve Irrigation Water Management Launched

Since a decade ago, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) and its partners have been largely investing in irrigation infrastructures, to increase the productivity of key crops such as rice, horticulture, maize etc. However, the utilization and management of those infrastructures, still remains as an issue on the ground. Farmers' low skills in operation and maintenance (O&M) of those infrastructures, in water and farm management have been obstacles to attain the desired productivity and production. Sustainability and return of investment are not assured. It is in this context that the GoR has requested the Government of Japan through JICA, a project to strengthen farmer's capacity in O&M as well as water and farm management.

To respond to the above request, on 8 May 2019, a five-year project officially



JICA and RAB officials in the JCC.

kicked off during its first Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) organized by Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), which is the counterpart organization, project experts and JICA. This project entitled "Project for Water Management and Capacity Building of Water Users Organizations in the Republic of Rwanda" (WAMCAB).

The project will be implemented in Ngoma and Rwamagana Districts, where exist JICA's Grant Aid projects sites as well as some irrigation sites established through the government funds in Gisagara District. It will enhance the Irrigation Water Users Organization (IWUO)'s capacity in proper O&M. Furthermore, the project will strengthen RAB and District officers' capacity in terms of Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) procedures and of supporting farmers by their own means.

The project aims to build a model case in the country in the above particular field, so that the lessons learned will be expanded country-wide in the future. The project period is from 2019 to 2024. ●

Volunteering Corner

Connecting People through Coffee, my Volunteering Activity in Rwanda



Yuki TAMADA(right) presenting her leaving report to JICA officials and partners.

Muraho. Nitwa Yuki TAMADA am an ex-volunteer in Karenghe sector, Rwamagana district. Almost 3 months have passed since I left Rwanda. I was a volunteer in coffee sector. The time I spent in Karenghe sector as a volunteer was valuable and unforgettable. This volunteering experience was based on the connection with local people in Karenghe.

Through my main volunteering activity with Urungano Karenghe (women's cooperative) and a private company named Green Mountain Arabica Coffee

(GMAC), I saw the importance of connecting people via coffee.

The members of Urungano Karenghe make great bags with using local materials like banana leaves, while GMAC owns coffee washing station and promotes roasted Karenghe coffee.

I was always striving to connecting people and even organizations because it can help people develop new projects. I tried connecting them to collaborate for the promotion of KARENGE coffee using Urungano Karenghe's bags as package.

Thanks to my friend's effort, we exhibited our coffee and bags in Kigali three times and we introduced our products to EU ambassador. I think we could not have done without our collaboration.

This great experience taught me the importance of connecting with people and it will be my core values in my life. I am thankful that I got to have the opportunity of volunteering in Rwanda, and I want to thank everyone who was supportive. Murakoze cyane. ●

Contact Us

JICA RWANDA News is a quarterly newsletter, which focuses on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details the work of JICA in Rwanda.

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JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency providing various forms of assistance in over 150 countries around the world.