



Press Release

November 13th, 2019

Experts From Regional Countries Gather In Kigali To Share Insights, Techniques, And Strategies For Building Resilient Urban Water Systems.

From 12-15th November, 2019- On African continent, Rwanda will host the 1st edition of the Regional Executive Forum (REF) on Urban Water Supply at Ubumwe Hotel in Kigali. The forum is organised by the Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) in collaboration with Rwanda's Water and Sanitation Corporation Limited (WASAC Ltd) under the theme “*the Enhancement of Sustainability of Urban Water Services in Sub-Saharan Region of Africa*”

The high-profile forum brings together water utility heads, sector professionals from industry, government, private sector and non-governmental organizations to share ideas and resources, and propose innovative solutions. The heads of water utilities from eight countries namely, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda (host), , Tanzania, South Africa, Sudan, and Zambia, will meet and form a distinct network that will enable them share knowledge and experience regularly.

The forum will be officiated by Honourable Claver Gatete, the Minister of Infrastructure; who believes that, it is the right time for the sector practitioners embark on finding tangible solutions to address a combination of issues including old water infrastructure, high non-revenue water, inefficient water supply and usage, and a general lack of consumer consciousness about water conservation in cities. This is because all water utilities across the continent are already struggling to meet existing consumer demand, noted Minister.

Dr. Shigeyuki Matsumoto, the Deputy Director General and Group Director For Water Resources, Global Environment Department at JICA will present Asian experiences of utility management in order for the African utilities to replicate the same model or reverse to other models if not applicable.



During this gathering, the discussions will focus on key elements including but not limited; financing, capacity development, non-revenue water reduction, technology among others. The panels will explore every aspect of urban water systems, from diplomacy and management, to water markets, technology as well as engineering strategies, in an effort to engage participants in the various aspects of the problem space and explore solutions.

Also, the participants will conduct a site visit to Kanzenze Water Treatment Plant, a PPP project under development with the capacity of 40,000 cubic meters per day. Of these, 30,000 will be supplied to the City of Kigali, whereas 10,000 cubic meters per day will be supplied to the urban areas of Bugesera district. The field study will give a practical experience to the participants on Rwanda's perspective.

Kanzenze project is one of the mega projects expected to increase access to improved sources of drinking water from 87.4% to 100%, at the same time improved sanitation from 86.2% to 100% by 2024(EICV5).

As stipulated in the International Water Association Report (IWA,2017), safe water supply to the urban leads to the reduction of diseases, and is a very important element of human security, protecting people from threats to their survival, and fostering the social economic development of daily livelihood of urban populations. In the same report, nearly 50 % of the current global population lives in cities. By 2050, that number is predicted to rise to 70 %. What's more, global urbanization trends and corresponding increases in consumption associated with rising incomes are resulting in a growing demand for potable water.

In this case, the sector stakeholders are expected to forge partnerships in policy formulation, adoption, planning and knowledge sharing with the goal to achieve the SDGs (Goal No. 6) by 2030, so as to fill 40 % gap between water supply and demand. END



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