

# JICA RWANDA News

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019 • NUMBER 41 • KIGALI

## EXECUTIVE FORUM: “Water Family” Converges in Kigali for Better Services



Photos of Regional Executive Forum on Urban Water Supply in the City Of Kigali

From 13 to 14 November, 2019 in Kigali City, “Regional Executive Forum on Urban Water Supply” was held by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in partnership with Water and Sanitation Corporation Limited (WASAC).

The theme was “The Enhancement of Sustainability of Urban Water Services in Sub-Saharan Region of Africa”. This was the first forum organized by JICA in Africa on urban water supply, where executives from urban water supply utilities from eight sub-Saharan countries: Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia gathered. Topics covering from engineering aspect to financial management aspect were discussed during the 2 days, which included presentations from all the countries and thematic group discussions.

Dr. MATSUMOTO Shigeyuki, the Deputy Director General, and Group Director for Water Resources, Global Environment Department at JICA Headquarter explained the practices and lessons learned from more than half a century experience of partnership between JICA and Asian countries. He highlighted that sustainable water supply depends on a good management and on financial sustainability. In the presentation, he broke down the key elements for sustainable water supply into “Tariff setting”, “Efficiency”, and “Finance”. He also emphasized that through creating forum, a platform was elaborated to bring an impact in Asian countries in urban water supply sector. Adoption of Asian experience into African context will bring a huge impact on sustainable utility management, which will contribute, to building better water supply services.

Ms. Patricie UWASE, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Infrastructures thanked the cooperation

between Japan and Rwanda in water and other sectors and expressed her expectation for participants to come up with tangible recommendations on how to improve urban water supply through sharing lessons learned and experience. Ms. HOTTA Yuko, Charge d’Affaire, the Embassy of Japan emphasized the importance to meet and share learned experiences in order to achieve SDGs Goal No. 6.

CEOs of water utilities from each country discussed deeply on major challenges that respective countries face. They shared their achievements and lessons learned and agreed that the key to improve water supply services is upon the management to take right decisions based on shared regional experiences. All participants committed to provide good water supply service for the welfare of their population.●

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## Improving Education Via Changing Teaching Practice

Improving teachers' lesson delivery skills is essential for quality education, "The Project for Supporting Institutionalizing and Improving Quality of School-Based In-service Activity" (SIIQS) provided invaluable support in that domain through policy and school level activities since 2017.

The closing seminar held on November 28, 2019 marked the end of its implementation. Participants from across the country including Dr. Irene NDAYAMBAJE, the Director General of Rwanda Education Board (REB) and Mr. MARUO Shin, JICA Rwanda Chief Representative as well

as education officials reviewed the projects' achievements and discussed the future of teachers' continuous professional development.

SIIQS improved the quality of lesson plans and teachers' lesson facilitation skills, and more importantly, students' academic achievement also improved at pilot schools.

In his closing presentation, Mr. SUGIYAMA Ryuichi Chief Advisor of SIIQS advised that more direct intervention into classroom practice through training on pedagogy and subject content knowledge would be

crucial two support teachers in their effort at delivering quality lessons. ●



*Education Officials discussing lesson Study during a lesson preparation session*

## A Market Oriented Agriculture Project Reaches Its Completion, MINAGRI Recommends Ownership.



*RAB officers practicing market survey training as the first and important step in the market oriented agriculture approach disseminated by SMAP project Ntunga Market Rwamagana District.*

September 19, 2019, the Smallholder Market Oriented Agriculture (SMAP)

Project organized a completion seminar, to share project results over past 5 years disseminating market oriented agriculture approach. The seminar was graced by the presence of H.E Ambassador of Japan in Rwanda, The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, officials from JICA, RAB, Districts and farmers representatives.

Market-oriented agriculture has been SMAP key driving message in transforming lives of 22,036 horticulture farmers and 8,925 rice farmers, beneficiary of SMAP project. Moreo-

ver, RAB has created RAB SMAP initiative to scale up this experience to more farmers. In the seminar, project handed over to RAB training material named "Market - oriented Agriculture Extension Package", (MAEP).

Mr. Jean Claude MUSABYIMANA, PS of MINAGRI appreciated Japanese Government support to Rwanda in agriculture and H. E. MIYASHITA Takayuki, Former Ambassador of Japan to Rwanda commended the ownership of project by Government of Rwanda. ●

## RWASOM: Bringing a Sustainable Mindset to Rural Water Management

The closing seminar for the Project for Strengthening Operation and Maintenance for Rural Water Supply Systems in Rwanda (RWASOM Project) was held on 20 November 2019, in the City of Kigali gathering governmental institutions, development and implementing partners and representatives from 4 piloting districts in eastern province (Kayanza, Kirehe, Ngoma and Rwamagana). RWASOM project emphasized and mainstreamed the importance of sustainable maintenance of rural water supply systems and was implemented for 5 years (2014-19) through WASAC. The project has developed 11

national guidelines and manuals for sustainable rural water supply management. In addition, the project provided several trainings to district support engineers and private operators, and enhanced the knowledge and capacity of key partners on managing the water supply facilities at the ground. For monitoring and preventive planning terms, the project developed a mapping tool of Geographic Information System for rural water supply systems where all water facilities were mapped. ●



*A private operator technician trained by RWASOM project making a demonstration of water quality test to JICA officials and local resident.*

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## A Trip to Colombia: “Lessons and Suggestions for Improving Coffee Value Chain in Rwanda”

JICA Rwanda through Coffee Upgrade and Promotion Project (CUP) has been aligning the National Agriculture Export Board (NAEB) vision through strengthening coffee value chain to become competitive in international market. It is in this framework that among other project components, CUP has been organizing coffee study tours to provide an opportunity to key stakeholders to learn from advanced countries.



*A Colombian farmers explaining to some members of Rwandan delegation good agriculture practices including banana coffee intercropping.*

In November, 2019 a team of 15 people led by coffee expert, Mr. Jose KAWASHIMA including representatives of coffee farmers, NAEB leaders, and CUP staff visited The Republic of Colombia to learn from their coffee industry. In order to share lessons learnt, back in Rwanda, CUP organized a seminar inviting the wider coffee stakeholders on November 29. Amongst findings of the team is the role of farmer’s organization in coordinating the sector instead of relying on government support. The FNC (Federacion Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia), farmer’s agency dedicated to the coffee farmers management play a pivotal role in coordinating the coffee industry out

there. The fact that the members of FNC has access to every single information regarding coffee farmers registered in a Smart Card, make easier coffee service delivery.

In Colombia, local coffee consumption, which is currently at the level of 30 % and improved branding, has also been insightful for the team and seminar attendance. This tour and seminar has been successfully in inspiring participants to revisit their practices specifically on improving quality, reducing production cost and increasing productivity. The overall take-home message from the participants of Colombia study tour is “Coffee is Money in Colombia”, why not in Rwanda? ●

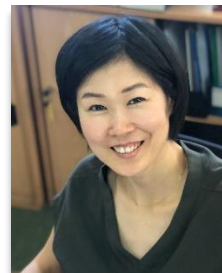
## Meet JICA Rwanda office New Staff

**M**s. NISHIGORI Satoko joined JICA Rwanda in September 2019 as Africa regional program advisor for private sector partnership. She previously worked for Japanese private companies as well as at JICA Rwanda as

program advisor for economic infrastructure program for 3 years from 2011 to 2014.

Having different roles this time, she looks forward to contributing to sustainable development in Rwanda by facilitating collaboration between Rwanda and Japan for business development. “I am very happy to come back to Rwanda and to see great changes such as newly constructed roads, new convention center, new

hotels and new ICT service,” she said enthusiastically. ●



**M**s. SHIBATA Rieko arrived in Rwanda in October 2019, as a new Program Advisor for Agriculture, JICA Rwanda Office. She has worked in the field of rural and livelihood development in East Africa and South America for the last 20 years. “It has been always my passion to support rural communities in these regions” she stated.

Shibata said she feels privileged to have this opportunity to work in this important sector in Rwanda, “as nothing can be possible elsewhere if it is not possible in Rwanda!”. In Rwanda, JICA supports high-value agriculture and food and nutrition security via a number of innovative projects. ●

## CALENDAR

### January

**JOCV Sector:** Arrival of 8 Volunteers (06/01/2020)

**ICT Sector:** Girls in ICT Mentor-mentee Get Together (24/01/2020)

**Agriculture Sector:** Development of National Rice Development strategy 28-31/01/2020

### February

**ICT Sector:** Business Tour for Japanese Private Company to Rwanda (2-8/02/2020)

**ICT Sector:** 250 Startup 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort Graduation Ceremony (04/02/2020)

**ICT Sector:** Media Briefing on ICT Sector (06/01/2020)

### March

**JOCV Sector:** Departure of 8 Volunteers (24/04/2020)

**Education Sector:** Rwanda-Japan Center Launch (16-19/03/2020)

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

*10 Fresh Deals Signed Between Rwanda and Japanese Tech Companies*

**The New Times**  
9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

*Kigali Hosts Regional Water Supply Forum*

**The New Times**  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

*Young Rwandans Graduate from Artificial Intelligence Course –*

**KT Press**  
29<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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## Rwandan Students Trained to Become AI Experts

**F**uture Corporation, one of the leading IT consulting firms in Japan engaged in a feasibility study titled: “Business model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Offshoring by AI(Artificial Intelligence) Engineers Trained online”, under JICA’s Private Sector Partnership Program, in response to the growing gaps between demands and supply of AI experts globally.

The study aimed to assess the potential of online training for AI engineers in Rwanda, by leveraging the expertise of Future Corporation in the ICT and AI, which eventually would contribute to further development of the ICT sector in Rwanda.

With assistance from ICT Chamber, six Rwandan trainees from Centre of Excellence in Data Science and Internet of Things (IoT), the University of Rwanda, were trained for 4 months. Online training was provided in collaboration with 2 ABE Initiative alumni currently doing Ph.D. at Japanese universities.

The trainees successfully completed the courses including the fundamentals of AI such as machine learning, deep learning and practical hands-on training, such as on coding.



*Ms. Claudette IRERE the PS-MINICT (Sitting in the middle), Ms. Hotta Yuko (3<sup>rd</sup> right), Charge d’Affairs, the Embassy of Japan, Mr. MARUO Shin (3<sup>rd</sup> left), The Chief Representative of JICA, Mr. OKUMURA Shigejumi (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), the Director of Future Corporation, together with the trainees(all standing) and Future officials at the completion ceremony.*

In the completion ceremony, Ms. Claudette IRERE, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT and Innovation said; “We set rules, regulations and policies regarding the sector but we need more actions. We are, therefore, committed to making more of these kind of cooperation happening.”

One of the trainees, Ms. Olivia RUTAYISIRE said; “It is a very good opportunity for us. With this helpful training, we will train our colleagues so that we find the solutions to the challenges, which our country

is facing. Our skills can be applied in agriculture, health, trade and so forth”

JICA believes this collaboration has contributed and will continue to develop highly skilled human resources of Rwanda towards socio-economic development and will further strengthen the relationship between Rwanda and Japan. ●

## Partnership with Japanese Private Sector to Reduce Lightning Damages in Rwanda

**F**rom October 2017 to September 2018, OTOWA Electronics Co, Ltd; which is a Japanese leading company in lightning protection conducted a research on the lightning protection in Rwanda. That study confirmed that lightning damages on key infrastructure of ICT industry such as telecommunication towers is a serious issue in Rwanda. Therefore, OTOWA developed a further a plan in order to verify the effectiveness of its technology and disseminate its lightning protection technology in the country under the partnership with JICA.

It is in that frame that on October, 9th 2019 Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), OTOWA Electronics Co .Ltd and JICA signed an agreement after which they launched a joint collaboration with the following objectives:

(1) To verify the effectiveness of OTOWA’s lightning protection technology in Rwanda by installing its products in RURA’s target sites,

- (2) To transfer necessary skills to the key staffs/personnel in Rwanda and establish the system of installation, operation and maintenance of OTOWA’s lightning protection solutions in each target site,
- (3) To contribute to improving policies, regulations and standards of lightning protection in Rwanda by sharing the verification result at the target sites with RURA and other stakeholders,
- (4) To disseminate information and knowledge of lightning protection technology in both public and private sectors in Rwanda.

Through the strong partnership with RURA, the technology and the knowledge of OTOWA, have great potential to strengthen the ICT Infrastructure against lightning strikes on facilities and contribute to regulatory/policy framework, which eventually contribute to the continuous development of the ICT sector in Rwanda.●

## 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.

### Editors:

Mr. Koji Nakashima, PR Manager  
Mr. Aimable Uwimana, PR Officer

### JICA RWANDA

EBENEZER HOUSE, Umuganda  
Boulevard, Kigali, Rwanda  
Tel 0788301732/31/23

### <Website>

<http://www.jica.go.jp/rwanda/english/>

### <Facebook>

<http://www.facebook.com/jicarwandaen/>

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