

Higher Education for Industrialization in Africa

— The Experiences of E-JUST & JKUAT and Beyond —



Discussing Higher Education for Industrialization in Africa

On 31 May, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a seminar titled “Higher Education for Industrialization in Africa” with a collaboration of the Embassy of Egypt in Japan, at JICA Yokohama.

One of the objectives of the seminar was to exchange thoughts and opinions among the participants to identify and overcome challenges in developing science and technology in Africa. Another aim was to discuss what kind of knowledge and experiences are demanded in today’s Higher Education in Africa. By observing cases of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and Egypt-Japan University of Technology (E-JUST), the participants considered and exchanged ideas of how to broaden and deepen such knowledge through expanding networks.

In the Keynote Speech, Kiyoshi Okada, Vice President, Tokyo Institute of Technology, introduced the educational principle of Tokyo Institute of Technology; that is innovative education systems designed to highly motivate students to stimulate their creativity. At the end of his speech, he expressed his wish for the African student to have extended opportunities to come and study at their University.

The next speaker Ahmed Khairy, President of E-JUST, gave a presentation regarding the backgrounds and key concepts of E-JUST along with some examples of their collaborations with private enterprises. He emphasized E-JUST’s high capability in contributing to the development of Africa.

In the last presentation, Mabel Imbuga, Vice Chancellor of JKUAT, shared a successful example of collaboration between a university and a private sector, as in “Oishii Project” with JKUAT and Nissin Food Corporation. She mentioned that JKUAT thrives to continue working in forming partnerships with private sectors, in order to benefit the local community.

In the second half of the seminar, a panel discussion titled “Higher Education for Industrialization in Africa - Experiences and Challenges in Building Quality Education in Science and Technology” was conducted, with Manabu Tsunoda, Senior Advisor to JICA(Higher Education) as a moderator and five panelists who take significant roles in connecting education and industrialization in Kenya, Egypt, and Japan. First, Shigeaki Yoshikawa, Vice President of the Mitsubishi Corporation, described what the private sectors are capable of contributing to enhance quality higher education as he stated their own examples such as provision of scholarship grant and training programs.

Then, Mohamed Samir Hamza, First Under-Secretary of State from Ministry of Higher Education in Egypt, shared his opinions in regards to the importance of collaborations between university and industry, and the government's role as a catalyst to advance the process. He also mentioned that E-JUST and JKUAT are two successful examples of such partnerships, and that the Ministry of Higher Education in Egypt will fully continue its supports for the E-JUST.

As a result of the seminar, participants reconfirmed the significance in strengthening partnerships among universities, private and public sectors, as well as collaborations among other higher education facilities with a global point of view. As seen in the cases of E-JUST and JKUAT, JICA hopes such linkages and partnerships will extend and deepen in a wide range of African nations to generate further developments.

■ Participants:

- Kiyoshi Kodera, Vice President, JICA
- Ibrahim Ali Hassan, Senior Advisor for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Egypt
- Benson Henry Ouma Ogutu, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya
- Kiyoshi Okada, Vice President, Tokyo Institute of Technology
- Ahmed Khairy, President, E-JUST
- Mabel Imbuga, Vice Chancellor, JKUAT
- Manabu Tsunoda, Senior Advisor (Higher Education), JICA
- Mohamed Samir Hamza, First Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Higher Education- Egypt
- Katsuhiko Shirai, Executive Advisor for Academic Affairs, Former President, Waseda University
- Shigeaki Yoshikawa, Executive Vice President, Regional CEO, Middle East & Central Asia, Mitsubishi Corporation
- Mohamed E. El-Sharkawi, Head of Cultural Office, Embassy of Japan