

Annual Report 2010

When not in the field, she is at her office at the DSDO.

The highlights of her activities started with 11 groups but her work has attracted many more groups who come for advice and information sharing.

It Shall No Longer be all Work and No Play

For Kubukubu Memorial Boarding Primary School in Runyenjes, Embu District, a playing field, let alone playing equipment was a mirage. The school compound was a littered mess and there were no proper guidelines for Physical Education (PE). Then came Mr. Yasuhiro Nishimura, a Japanese volunteer currently a teacher at the school. Together with his pupils, Mr. Nishimura cleaned up the compound and paved way for a playing field at the school. They even went further to make a volleyball pitch. Mr. Nishimura sought donations from the Japanese people for balls through such initiatives as (Smile for All Program (JICA), Join the Team! Project (SONY) etc. These initiatives gather sporting items from schools, clubs and private companies in Japan from people who are willing to support children.

'Many volunteers are devoting themselves to support the younger generations. They work in primary and secondary schools, rehabilitation schools, and other institutes. Interacting with Japanese volunteers, children come to know alternative culture, which would lead them to a gateway for the global world.'

The children were very glad to receive the balls, and decided to send their gratitude through greeting cards that had pictures of their smiling faces. There is now constant exchange of mail between the children and the donors.

To entrench the importance of PE, Mr. Nishimura designed attractive programs, where children can achieve their physical and mental growth. He says it is very important for children to develop discipline in games, keeping rules and teamwork, which by extension translates to the way a child develops in other areas of life. Children learn how to control their body and mind and will gain joy and self-confidence through their efforts to achieve goals and points.

Teaching Automobile in Technical Schools

Japan is reknown for her expertise in automobile

technology and she has not been shy to transfer this technology. Since 1965, over 170 automobile maintenance volunteers have been dispatched around the country, and they have helped transfer motor vehicle maintenance and operation technologies.

Mr. Keisuke Hidaka, is one such volunteer currently working at Busia Township Youth Polytechnic. To him, the students want to be creative but lack of basic tools and a proper workshop poses a challenge.

Prior to his arrival, the subject was taught only in theory making it hard for the students to conceptualize, but he introduced practical classes. In order to create a positive attitude towards the subject, Mr. Hidaka takes students to motor vehicle dealers in Kisumu town for practical lessons. He is also currently writing a booklet on Automobile maintenance that will be used as a teaching manual.

He enjoys working in the school and has made many friends among students and teachers alike. To his amazement, teachers too attend his classes.

Mr. Hidaka is also engaged in writing proposals for funding in order to equip the workshop and leave the school well placed to offer automobile courses.



Above: Students behind new multipurpose desks provided through Mr. Keisuke Hidaka's efforts. Below: Mr Hidaka poses with some of his students.

Old is Golden Even When Drilling For Water

‘The drilling tools for Kazasubori are hand-operated and mounted on a makeshift wooden frame rig that allows two or more people to pound a hole in the ground with steel pipes until they hit the water table’

For the Maasai pastoralists living in the dry plains of lower Kajiado district, the Japanese word *Kazasubori* is a tongue-twister. Yet, the word has become synonymous with the availability of precious clean water which enabled them and their livestock to survive the severe drought that ravaged most parts of Kenya in 2009. Kazasubori is an old water drilling technology which was first used in Japan more than four centuries ago. Although it is no longer used in Japan, it is now being applied in developing countries as an appropriate technology to provide water.

In Kenya, it is being used successfully to provide water to the pastoral Maasai and it is notably improving their lives. Mr. Raphael Mutiso who works with the Ministry of Agriculture in Loitokitok, says that the Kazasubori boreholes came in handy for the Maasai community in the area in 2009 because seasonal rivers had all dried up.

“The drilling tools for Kazasubori are hand-operated and mounted on a makeshift wooden frame rig that allows two or more people to pound a hole in the ground with steel pipes until they hit the water table,” says Mr. Nicholas Thoya, who has

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) is a program supported by JICA that aims to implement projects planned by Japanese development partners (mainly NGOs, local governments and universities) based on their accumulated experiences and technologies in development at grass-roots level through partnership with NGOs and organizations in partner countries. International Water Project (IWP) an NGO implementing the Kazasubori technology is supported under this program.



Maasai pastoralists in Loitokitok participate in water drilling using the simple and affordable ‘Kazasubori’ technology.

mastered the technology. “Steel pipe connections are then installed and the water extracted with a hand-pump into a standpipe and used by the villagers.

The technology can reach water up to depths of 180 ft and this can be accomplished within a week using labour contributed by the villagers. In the end, the wells are affordable with total construction cost amounting to less than Ksh. 50,000, compared to a normal borehole which costs over Ksh. 1.5 million, an amount far beyond the reach of the pastoralists. The technology is now being used in many African countries such as Zambia and Tanzania. In Kenya, over 70 wells have been sunk especially in Loitokitok area in a project that is funded by JICA. Mr. Philip Papayo, a beneficiary, says over 28,000 people in Njukini where he lives are benefiting from this water.

Since the technology uses locally available tools, it is relatively cheap compared to other drilling technologies and the drilling tools can be used over and over again. Ms. Hisayo Ohno, who is the project’s Director says all the boreholes so far drilled are functioning and the level of ownership shown by the locals is very encouraging. “After drilling we leave the locals to manage the boreholes and so far they have done very well,” she says.