

Africa-Japan Dialogue on Disability

- Efforts toward Disability Inclusive Development in Africa-



Mr. Muzi Nkosi from the Republic of South Africa, presenting “Yokohama Declaration on Disability 2013”

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) co-hosted a side event on inclusion of persons with disabilities in Africa’s development with the Japan National Assembly of Disabled Peoples’ International on June 2 at the JICA Yokohama Center. This thoughtful and energetic discussion of current challenges and future efforts to address the lives of persons with disabilities in Africa was attended by 102 people, including Andrew K. Dube, Chief Executive Officer of the

Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD) and leaders with disabilities from seven African countries.

Persons with disabilities could make significant contributions to Africa’s development, but they face various barriers that restrict their participation. The event brought together activists and practitioners who affirmed that inclusive development must include persons with disabilities and discussed their experiences and various issues that policy should address.

Dube, in his keynote address, highlighted that persons with disabilities have contributed and continue to contribute to African development, and introduced SADPD’s activities. Leaders representing Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, and South Africa explained the situations and challenges facing persons with disabilities in their countries and some of the policies and programs addressing them. Akihiko Tanaka, President of JICA, addressed the audience saying that the participation of persons with disabilities is important in inclusive and dynamic development, which is the vision of JICA. Kayashima, Director General, Human Development Department of JICA, emphasized its efforts to empower persons with disabilities and mainstream disability in its development work.

Before closing, the leaders with disabilities from Africa presented “Yokohama Declaration on Disability 2013 – Hand in Hand with a More Inclusive Africa” that urged international development communities to support the Second African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010-2019) and include persons with disabilities in the post-2015 agenda as

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well as TICAD V follow-up mechanism. The Declaration also requested international cooperation to accelerate implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It is hoped that the concerns and proposals raised during dialogues to be reflected in the future policy decisions of the participating countries. JICA, embracing its vision “Inclusive and Dynamic Development,” ensures empowerment of persons with disabilities and disability mainstreaming in all areas of its work, taking into considerations the specific needs of each country.

■ Event Speakers

Keynote Speaker:

- Andrew Kudakwashe DUBE, Chief Executive Officer, Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities

Theme: Contributions of Persons with Disabilities to African Development and Activities of the Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities

Panelists:

- Kenya: Walter NYAKINDA, Programmes Director, Kisumu Action Disability Development Network
- Rwanda: Louis HABIMANA, Volunteer Coordinator, National Union of Disabilities' Organizations of Rwanda
- Uganda: Zawedde AIDAH, Youth leader, National Union of Women with Disabilities in Uganda
- Zimbabwe: Annie MALINGA, Co-Chairperson on Women and Underrepresented, Federation of Organizations of Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe
- Malawi: Scader LOUIS, Financial Analyst, World Vision Malawi
- Mozambique: Cantol PONDJA, President, Association of Youth Disability of Mozambique
- South Africa: Petrus de WIT, Chairperson, Remme-Los Self-Help Centre (Member of Quadpara Association of Gauteng South)

Moderator:

- Osamu NAGASE, Special Visiting Professor, Research Center for Ars Vivendi, Ritsumeikan University