

JATA

JATA Newsletter Issue No. 19 March 2022

Newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF THE JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE OF JICA TANZANIA OFFICE Mr. NAOFUMI YAMAMURA

Dear JATA Members,

I am deeply honoured to be given this opportunity again to write a message to all JATA members in this year's Newsletter.

Three years have passed since I came to Tanzania in March 2019. During this period, several JICA-supported projects were completed – the latest one being the “New Bagamoyo Road Improvement Project (Morocco-Mwenge Stretch)” which was inaugurated by H.E. the President Samia Suluhu Hassan in December 2021. Some other JICA-supported projects are in various stages of implementation – thanks to the efforts of and supports from the both Tanzanian and Japanese people.



On this note, I am happy to say that last year I was among those who celebrated 60 years' anniversary of the independence of Tanganyika. This was a very special moment for me to experience in this beautiful country. Now Tanzanians are enjoying the fruits of their independence.

As Tanzania celebrates the 60th anniversary of the independence of Tanganyika, JICA pledges to continue our bilateral cooperation with Tanzania including various training programs which started in 1962 with the acceptance of a Tanzanian official for technical training in Japan. The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) is one of the major training programs of JICA. It provides its participants with an opportunity for training in Japan. Those who are accepted to this program include a number of high-ranking officials in the Government of Tanzania who were promoted after the KCCP.

In Tanzania, JICA is trying its best to supplement the efforts of Tanzanians in shaping the country's development by implementing our vision of “Leading the World with Trust”. We are now proud to be one of the contributors to this country's development in various sectors including agriculture, industry, transportation, energy, governance, health, water, etc.

JATA has a variety of members from the above-mentioned sectors. In that regard, I am pleased to note that this year, we have piloted the so-called “Demonstration Projects” which were implemented by Tanzanian JICA ex-participants utilizing their skills and knowledge gained through JICA training programs. I am happy that eleven (11) Demonstration Projects were

competitively selected from more than 50 proposals which were submitted by ex-participants. After the implementation of the projects, we made joint evaluation of each project together with the Executive Committee members of JATA and KAKEHASHI Tanzania. As a result, the first prize went to Ms. Beata MINGA and her team of SIDO Coast Region whose project dealt with the production of honey-based value-added products such as cosmetics, etc., for rural people. Other three projects were also awarded prizes based on their achievements, i.e. effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and relevance to JICA training programs. We believe such projects will contribute immensely to the development of their communities.

I would like to congratulate all who joined in this trial activity of JICA Tanzania, and I am looking forward to seeing you to realize what you have in your mind in the next time.

Having made the above comments, let me now talk a bit about COVID-19. As you are all aware that the COVID-19 global pandemic is still everywhere in the world. Therefore, I would like to remind you to take necessary precautions against it and stay safe. JICA is trying our best to fight this dreaded disease by initiating activities through our “handwashing campaign” in collaboration with a Tanzanian NGO, the Environmental Conservation Community of Tanzania (ECCT). One of the members of this NGO is a JICA ex-participant. So, in collaboration with that NGO, JICA Tanzania is implementing a project on “Improving sanitation and hygiene through handwashing in Kisarawe District”, aimed at preventing school children from contracting COVID-19 and other diseases. In the same vein, JICA has distributed more than 300 banners on proper steps of handwashing to primary schools in 3 districts of Dar es Salaam region. Through these activities, many children and community members have learned to protect themselves from infectious diseases including COVID-19 through proper handwashing.

To conclude my message, I would like to appeal to you, all of JATA members, to think more about the benefits of being a member of JATA. JATA is not just an organization of ex-participants for sharing the good memories of Japan. Through JATA, members can have opportunities to utilize and share their skills and knowledge gained from JICA training programs. In other words, JATA can itself work as a Knowledge Co-creation platform in Tanzania. Please utilize the available opportunities most, and revitalize JATA more and more, to further enhance the relationship between Tanzania and Japan.

ASANTENI SANA

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Mr. Gregory Mlay



Dear Fellow Alumni,

The JICA Alumni Association of Tanzania (JATA) unites Tanzanian JICA alumnus who are in Tanzania and even outside Tanzania. The Association cherishes the opportunity that JICA has given to us and not just to look back and be thankful for what had been achieved in the past in Japan or any other country that JICA sponsored us for study but also to look forward to what our association can do to make the community and the world a better place.

Many alumni I have spoken to are immensely proud of the diversity of the JATA Community, the diversity of background, interests, career and perspectives. Reminding me of my 2017 class at Kobe Institute of Computing (KIC), apart from ICT Innovators and programmers, we had businessmen, Government officials etc. Those who are in private sector and Government Sector were among the alumni members. This diversity has enriched the JATA heritage as it is passed down through the generations. In the year 2021, apart from various activities conducted in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, JATA offered the opportunity from JICA to participate in Demonstration projects. Many of its members, participated and shared their ideas by writing competitive project proposals, and 11 of those proposals got funding to realize impactful projects toward solving community initiatives. We really appreciate all opportunities afforded to us and I would like to urge members of JATA to continue to be active and show more initiative towards opportunities.

For this coming year ahead, I would like to encourage everyone to feel valued as a member of JATA community and we are grateful for the opportunity to foster friendship among alumni through our WhatsApp groups and various activities. Particularly for this year, we will also have various activities on which JATA zones will be welcomed to participate, and also we have a plan to have a website that will contribute to bring us even closer and all to be active members of JATA.

It is an honour and privilege for me, and my fellow Executive Committee members, to serve you all. We hope to see you more in our activities. Keep an eye on our social media channels for information regarding our upcoming activities and don't forget to pay your annual fee.

All the best.

Gregory Mlay
JATA – Chairman

PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC EXTRA VIRGIN COCONUT OIL

KPLT Traders is a company that is owned by one of JICA- EX Participant residing in Ubungo District Msakuzi area –Dar Es Salaam. The company produces Organic Extra Virgin Coconut oil. In Tanzania, coconut oil is consumed in an array of ways, such as cooking oil and good for the skin moisturizing.

On 31st July, 2021, JATA members in one of its planned activity visited the factory to see how integrated knowledge gained in Japan for Coconut Oil production is being applied and overcoming challenges associate to the production. The production of Virgin coconut oil was as shown in pictures below;



The grounded particles are dried locally under the sun



Filtration and parking of the oil in a desired volume is done

The process in the above picture is manual work, it involves pressing, and turning of the pressed wrapped ground dried coconut fine particles to ensure that most of the oil contained has been squeezed out. Clear oil is obtained by careful filtering using cotton wool and it takes time.

Filtration and parking process ensures that the oil produced are free from contaminants, debris and other particles. The oil parked were not added any chemicals for preservations, so the product is healthy, can be consumed by drinking for healthy, mixed with salads, medicine as skin oil or for massages and many other uses.

JATA RAISED AN AWARENESS ON BLUE ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES IN ZANZIBAR.

On 28th August 2021, Zanzibar Zone members organised an event to raise awareness to the public, which include youth, local community and other indigenous people and other marginalized groups to understand the full potential of the blue economy, and identify community priorities, resources, needs, and solutions. The presentations meant to explore deep into the blue territory and engage a growing group of youth in reshaping the Ocean economy to achieve prosperity for all.

The event was graced by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Dr. Idrisa Muslim Hija at Fumba village in the western part of Unguja in Zanzibar. He started by appreciating raising concept on Blue Economy and congratulated JATA for his effort of assisting the government to raise awareness of the national development through Blue Economy.



Speech from the Guest of Honor, Dr. Idrisa Muslim Hija

In understanding the concept of Blue Economy development, its challenges, priority areas, and opportunities. The workshop comprised presentations on “Mapping and Analysis of Blue Economy Policy and Legislative Arrangement” Which highlighted the existing of policy and legislative environment as they relate to Blue Economy activities and resources across multiple sectors and jurisdictions.



The second presentation focused on the “Transition towards Community-Based Blue Economy Development” This aimed to stimulate the community to invent the way they interact with the sea to harness its potential while maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Sustainable tourism, regulated fisheries and aquaculture projects that can create valuable economic opportunities for local communities and young people, and inspire them to pursue careers in the blue economy sector. After presentations and discussion participants made a site visit to salt and non-salt water at Mari culture hatchery center thereafter to Malindi area where construction of fish market is ongoing.



A few among many fish keeping ponds in salt and non-salt water at marine hatchery cen



A Group photo which include Japanese Experts Sign Board for the Malindi Project JICA sponsorship

SEMINAR ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN HAI DISTRICT

JATA members conducted seminar on Entrepreneurship and site visit on 25th September 2021 at Hai and Siha Districts which are all along the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro in Kilimanjaro Region.



Site visit

JATA members visited a small industry which is owned by Ms. Mariam who is disabled. She is working together with her colleagues who deals with sweater weaving and tailoring. The group started in 2019 with support from a good Samaritans and Siha Council who provided them with nonprofit loan. They have been operating well until the outbreak of COVID- 19. In this year 2021, However, the group faces some challenges with supply of products which is limited to some few schools, market publicity and awareness of the type of product the community/ tourists wants.



Mariam showing some of JATA members observing Machines for sweater weaving.

Site visit

Visit to Imani Women Group

Imani Women Group is the entrepreneurship group that produces a blend of agribusiness products and handcraft. This group started in year 2010, and has 20 members. The group specializes in adding value to food products like pepper, bananas mango pickle, nutrients added flour for different needs etc. Apart from adding value to food products and packing, the group also makes baskets, pots, vikoi and soap respectively after being trained on how to make the same.



Some of the parked products from the Imani Women Group

After visits, in Siha District, a prepared presentation was conducted at Snow View Hotel in Bomang'ombe Hai district. Mr. Marco Maswe, the acting Siha DED was the Guest of honour. He addressed about having many groups of Women, Youth and people with disability groups in Siha district. He said the government effort is to find those groups, help and sustain them. He also emphasized on the importance of JATA to continue to helping create awareness to the community.

It was argued that Knowledge in entrepreneurship is linked to inspection institutions while using the positive groups, Record keeping and Knowledge in income and expenditure, which is the key features for improvement in entrepreneurship. In the end, entrepreneurs and attending members were also challenged and tasked if they need to improve their business, freedom in expenditure and more successes after encountering challenges and tackling them.



Presentation session.

JICA PROJECT VISIT - WASSHA INC.

WASSHA INC is a Japanese solar company operating business in Tanzania with a unique rental business model of PAYGO as well as provide solar energy in the form of “Energy as a service business-(EaaS)” and Clean Solar Energy for small income earners. It was established on 28th November, 2013, in Tokyo, Japan and later opening his first branch in Tanzania in July 2014. The project visit was organized by JATA jointly with Japanese from WASSHA INC. Its vision for “Unlocking Humankind Limitation” by focusing on accomplish its mission of “Power to the people”

The project visit was conducted on 30th October, 2021 at Mount Uluguru Hotel in Morogoro Town. During the visit, members managed to learn various issues including relationship established between the small entrepreneurship and WASSHA Company in business-oriented relationships. JATA members interacted with other stakeholders of WASSHA and share ideas.



From left the one with suit is the Morogoro DC Hon Albert Msando officiate the workshop and a group photo with Participants.

The field Visit to WASSHA INC broaden the understanding of many members of JATA on various activities performed by WASSHA Company and realized how the idea and technology has supported the development of people’s life in Tanzania and how strong relationship between the two parties has been established. JATA members realized how the creation of this business opportunity has been a solving problems/challenges facing people and make money out of it.



Beneficiaries of the WASSHA project products bulbs with light and charging system and participants of workshop in one of the agent kiosk

JICA Project Visit develops more awareness of how Japanese government has created a very strong relationship with Tanzanian government and its community, which lead to trust, and more partnership opportunity. Tanzania community is empowered through partnership with the company as agents and customers, which lead to improve their standard of life and income to their business. JATA members understood the contribution of the Japanese company to the community and better relationship established between Tanzania and Japan.



JATA ORGANIZED A WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY IN IRINGA

Sustainable waste management is an important element for municipalities to achieve resource efficiency in the societies, and it needs to be effectively addressed in the context of building sustainable and resilient cities. Reduce, reuse and recycle waste (3Rs), and to increase energy recovery from waste, with a view to managing waste as a resource. However, planning the waste management and recycling for all of the rubbish produced in any municipality is an enormous task, which involves both logistical planning and scientific knowledge and understanding in order to balance the impact on the environment and the cost effectiveness of the process.

In Iringa Region particularly Iringa Municipal, in Mapembelo and Kitwiru ward, the Waste Recycling Community Based Organizations -CBOs activities are aiming at providing ideas and technology on supporting developing people's life in Iringa and Tanzania at large.

Field Visit to Waste Recycling CBOs activities was held on 26th November, 2021 in Iringa Region. The aim was to learn and understand various activities performed by CBOs and realize how the idea and technology has supported the development of people's life in Iringa and Tanzania at large and how strong relationship between the Iringa Municipal Authority and CBOs has been achieved.



Mr. Ndenga explaining to the participants how Decentralized Waste Water Treatment System (DEWATS) it operates at Kitwiru ward.

INNOVATIVE EX-PARTICIPANTS DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO TACKLE CHALLENGES ON THE GROUND



Presenters from 11 demonstration projects and online participants on the back at the seminar. Those 4 in the front line received awards.

On January 25 and 26, 2022, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a two-days seminar whereby 11 Tanzanians who benefited from JICA training program either in Japan or online (ex-participant) contested by demonstrating their competitive development ideas as an act of utilizing their skills obtained from the training programmes.

The first four-winners were awarded certificates of appreciation by JICA's Chief Representative, Mr. Naofumi YAMAMURA.

The first prize went to Ms. Beata Minga from Coast Region who developed a 'Value Addition on Bees Cosmetic Project', which is designed to build the capacity of beekeepers.

Through the project, the beekeepers are now able to produce shampoo, shower gel and body cream using the bee's products.

"I thought it was a good opportunity to apply for Demonstration Project and utilize what I learned in Japan, for beekeepers to increase their earnings by value-added products," she said.

The second award went to the developer of 'Improvement of Virgin Coconut oil Production', while the third one went to the founder of 'Lishe Smart Project'. A special prize was awarded to the developer of 'Upscaling appropriate technologies for rice production through demonstration under irrigated conditions to smallholder farmers in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania project'.

Tanzania has enjoyed extensive human resource development programs through the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) conducted in Japan or online in Tanzania since 1962, by Japan international Cooperation Agency (JICA).

With more than 6,500 beneficiaries from a myriad of sectoral related programs, country specific programs to third country training programs of JICA, including 90 trainees from Master's Degree and Internship program of the Africa Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), who are expected to guide and tie Japanese enterprises to Tanzania.

Although there are many beneficiaries of JICA training programs, there is yet more room to support ex-participants to fully utilize their skills and knowledge they acquired in Japan and revitalize the Alumni organization of ex-participants.

This seminar was for the 11 Demonstration Projects by ex-participants of JICA training programs competitively selected from more than 50 proposals to present the achievements, challenges, lessons learned and way-forward, strengthening a tie among ex-participants from different areas and ages, Japanese companies, Alumni association as well as JICA.

The Demonstration Projects were part of JICA's 'Data collection survey on activities by ex-participants of JICA training programs and implication to the future training programs', so called 'Ex-participant survey, to identify the challenges the ex-participants face, find out effective measures to revitalize Alumni association of the ex-participants and obtain recommendations for better design of training programs.

Awarding ceremony of 4 Demonstration Projects with Outstanding performance.

In the back are Presenters from 7 demonstration projects and online participants on the back at the seminar.

1ST Winner



Bee's cosmetic products manufactured after the training by one of the training participants



Project leader of the demonstration project and her cosmetic products

2ND Winner



Participation in the commercial festival in Kigoma

Special prize by JICA Tanzania office



Produced coconuts virgin oil during the demonstration project



A facilitator demonstrating to farmers on the layout of wet beds nurseries during practical session



Demo farms located in the Mbeya Agricultural Training Institute



Farmers receiving explanations from fellow farmer on wet-bed nurseries preparation



The rice planted during the first phase of training was successfully harvested by the end of the demonstration project period.

3RD Winner



One of the target beneficiaries' groups: mothers and caregivers with the malnutrition babies



One of trained community health volunteer demonstrated how to cook the food for the babies



The pasted food which was cooked during the cooking demonstration with the mothers and caregivers (Main ingredients: Banana, Milk, Dates, Papaya, Avocado)



Testing the foods

• THE WAY FORWARD

All participants were truly active in the entire process from preparation stage, implementation to the completion of the projects. They were able to take the problems facing the community as their own and solve them through the implementation of their own resolutions and activities. This resulted in participants' high satisfaction by achieving their goals. Therefore, this demonstration project program proved to be very effective, in realizing their plans after the trainings.

The result of the projects indicates that it can be one of the effective approaches that can contribute to the follow-up of the ex-participants after participating the JICA trainings and also continuous human resource development of the country. With further collaboration with Alumni organization such as JATA and KAKEHASHI, these supports will bring more benefits to ex-participants/Tanzania as well as JICA/Japan.