

· TRENDS ·



Sudan

JICA Provides Support for Ebola Preparedness in Sudan



The Ebola outbreak in West Africa since last year is the largest and most complex since the virus was first discovered in 1976 in Nzara, Sudan. In response to the outbreak, the Government of Japan through JICA has provided additional funding to Sudan to prevent the spread of the disease.

The Preparedness and Response to Epidemic Diseases Directorate in the Federal Ministry of Health in Sudan has spearheaded efforts to train clinicians on early detection and control of Ebola at the point of entry in the capital city of Khartoum.

An advanced workshop was conducted from March 8 to 9 at Khartoum International Airport, where 31 medical and public health professionals working at the airport participated. Another workshop was held from March 11 to 12 at the

Personal Protective Equipment was newly provided by the Government of Japan through JICA.

Khartoum Teaching Hospital for 19 medical team members working at the isolation centers. These trainings were supported by JICA with technical expertise from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) as part of helping national efforts on Ebola preparedness in Sudan.

The training highlighted hands-on practice outside the lecture hall. Participants fully equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) engaged in a virtual situation where a suspected case in a landed airplane was notified. Their mission was to properly handle passengers, and transport the patient by ambulance to an isolation centre located about 3 km away from the airport.

In addition to the workshops described above, JICA has supported the printing of existing materials for mass distribution in the country, such as "Ebola disease Guideline", "Raising Awareness about Ebola", "Prevention from Ebola" and "Protect yourself from Ebola".



Japan

JAXA Astronaut Noguchi to support REDD+



In April 13, Soichi Noguchi, an astronaut for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), assumed the position of "Official Supporter" of a project called the Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+ that JICA is jointly promoting with other partners.

The REDD+ Platform is an effort to promote the REDD+ climate change initiative through an all-Japan effort including the private sector, organizations, research institutes and government agencies. It was established in November 2014 in response to a call from JICA and the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) of Japan. Its activities include developing new business models that make use of REDD+, sharing expertise on international trends surrounding REDD+ and disseminating information to increase the name

Astronaut Soichi Noguchi, left, who took on the job of official supporter, and JICA President Akihiko Tanaka.

recognition of and understanding on REDD+. As an official supporter, Noguchi promotes REDD+ Platform from the unique viewpoint of an astronaut.

On the occasion of Noguchi's assuming the position of official supporter, JICA President Akihiko Tanaka said it is important to promote understanding of REDD+ by a broader range of the public.

In response to this, Noguchi talked about JAXA's expertise in observing the earth using the latest technologies such as satellites, and said he aspires to deepen understanding of JICA's initiatives in the forest sector around the world and to convey the importance of conservation of the earth's atmosphere to the people of Japan in an easy-to-understand manner.

In addition, Noguchi and Tanaka affirmed that JICA and JAXA will partner to further improve understanding of REDD+.



Kenya

The 20th anniversary of JKUAT



In March 27, 2015, the 20th anniversary of JKUAT was celebrated at the Juja campus in the Republic of Kenya, attended by President Uhuru Kenyatta. The former Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology (JK-CAT) was promoted to a university and renamed JKUAT in 1994. JICA's cooperation started in the late 1970s when a plan to establish the College was proposed to Japan. Subsequently, JICA has extended various support to help the college operate independently.

The lavish ceremony was held in the presence of not only around 5,000 JKUAT professors and students, but also approximately 300 guests including President Kenyatta and other officials from Kenya, Japan was represented by Ambassador Tatsushi Terada, Hiroji Nakagawa, professor emeritus

The twentieth anniversary monument

of Kyoto University who has assisted the university since the 1970s, Junkichi Iwasa, professor emeritus of Okayama University, and Yutaka Fukui, professor emeritus of Tottori University. In addition, Izumi Ushiyama, president of Ashikaga Institute of Technology, JICA Vice President Kae Yanagisawa and Hideo Eguchi chief representative of JICA Kenya Office also took part in the ceremony.

The Kenyan guests repeatedly expressed their gratitude to Japanese guests for their huge contribution to establish JKUAT, in particular, the AFRI-CA-ai-JAPAN project and BRIGHT project

Ambassador Terada stated that the JKUAT project was one of the most important efforts representing the cordial relationship between Kenya and Japan. In addition, on the 50th anniversary of JOCA's projects this year, he noted that JOCA staff dispatched to Kenya had contributed significantly to social development and building the bilateral relationship.