



June - July 2019

# JICA ETHIOPIA NEWSLETTER

Volume III, Issue II

## JICA Everyday

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**26 DAYS TO GO!**

THE 7TH TOKYO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (TICAD)

**28-30 . 08 . 2019 | YOKOHAMA, JAPAN**



## Building a Special Partnership of Trust with Africa

TICAD VI in Nairobi symbolically showed strong commitment and ownership of African countries for their own development.

The participating countries agreed to make a stride towards diversification and industrialization in the African economy by promoting investments in quality infrastructure and human resources. They also agreed to promote a resilient health system for all and to seek peace and stability.

JICA has been making efforts to steadily implement various activities, such as the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for youth, the KAIZEN initiative to improve productivity and quality within African enterprises and Universal Health Cov-

erage (UHC) to enable all African people to receive quality and affordable health services.

TICAD VII will be held in Yokohama in August 2019. Reflecting on the growing engagement of a broad base of stakeholders, it will serve as an open platform for action of inclusive economic growth in African countries, promotion of human security and establishment of peace and stability. JICA as a longtime partner of trust with Africa, will thus continue to make efforts in collaboration with the private sector, development institutions and others.



Ryuichi Kato  
Director General of the Africa Department  
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



## JICA Supported Co-ops Continue to Turn a Profit

The One Village One Product (OVOP) Promotion Project started in collaboration between the then Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD), Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoARD) of SNNPR, and JICA in May 2010. The project, which was completed in May 2015, aimed at improving the livelihood of rural people in SNNP Region.

Three years after each project completion, JICA conducts an internal ex-post evaluation to review the current situation, operation, maintenance and sustainability of the project. Accordingly, the agriculture team at JICA visited the project site from June 20 to 26 to evaluate and collect data from the project's beneficiaries. Their findings showed that 33 out of 41 (80%) OVOP groups which were established are still functional and generating profits from their activities.

Here are two testimonials:

**Chano Mille**, a vegetable processing cooperative in Gamo Gofa Zone, Arba Minch woreda, was established in 2012 with the support of the OVOP project. Its members contributed towards its capital, raising 6,000 ETB. Twenty members of the cooperative were then trained by OVOP in the production of Moringa and Datta (a local spice). Currently, members are selling their products at a price of 25 ETB for 250gm of

Moringa powder and 50 ETB for a jar (400gm) of Datta. Annual sales average upto 80,000 ETB, an income which they say would not have been possible without the OVOP project. According to last year's audit report, the total capital of the cooperative has reached around 450,000 ETB.

**Ganity** is a beekeeping primary cooperative in Sheka Zone, Anderech woreda, which processes honey from the cooperative's farm, the farms of members and raw honey from the local market. Members of the cooperative reported that last year was very profitable as they were able to collect and process about 14,000kg of honey, which they sold for 80 ETB/kg, allowing them to earn more than one million ETB within the year.



Women preparing *datta*, which they sell for 50 ETB per jar.



Ganity's store room, where members keep containers of raw honey which will be processed and bottled for sale.



## Meet our New Representative Leading the Agriculture Team

After four years working at the JICA Ethiopia Office, Mr. Genya Nakamura will be returning to Japan to work at JICA Headquarters.

His successor, Mr. Masahiro Saiga, has already joined our office.

We have asked him some introductory questions, to help us get to know him:

1. *Have you previously worked in (or visited) other African countries? If so, can you share a favorite experience from one of the countries?*

No, this is my first time in Africa. I am looking forward to seeing and learning all the new perspectives that Africa has to offer. And African, especially Ethiopian cuisine, is definitely something new to me and one which I am looking forward to trying out.

2. *Where was your last job post? and please briefly tell us what your job was like?*

I previously worked as a consultant at the Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago (in the Caribbean). I was in charge of Grass Roots Human Security Projects in 7 countries in the Caribbean region and Amazonian Forest.

It was a very demanding position, but there was a bright side as well. For instance, my position allowed me to work with indigenous tribes of the Amazon, where modern agriculture has not been practiced yet.

In the early stages of my career, I focused more on academics, researching environmental conservation (economic contribution of fuel wood to livelihood) in Cambodia and community ecology (influences of parasites in a stream ecosystem) in Canada.

I hope to contribute my experience and knowledge to the

development of Ethiopia. If anyone would like to know more about my research, please let me know at any time.

3. *What cultural or historical aspects of Ethiopia are you most looking forward to exploring?*

To be honest, I am not a history type of person but I would certainly like to learn unique historical footages that Ethiopia had gone through, and what shapes the country now.

I am looking forward to see the unique biodiversity of Ethiopia as a Forestry Major (I have a Masters in Sustainable Forest Management and a Bachelors in Electrical Engineering and Biodiversity Conservation) I would like to take advantage of being in the country of the origin of Arabica coffee.



With a Tapon fish that Mr. Saiga caught on a fishing trip in Trinidad and Tobago



## Ethiopian Companies Win at First Africa KAIZEN Awards

The first Africa KAIZEN Award was held in Tunis, Tunisia from 24 to 26 June 2019. Out of 16 organizations and one team (circle) that were nominated, MAA Garment and Textiles PLC in **Ethiopia** and A to Z Textile Mills Ltd., in Tanzania received the *Outstanding* award. Three companies, Amhara Water Well Drilling Enterprise in **Ethiopia**, Lumen Special Cables in South Africa and SOMEF TUNISIE in Tunisia, received the *Excellent* Award. A team (circle) from Kanyama First level Hospital in Zambia received the *Exemplary* award.

While many nominees of the Award presented significant achievements, MAA Garment and Textile realized a wide range of improvements in productivity by implementing 10 advanced level Kaizen projects within their company. Similarly, A to Z Textile Mills Ltd. Performed quality improvement and reduction

in waste materials through the effective application of Kaizen in various areas.

Winners of the outstanding prize will visit Japan in August to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7). They will take part in the TICAD side-events and have the chance to visit some Japanese enterprises to witness the "original Kaizen".

"I am hoping that we can integrate new ideas by observing Japanese KAIZEN," said Mr. Daniel Gezae Huluf from MAA Garment and Textile, expressing his expectations.

The Kaizen Award is carried out as one of the programs during the "Africa Kaizen Annual Conference" organized by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA\_NEPAD) and JICA. The

annual conference is held as part of the Africa Kaizen Initiative. Two hundred participants attended the fourth edition of the conference from 17 countries.



(From left to right) Representatives from MAA Garment and Textile PLC (Ethiopia), A to Z Textile Mills (Tanzania) and Amhara Water Well Drilling Enterprise (Ethiopia).



Winners of the first Africa KAIZEN Awards in Tunisia



## Samurai Incubate Africa Sign MoU with iCog Labs

JICA and the US Embassy are principal sponsors of SoveIT, the largest start-up event in Ethiopia organized by iCog Labs. More than 2,000 participants from the ages of 18 to 28, in 15 cities, have registered for this innovation competition.

Samurai Incubate Africa Inc., a venture capital based in Japan based has successfully signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with iCog Labs as of June 06, 2019. This is the second MoU between iCog Labs and a venture capital, following the one signed in April 2019 with US based venture capital. This MoU clearly emphasizes that Samurai Incubate Africa and iCog Labs will collaborate with each other for Solve IT 2019 and for strengthening the startup field in Ethiopia and other countries to expand their reach.

Takuma Terakubo, CEO of Samurai Incubate Africa, noted that "innovations from Africa will be at the forefront of the world. We want to support innovation in Ethiopia with iCog Labs by introducing our experience to local entrepreneurs" and Getnet Aseffa, CEO of iCog Labs added "Nowadays technology is moving at the speed of light, we must think and act globally; and the exponential growth of technology allows us to do so. The iCog-Labs community is very proud to be working with JICA and Samurai Incubate Africa on supporting innovators across all regions of Ethiopia and we are also planning to scale it to involve more African innovators. We are inviting all innovators, incubation hubs, government institutes and investors to come together and change Africa."



MoU Signing by Mr. Takuma Terakubo, Samurai Incubate Africa and Mr. Hiruy Tsegaye, iCog Labs.



## Meet our New Representative in the Industrial Promotion Sector

We also have a new addition to our Industrial Promotion Team. Our previous Representative, Mr. Yasuto Kikuma will now be heading our General Affairs team, while Mr. Masaki Wakai has joined us from JICA HQ.

1. Have you previously worked in (or visited) other African countries? If so, can you share a favorite experience from one of the countries?

Previously I was working at JICA Headquarters where I was in charge of overseeing some activities in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Sudan. So, this is not the first time I have visited Africa.

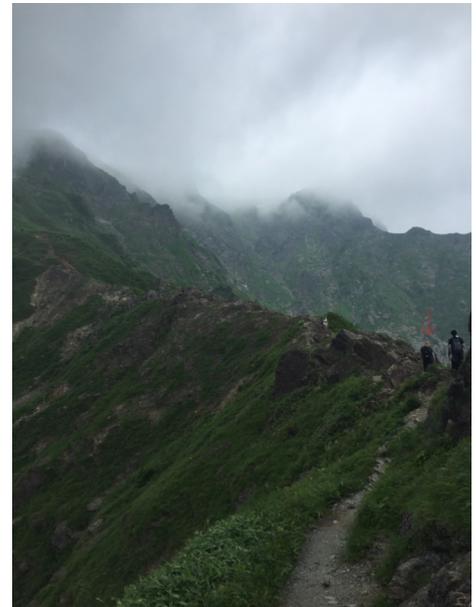
I have really enjoyed visiting Bishoftu (DebreZeit). It is one of my most memorable experiences from Ethiopia; I liked the beautiful nature and variety of birds that I saw there.

2. Where was your last job post? and please briefly tell us what your job was like?

I was working at JICA HQ, in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. I especially focused in the field of pesticide residue and phytosanitation (and nutrition). Before that, I was in the Division of Private Investment and Finance, working to provide loans to private companies.

3. What cultural or historical aspects of Ethiopia are you most looking forward to exploring?

Beautiful nature



Mr. Wakai's enthusiasm for nature has him climbing mountains. This picture is from when he climbed Mount Tanigawa in Japan (1,900m high).



## First-Ever Ethiopia Water and Energy Week Held

The first Ethiopia Water and Energy Week (EWEW) was successfully held in Addis Ababa from June 17 to 20 at Skyline Hotel. The theme of the event was "Transformation of Water and Energy sector for Ethiopia's New Horizon of Hope".

The main purpose of EWEW is to raise public awareness regarding the potential of the water and energy sector, while highlighting development challenges and opportunities. EWEW is also a platform for interactions to take place between national and international parties, including development partners and civil service organizations (CSOs). JICA is proud to have been one of the sponsors of EWEW.

During the exhibition portion of the activities at EWEW, JICA took the opportunity to promote its practices and knowledge within the areas of WASH and water resource management (WRM). JICA has been working closely with the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute (EWTI) and the institution had the opportunity to present on its activities and the work that it is doing to improve water service delivery throughout Ethiopia. On this occasion, JICA and EWTI also renewed their commitment towards meeting GTP II targets, the SDGs and OWP II.

During EWEW stakeholders from basin areas, academics and research organizations also endorsed the National Integrated Water Resource

Management (NIWRM) document which has been initiated in 2016, and in which JICA was heavily involved in the formulation process.

Finally, the three-day event created an environment that enabled various actors to share up-to-date information, to network and discuss upon success stories and lessons learned from various projects.



President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Sahlework Zewde made opening remarks at the first Ethiopia Water Energy Week.



The EWTI team ready to brief visitors at EWEW.



## Three New Volunteers Arrive in Addis

New JICA volunteers, focusing on education, arrived in Ethiopia on July 25 2019 to begin their two-year assignment period.

Volunteer's assignments are as follows:

1. One volunteer will be working in Addis Ababa at Bole Addis No. 1 & 2 Kindergarten (early childhood education volunteer).
2. One volunteer has been assigned to Tigray Region, Korem woreda, where she will be teaching at Meskote Birhan Primary School (primary school education volunteer).
3. One volunteer will be assigned to Tigray Region, Mekelle city, where she will teach Science at Atse Yohannes IV Primary School (science education volunteer).

The volunteers will spend the next month in Addis Ababa taking part in language classes before being officially dispatched to their assignment places.



The volunteers paid a courtesy call to JICA Ethiopia's Chief Representative, Mr. Makoto Shinkawa, upon their arrival.



The volunteers took candid photos before their first official city tour of Addis Ababa.

# Coming up in August and September 2019

## August

- ◆ High-Level Industrial Policy Dialogue Meetings.
- ◆ August 17, Solve IT! 2019 Final Competition will be held in Addis.
- ◆ August 28-30, The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD XII) will be held in Yokohama, Japan

## September

- ◆ Ethiopian New Year (2021!)
- ◆ Kaizen Month in Ethiopia



L e a d i n g   t h e   W o r l d   w i t h   T r u s t

### Mission:

JICA, in accordance with the Development Cooperation Charter, will work on human security and quality growth.

### Vision:

#### Leading the World with Trust

JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

### Actions

1. Commitment: Commit ourselves with pride and passion to achieving our mission and vision.
2. Gemba: Dive into the field ("gemba") and work together with the people.
3. Strategy: Think and act strategically with broad and long-term perspectives
4. Co-creation: Bring together diverse wisdom and resources.
5. Innovation: Innovate to bring about unprecedented impacts.

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