



Oct - Nov 2019

# JICA ETHIOPIA NEWSLETTER

Volume III, Issue IV

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In October, JICA hosted a seminar exploring ways to combat desertification through a sustainable land management framework.



## Combating Desertification through Sustainable Land Management

Ethiopia covers a land mass of over one million square meters and the country's drylands (which encompass 67% of the land) have been identified as vulnerable to climate variability and land degradation by the Government of Ethiopia. Indigenous soil conservation methods have been applied for generations, however, these methods are no longer sufficient and there is a need to implement new technology.

JICA, in partnership with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), is financing a five million USD project to develop a next-generation sustainable land management (SLM) framework to combat desertification in the Upper Blue Nile Basin. The goal is to develop a framework focused on preventing soil erosion, improving land productivity and raising the income levels of farmers.

Three studies have been selected for the project: Dibatie (lowland), Aba Gerima (midland) and Guder (highland). Researchers from

Japan (Tottori University, Shimane University and the University of Tokyo) and Ethiopia (Bahir Dar University, Amhara Agriculture Research Institute, Water and Land Resource Center and the Ministry of Agriculture) are working together to come up with sustainable solutions.

During a seminar held at the JICA offices in November, Professor Nigussie Haregewyen from Bahir Dar University (currently a visiting professor at Tottori University in Japan), stressed the importance of replacing traditional terracing methods applied by farmers with new technology to ensure longevity.

A 2019 assessment of soil erosion risk for East African countries showed that the region suffers from 4 billion tons of loss annually; nearly 50% of that loss originates from Ethiopia alone. The Project has been testing the effectiveness of various SLM technologies since 2017; for instance, check dams have been erected across gul-

lies, and trees have been planted along the gullies to quickly heal the gully bed and bank. [Please see photos for how the system has worked]. Additionally, various crops, such as chili pepper, finger millet, teff and barely have been tested to verify their sensitivity to soil erosion; and based on the results the most resilient crops have been recommended to farmers to plant.

In order to guarantee the sustainability of the methods introduced, it is imperative that the local farmers buy-in to the systems that are being implemented. Through time and with tangible changes on the ground, such as a 240% increase in the coverage of *A. decurrens* (a perennial tree) at the Guder site, there has been a significant increase in farmer participation.

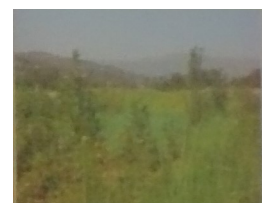
To further facilitate research in the area, equipment worth a total of 18 million ETB has been purchased for Bahir Dar University. In the interest of building the capacity of re-

searchers, there are currently 23 Ethiopian students pursuing further studies through Tottori University at the Masters and PhD level. A total of 46 people have participated in this study abroad program.

This project is aligned to Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy plan (2016-2030) as well as the SDGs.



Before



After



## Fish Pond Project Inaugurated

Nutritional disorders, in general, and protein energy malnutrition, in particular, remain a major health concern in Ethiopia. In this respect, the Government of Ethiopia developed a "National Nutrition Program" in 2015, which highlighted the significance of "increasing production and consumption of fish" as a primary initiative to improve protein intake among communities. However, due to lack of skills and knowledge in fish farming, local residents living in rural villages like Sheled Guto and elsewhere in the country, have

been suffering from malnutrition and related health issues for many years.

On October 16, 2019 JICA's grassroots support NGO project; *Nutrition-oriented Community-based Fish Farming Project*, held an opening ceremony commemorating the completion of the physical construction works of fish ponds in Sheled-Goto village, Arsi Zone, Oromia Region. The objective of the pilot model project was to build the capacity of villagers at the local level to start fish farming as a stable supply source of animal protein as

well as to ensure an additional income source for the village by constructing similar small-scale fishponds.

There are now six large grow-out ponds and 12 small stock and nurse ones, which have a total of 1.18ha of fish farming area.

On the occasion, JICA's Chief Representative Mr. Makoto Shinkawa made an opening remark noting that aquaculture is not well developed in Ethiopia, and therefore ensuring the sustainability of the project should get primary

attention. Thus, he urged for strong commitment from all concerned government organizations to support and encourage the community to enable them to continue the project activities and scale-up the project's best practices to other similar local areas in the country .

In closing, Mr. Shinkawa expressed his gratitude to Oromia Livestock and Fisheries Development Bureau and Project members of TA Network Corporation, for their unreserved commitment to pursue the project operation even at very challenging years and successfully completed the construction of Fishpond and handover to the community.



One of the fish ponds constructed through the project.



Tilapia fish harvested from the fish ponds.



## Social Impacts from the Ethio-SHEP project

One of the main aims of the Ethio-SHEP project is to shift the way farmers think and to encourage behavioral changes. Below are some examples of the changes that we are seeing; Dr. Shuto, a JICA expert, conducted the interviews with the farmers this past October.

### [Building better relationships with market stakeholders]

"We are producing tomatoes and onions. We now selling better quality vegetables in the town market at higher prices. What we do not sell in the town, we take to the local market and sell it at lower prices. Our relationship with the traders in town has improved since the traders are happy with our high-quality produce."

### [Encouraging the young generation to farm]

"My son used to work as a day laborer to make money. After the Ethio-SHEP came here he started planting onions on a quarter hectare of land. He made a profit of about 110,000 birr in only one season. He is now a full-time farmer!"



Next generation of farmers

### [Stronger decision making]

"We started expanding our vegetable garden by sharecropping. It was easy for us to convince the landowner to plant tomatoes instead of cereal crops because we knew tomatoes were in high demand through conducting a market survey. With the production techniques that we learned through Ethio-SHEP I am confident I can harvest tomatoes and the landowner will be pleased."



Share-crop farming

### [Gender]

"We used to only grow potatoes; but after the project's training we have begun to grow green peppers in addition to potatoes. When I sell potatoes, I get a lot of money at one time. I put the money in the bank or I buy inputs for the next season. My wife, on the other hand, sells green peppers at the local market every day. She takes the money and uses it for the family. My wife is happy about growing green peppers. My relationship with her has become much better."



Women are being empowered through farming





## MUST Project Conducts Lessons at Material Development School

The MUST project is focused on improving mathematical understanding for science and technology; and one of the project goals is for project members to design and develop mathematics support material for Grades 1-8. Accordingly, the MUST team prepared the first draft of materials for Grades 1-4.

To collect feedback from teachers and students on the material, a demonstration lesson based on the new draft material was conducted in a material development school (MDS). On November 13 a demo lesson took place at Chacha Primary school, in Debre Birhan city.

Grade 4 students and teachers were selected for the trial of the new material. Mr. Shimboku Miyakawa, an expert assigned to the project, substituted a mathematics class, and taught the days'

lesson using the material that was developed through the project. The lesson for the day was addition of large numbers. According to the Grade 4 textbook, students are expected to learn the addition of integers up to 1,000,000 (one million). The Japanese experts wanted to test new ways of teaching the students how to add large figures.

For instance, students were asked to solve the following:  $43,000,000 + 24,000,000 = ?$  Students were encouraged to first solve the problem using methods that they were familiar with. Most of the students used techniques based on place value addition (the most common method). When asked why they chose this method, many answered that 'place value addition helped them avoid any confusion that could be created when adding large figures'.

Mr. Miyakawa showed students how to add by substituting words, for example: (43 million + 24 million = 67 million). Based on his explanation students practiced adding large numbers using both numbers and words. The students later commented that they enjoyed the lesson and they found it very interesting. Other project experts, mission members from JICA headquarters, other math teachers from the school, including the principal, observed the demo lesson.

Subsequently, the MUST team members discussed and received comments on the demonstration lesson and on the new draft material from invited experts, teachers and the school principal. Dr. Normich Toyomane, Head of the MUST project, underlined that 'actual feedback from the material development schools on draft material' is critical for enriching the quality of the content which is being prepared jointly by JICA and Ministry of Education experts.



Post demo lesson discussions with Mr. Miyakawa, JICA experts and representatives from the Ministry of Education.



## Second National Kaizen Awards Held

The second National Kaizen Awards were held in October (during Kaizen Month in Ethiopia, which runs from early September to early October). This year, H.E Mr. Tagesse Chaffo, Speaker of the House of Representatives, H.E. Mr. Daisuke Matsunaga, Japan's Ambassador to Ethiopia as well as representatives and staff from the Ethiopian Kaizen Institute, JICA and other stakeholders, attended the award ceremony.

The awards were presented to participants in various sectors as well as to individuals who are committed to implementing kaizen practices in their workplace.

The following are some of the winners:

### Nationwide Kaizen Awardees:

1. Amhara Road Construction Organization
2. Two Brothers Food Complex
3. Leghare Primary and Secondary School



### Infrastructure Sector:

1. Tikur Abay Transport
2. Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Service
3. Ethiopia Construction Works Corporation



### Capacity Building Sector:

1. Medhanielem Primary and Secondary School
2. Don Bosko Catholic TVET Institute
3. Aleta Wondo TVET College



### Manufacturing Sector:

1. NA Metal Industry and Engineering
2. Minaye Flower
3. Tommoqa Coffee



Group photo of all awardees with H.E. Mr. Tagesse Chaffo.

### Institutions that have sustained Kaizen implementation:

1. Maa Garment and Textile Factory
2. Amhara Water Well Drilling Enterprise
3. Mesfin Industrial Engineering

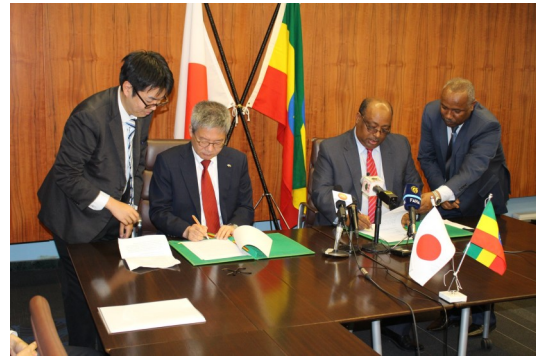


## 89mIn USD Loan Signed to Upgrade Jimma-Chida Road

The Government of Japan and Ethiopia signed an Exchange of Notes to implement the “Ethiopian Integrated Transport Program Phase I: Jimma Chida Road Section”. The signing ceremony for the 89 million USD loan took place between H.E. Mr. Matsunaga Daisuke, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia, and H.E. Mr. Admasu Nebebe, State Minister of Finance, in Addis Ababa.

The 80km Jimma-Chida road will be upgraded from gravel to asphalt through the program. The road, which is a prominent route for the trade of coffee, is expected to improve road connectivity, reduce transport cost and time and facilitate export and acquisition of foreign currency.

The road will connect the towns of Jimma and Sodo directly and further connect Sawla to the main trunk road network, linking the local populations to Addis Ababa city and the rest of the country. The project includes skills development and capacity building in transport sectoral issues and climate change, and support in women entrepreneurial capacity. In addition, the project will implement fully the environmental and social management plan including improvements in emergency response facilities at Sawla hospital. The expected outcomes include increased skills, knowledge and capacity in transport issues, and improved response to road safety emergencies.



Ambassador Matsunaga and H.E. Mr. Admasu signing the Exchange of Notes.



Representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Embassy of Japan, JICA, and AfDB were present during the signing of the Exchange of Notes.



## New Chapter for EWTI: International Training Begins

For the last two decades JICA has been focusing on groundwater development in Ethiopia, which has contributed to increasing access to safe drinking water and capacity building for the sustainable operation and maintenance of water supply services. In order to achieve the targets set by the Government of Ethiopia in its Growth Transformation Plan (GTP II) & the SDGs for the water and sanitation sector, JICA is working with the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute (EWTI) to strengthen the capacity of their lecturers and to refurbish the training system for both the public and private sectors.

Now, JICA’s efforts are bearing fruit beyond Ethiopia; EWTI has begun offering

training programs to other African countries. From November 18 to December 06, 2019, a training on ‘Drilling Fluid Engineering’ is being offered to 13 participants from Malawi, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

The first day of the international trainings was commemorated by representatives from the House of the Parliament, the Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, the

ambassadors of Japan and Malawi. JICA Ethiopia’s Senior Representative, Mr. Takeshi Matsuyama, made opening remarks, underscoring the necessity of maintaining capacity development activities for technicians and engineers to achieve sustainable water service delivery in these countries. He also emphasized that this international training is a good opportunity for trainees to share their experiences and knowledge, while also developing

their network for future collaborations.

Finally, the challenge of this international training gave EWTI’s staff significant experience and confidence in brushing up their training system and put them one step closer towards achieving their goal of becoming a Center of Excellence in East Africa.



Group photo of the dignitaries present on the first day of the international training program at EWTI.



A Malawian participant testing the SMART water technology on the premises of EWTI.





## 10th Multi-Stakeholder Forum, Achieving SDG6

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) for the water sector in Ethiopia took place on November 26 and 27. The theme for this year was 'Accelerating integrated, inclusive and quality WASH services and water resources management for achieving the SDGs'.

This year, specific attention was given to combating open defecation in Ethiopia, with the goal of making the country open defecation free by 2024. During his keynote speech, Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele, Minister of Water,

Irrigation and Energy pointed out that poor sanitation, shortage of suitable toilets, and inadequate safe water supply are the main challenges for Ethiopia.

As a solution, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MoWIE) in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) developed and launched the 'Total Sanitation to End open Defecation and Urination (TSEDU) during the Forum. It is estimated that poor sanitation costs Ethiopia 13.5 billion ETB per year; this amounts to 2.1% of the country's GDP.

During the two-day forum, concurrent panel discussions took place on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Water Resources Management (WRM) issues. JICA's work within the water sector is focused on WRM and JICA experts took part in panel discussions. In addition, Mr. Tamene Hailu, Director General of the Ethiopian Water Technology Institute also made a presentation on institutional capacity building. JICA has been supporting EWTI to strengthen its training operations and management capacity.

MSF 10 concluded in attendance of more than 300 participants from government institutions, CSOs, UN Agencies, development partners, the private sector and academic institutions.



Dr. Shunji Oya, a project formulation advisor at JICA Ethiopia, was a panellist on a session on water resource management



Ms. Akino Kitazume, JICA expert, was a rapporteur on a session on Equity, Inclusion and Institutional Capacity



Mr. Tamene Hailu, Director General of EWTI, presented on Institutional Capacity Building.



## New Project Formulation Advisor for Water Sector

We are pleased to announce that we have filled the previously vacant position of project formulation advisor for the Water and Sanitation sector. We would like to introduce you to Dr. Shunji Oya:

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

I served as a JOCV member in Kenya from 1986 to 1988. I was a lecturer of Hydraulics and Hydraulic Machines in Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture and Technology, JKCAT (it is currently a university abbreviated as JKUAT).

At that time there were insufficient textbooks in JKCAT which conform to the syllabi of the courses and thus Kenyan and Japanese staff worked hard to develop their own textbooks. Two generations of the volunteers before me had completed

two textbooks in Hydraulics fundamentals, Volumes 1 and 2. I was then in charge of compiling Volume 3 which covered Hydraulic Machines and managed to finish the task by the end of my term. I felt so delighted and fulfilled when the copies of my textbook were donated and housed in JKCAT library for students' use.

On top of that, I am deeply impressed along with tears in my eyes that my textbook is still in use and is found in the JKUAT library website. It is so amazing to know that the footprint of a volunteer has been retained for more than 30 years!

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

I worked for a water business company in Japan for more than 20 years and was engaged in restoration of contaminated soil and groundwater, R&D of water treatment technologies, and overseas business marketing and promotion.

Since my academic background is the analyses of groundwater flow and contaminant transport, I was very



Dr. Oya after completing a six-day trek in Tasmania, Australia.

involved and enthusiastic in field work of soil and groundwater remediation projects in Japan. Lands contaminated with toxic chemicals exert significant negative impacts on not only surrounding residents' health but also owners' business. Their sincere cooperation and warm gratuity to our efforts to fulfill their demand of restoring the environment gave me great confidence and pleasure of being involved in this professional area.

The experience of overseas business marketing also gave me lots of fun and insights. I

attempted to promote a septic tank sludge treatment project in Vietnam, but it actually needed to involve a sludge collection business and financial stability by tariff (sludge collection and treatment bill). I realized that formulating this kind of a huge socio-economic-environmental system was beyond a corporate business. I'm rather thinking of doing it here in Ethiopia as JICA's member.

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

I like trekking in the nature and mountaineering. From a global geological point of view, Ethiopia is an interesting country where new earth's crust is formed and emerged from the deep ground. The country has many mountains with the peak altitude higher than 4000 m above the sea level. It will be good refreshment for me if I have chances to walk and look around to feel like the dynamism of earth's heartbeat and breathing.



## New Volunteers Arrive in Addis

Four JICA volunteers have arrived in Addis to begin their two-year service terms in Ethiopia.

(1) One volunteer will be working in Addis Ababa at Yekatit 12 Kindergarten as an early-childhood education volunteer.

(2) Another volunteer has been assigned to The Center for Accelerated Women's Economic Empowerment (CAWEE) as a design teacher (she previously designed shoes in Japan).

(3) One volunteer is assigned to Dire Dawa City Youth and Sport Commission to coach volleyball.

(4) One volunteer will be working at the Gamo Zone Cooperative Department in Arba Minch city as a community development volunteer.



The volunteers paid a courtesy call to the JICA Ethiopia Office and met with Mr. Makoto Shinkawa, Chief Representative of JICA Ethiopia.



The volunteers will spend the next three weeks taking intensive language classes before being dispatched to their assignment places.

# Coming up in December and January

## December 2019

- ◆ Joint Coordination Committee Meeting for KAIZEN project
- ◆ Joint Coordination Committee Meeting for Export Promotion project
- ◆ Joint Coordination Committee Meeting for Certified Forest Coffee Production and Promotion project
- ◆ Joint Coordination Committee Meeting for Ethio\_SHEP project

## January 2020

- ◆ Project visits from Japan's Members of Parliament
- ◆ Ethiopia-Japan 2nd High-Quality Infrastructure Conference



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.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS!**

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