

Summary of AKAC / AKA 2020

AKAC Secretariat

Quick facts

1. Africa Kaizen Annual Conference

- 5th edition, and on-line for the first time
- Subtitle “The Role of Kaizen in Accelerating Industrialization in Africa Under the Challenges of COVID-19 and Beyond”
- Around 500 registration from over 30 countries

2. Africa Kaizen Award

- 2nd edition, and on-line for the first time
- Category of large organization and small/medium organization introduced
- 22 nominees from 13 countries
- Over 100 views for the presentation session on 26 and 27 August

Summary of each session

Day1: Opening Session

- Keynote Speech by Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD
“The Role of Kaizen in Accelerating Industrialization in Africa Under the Challenges of COVID-19 and Beyond”
 - Quality and productivity improvement is one of key factors to accelerate industrialization in Africa
 - Kaizen becomes more important than “before COVID-19”
 - Concrete actions are expected as a result of AKAC 2020

Day1: Panel Discussion

- Panelists from AfDB, NBSSI (Ghana), Kaizen practitioners from the private sector (Tanzania), and JICA
- Discussion on
 - i. the critical factors for industrialization
 - ii. economic transformation for the African continent
- Highlights
 - Necessity to raise local / domestic production
 - Comprehensive support including access to finance needs to be enhanced

Day1: Awarding Ceremony

- 4 organizations awarded: recommended to share their knowledge broadly
 - Large Scale Organization
 - Outstanding (1st): Eleonetech, Tunisia
 - Excellent (2nd): Natec Medical Ltd., Mauritius
 - Small and Medium Scale Organization
 - Outstanding (1st): Multi-Service Materiel Industrial S.A.R.L.U., Cameroon
 - Excellent (2nd): Francis Aluminium Limited, Ghana
- Improvements from 2019, and expectations for advanced Kaizen and contribution to business growth

Day2: Plenary Session

- Presentation1: Data Collection Survey on the Promotion of 'Global Kaizen Network' in African Region by Mr. Go Ohga, JPC
 - Importance of certificate and monetary based KPI highlighted
 - Further discussion and pilot activities planned
- Presentation 2: "Sharing the Experience in Asia by Asian Productivity Organization (APO)" by Dr. Mochtan, SG of APO
 - Introduced insights of "Center of Excellence" from various aspects: concepts, establishments, criteria, functions, challenges, and way forward

Day2: Breakout Session

- Topic 1: The Responses to COVID-19 and Kaizen Strategy to Reach out MSMEs
 - For business continuation, Kaizen mindset and approaches can “turn adversity to opportunity.”
 - Tax break, delayed payment and relaxed credit repayment deadline for MSMEs can be government support to company.
 - There are some measures to maintain job opportunity by company (cost cut by waste elimination) and by government (support to company for continuing employment).

Day2: Breakout Session

- Topic 2: Strengthening the Functions of Center of Excellence (CoE) in Africa
 - Experience and knowledge sharing of CoE ; peculiarities of EKI approach under COVID-19, history and back ground of Productivity Improvement in Africa, the function and challenge of INTI
 - The basic concept and challenges of C o E in with/after COVID-19 in the context of QPI/Kaizen promoting institutions in Africa were discussed .
 - To enhance and to establish of CoE in Africa, cooperation and corroborations among QPI/Kaizen promoting institutions with supporting APO and INTI are encouraged.

Day2: Breakout Session

- Topic 3: Startups, Innovation and Kaizen
 - Approaches like standardization and visualization effective for startups
 - Mindset change significant for startups to grow
 - Kaizen recommended to be included as one of support services for startups

Day 3: Way Forward

1. Communique

- Enforced implementation of Kaizen activities
- Further enhance support to MSMEs under COVID-19
- Promotion of AfCFTA

2. Africa Kaizen Initiative Action Plan

- Tasks to be takes during 2021 – 2025
- To be finalized in Nov. 2020
- Working group to be organized