

**FIFTH AFRICA KAIZEN ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 2020
01-03 SEPTEMBER 2020**

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE FIFTH AFRICA KAIZEN ANNUAL CONFERENCEC 2020 HELD FROM 01 TO 03 SEPTEMBER 2020

We, Heads of African Kaizen institutes, Productivity Centres, Kaizen professionals and consultants from all over the world, the organizing and partners institutions AUDA-NEPAD, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), member states as well as distinguished invitees:

1. **Express** our sincere gratitude to all the participants for their active engagement and the AUDA-NEPAD and JICA for organizing the conference;
2. Acknowledge the relevance and timeliness of the theme of the 5th AKAC 2020 Realizing Africa's industrial transformation;
3. **Welcome** the active participation of His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD in presenting a Keynote speech and Mr. Koji Makino, Director General, Economic Development Department (JICA) for making opening remarks.
4. **Reaffirm** the crucial role of Kaizen/ Quality and Productivity improvement as a critical enabler towards the attainment of the main goals of the African Union Agenda 2063 especially its industrial transformation;
5. Reaffirm that factors such as political leadership and improved access to finance is crucial for enterprises to enhance their Kaizen impact.
6. **Affirm** our commitment to enhance quality and productivity movement in the continent through the application of Kaizen technologies and other productivity improvement tools;
7. **Note** the progress made by member states by applying the Kaizen and related productivity tools in manufacturing and service sectors and their remarkable achievements that add values and the need to ensure the further uptake by Micro Small and Medium Enterprises and startups;
8. **Acknowledge** the encouraging work accomplished by Kaizen institutes and Productivity Centres during 2019 to provide their services to 6,414 enterprises and organizations, and some were presented in the AKAC 2020 as outstanding and excellent performing companies nominated for Africa Kaizen Award 2020;
9. **Encourage** the activities to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 by institutes and companies;

Agree to

- Draw a roadmap to establish and strengthen the function of Center of Excellences committed to quality and productivity improvement activities.
- Enhance the on-going efforts of mitigating the effects of COVID-19 in developing new training and consultancy schemes that include e-Learning and virtual services.

- Continuously building and upgrading the capabilities of Kaizen promoting institutions/Productivity Centers and Consultants to provide quality services at the highest standards,
- Encourage and assist member states to fully utilize the Kaizen Projects assisted by JICA to produce critical numbers of Kaizen consultants and practitioners and make use of the outputs of the projects.
- Encourage researches on the successes, limitations and outcomes of Kaizen/Quality and Productivity endeavours in the continent and the use of such research results.
- Motivate and encourage companies including startups to apply Kaizen technologies and related productivity improvement tools and participate in the Africa Kaizen Award (AKA 2021)
- Design and Launch a comprehensive AKIAP 2021-2025.

Recommend

1. Ongoing concerted efforts towards putting place the necessary aspects within Members States, RECs and the AUC to that facilitate successful implementation of the ACFTA
2. Creative and innovate approaches to mitigate the effects of shocks like COVID-19 on our MSMEs in order to build resilience and contribute to their survival, sustainability and integration to regional and global value chains
3. Further commitment in the efforts to develop new and improved ways of reaching out the MSMEs in their struggle to survive, sustain and connected to the GVC.
4. To reactivate national commitments at all levels; political, institutions, company and employee to expand the achievements gained so far and move forward to scale-up nationwide.
5. Counterparts organizations to allocate adequate budget for covering local costs of Kaizen activities as stipulated in project design matrix (PDM).
6. To assign adequate and permanent personnel by member states for knowledge transfer from Japanese experts to local consultants during the project period.
7. Kaizen institutes and Productivity Centers to network and strengthen their relationship in exchanging experiences using different communication systems including virtual/video conferences and meetings and expand their experiences to their neighbour countries..
8. To design a national convention system at company and national level as part of AKA by member states.
9. Member states to share the experiences of Kaizen/Productivity improvement efforts and disseminate the philosophy in the local contexts.
10. Acceleration of the AKI Action Plans.

Done in Virtually on the 3rd of September 2020.

Delegates of the AKAC