



7th Africa Kaizen Annual Conference

4-5 October 2022

CAMEROON

Final COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE SEVENTH AFRICA KAIZEN
ANNUAL CONFERENCE (AKAC2022) HELD FROM 4 TO 5
October 2022 IN CAMEROON**

We, the Heads of African Kaizen institutes, National Productivity Centres, Africa Kaizen Initiative (AKI) Potential Centres of Excellence (COEs); Representatives of the private sector and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); Representatives of the Government of Cameroon, Kaizen professionals and consultants from Africa and Japan; the organizing and partner institutions; The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as our distinguished invitees:

1. **Express** our sincere gratitude to the Government of Cameroon, AUDA-NEPAD, and JICA for organizing the Seventh African Kaizen Annual Conference (AKAC) and the African Kaizen Awards (AKA) 2022.
2. **Acknowledge** the pertinence and timeliness of the theme of the 7th AKAC 2022 in contributing to the realization of Africa's industrial transformation, the successful implementation of all relevant continental platforms, including the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and the Accelerated Industrial Development Plan for Africa (AIDA).
3. **Recognize** the critical role that governments, regional institutions, pan African financial institutions, partners, regulatory bodies, and the private sector, especially MSMEs, play in driving and improving competitiveness and productivity.
4. **Acknowledge** the need to work in a harmonised approach, nationally, regionally, and continentally and to catalyse and enhance Kaizen/ Quality

and Productivity Improvement (K/QPI) as a part of Africa's quest towards the realisation of Africa's industrialisation drive, especially given the ongoing preparations for the African Union Extraordinary Assembly on industrialisation, economic diversification, and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to be held in November 2022 in Niamey, Niger.

5. **Affirm** our commitment to promoting Kaizen and Quality and Productivity Improvement and enhancing the performance of the 2021-2025 Action plan of the Africa Kaizen Initiative (AKI-AP 2021-2025) and its contribution to achieving the main goals of the AU Agenda 2063.
6. **Re-affirm** that K/QPI helps to foster competitive industries; develop technical and managerial skills; expand investment by generating additional revenue and profits, and thereby creating more job opportunities.
7. **Note** the progress made by AKI Member States, including the Republic of Cameroon, and the outstanding performing companies nominated for AKA 2022.
8. **Acknowledge** and encourage the progress driven by the 5 African Kaizen Working Groups (WGs) 2021/22.
9. **Note** the recommendations of the TICAD 8 held in August 2022 in Tunisia, particularly the pertinence of accelerating AKI to further contribute to inclusive and sustainable development in Africa.

10. Agree to

- 11.1 Further, enhance the 5 WGs' performance to continue making meaningful contributions to the AKI implementation at all levels, with a particular focus on expanding the effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

- 11.2 Support the activities for mitigating the COVID-19 negative impacts on African MSMEs through the AKI implementation, by developing and implementing various digital solutions, along with inspiring necessary creativity and innovation.
- 11.3 Promoting cooperation and exchange of information, knowledge, and best practices at all levels, regional and continental, by strengthening the capacity of K/QPI implementing agencies as COEs and implementing the AKI-COE Capacity Enhancement Programme.
- 11.4 Foster research on the successes, challenges, and outcomes of K/QPI endeavours in Africa and comparable other regions and promote implementing such findings.
- 11.5 Motivate and encourage companies to apply K/QPI and participate in the African Kaizen Awards organized annually by AUDA-NEPAD and JICA.

11. Recommend

- 12.1 Participating countries to further accelerate commitments to implement AKI-AP 2021-2025 at levels and incorporate them into their national quality and productivity improvement policy frameworks with adequate resource allocation to facilitate its implementation.
- 12.2 Governments, Kaizen Institutions, National Productivity Centres, Kaizen Units, AKI COEs, and all relevant stakeholders to exert more effort in compiling and sharing best practices and lessons learned at all levels across Africa.
- 12.3 K/QPI Institutions to give due attention to Start-ups and MSMEs in their struggle to emerge, survive and sustain.

- 12.4 AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with partners, including Pan-African Productivity Association (PAPA) in particular, to strengthen its role in advocating and coordinating the implementation of AKI.
- 12.5 JICA to continue its support for the effective implementation of AKI 2017-2027 framework in line with the TICAD-8 recommendations, particularly regarding the importance of investing the industrial human resources.
- 12.6 AUDA-NEPAD and JICA to continue communicating with other development partners to facilitate their participation in AKI for the scale-up of K/QPI.
- 12.7 Participating companies to encourage and empower their managers and workers to implement K/QPI.
- 12.8 K/QPI Institutions to strengthen their networks and relationships with relevant local institutions, the private sector, associations, educational institutions, and the like to build and expand local capabilities.
- 12.9 K/QPI Institutions to establish a convention system (including at company and national levels) as part of AKI.
- 12.10 K/QPI practitioners and professionals in Africa to further strengthen their commitment to implement AKI-AP and show more tangible results to rally more momentum and partnerships at all levels.
- 12.11 All the stakeholders, at the milestone of halfway of the 10-year AKI journey, to consider further how to sustain and expand the AKI activities and achievements within the second half of the 10-year period and beyond 2027.

Done in Yaoundé on 5 October 2022.

Delegates of the AKAC 2022