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A Remarkable Year for JICA

The year 2013 was remarkable not only for Kenya, which was marking its Golden Jubilee of self-rule, but also for JICA. This year, JICA marked 50 years of development cooperation with Kenya. It was an opportune time to reflect on our activities over the years, appreciate various successes and plan for greater achievements by applying our experiences and lessons learnt.

JICA’s activities are centred on the following five priority areas:

1) Economic infrastructure
2) Agriculture
3) Water and Sanitation / Environment
4) Human Resource Development, and
5) Health

This year witnessed the launch of various projects, as well as the end for others. One such project was the long-running Strengthening for Mathematics and Science Education (SMASE) which came to an end in December, 2013. This was one of JICA’s longest projects, having been launched in 1998 to improve performance of science and mathematics subjects in primary and secondary schools.

TICAD V Conference

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was an initiative started by the Government of Japan and the United Nations in 1993, to reverse the decline in development assistance for Africa which had followed the end of the Cold War. Its main objectives are:

1) To promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and their partners.
2) To mobilize support for African-owned development initiatives. These objectives are embodied in the concept of “ownership” and “partnership”.

Since the first TICAD Conference in 1993, subsequent conferences have been held every five years; TICAD II in 1998, TICAD III in 2003, TICAD IV in 2008 and most recently TICAD V, held in Yokohama, Japan in 2013.

TICAD V was co-organized by the Government of Japan, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC). Many African leaders, including Kenya, had an opportunity to discuss future development of their countries and the continent. The TICAD V Conference resolved to work together under the concept of ‘Hand in Hand with a More Dynamic Africa’ to accelerate growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction. The following approaches will be applied to achieve this: Promoting Private Sector-led Growth; Accelerating Infrastructure Development; Empowering Farmers as Mainstream Economic Actors; Promoting Sustainable and Resilient Growth; Creating an Inclusive Society for Growth and Consolidating Peace, Stability and Good Governance.

Launch of ABE Initiative

During TICAD V, the Japanese Prime Minister, H.E. Shinzo Abe, stated Japan’s policy of promoting support for the on-going dynamic growth of Africa through stronger public-private partnerships. He announced the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for the youth. This is a strategic four-year plan to provide 1,000 youths in Africa with opportunities to study Master’s degrees at Japanese universities and do internships at Japanese enterprises. This will cultivate a strong human network between Japan and Africa, and increase awareness among Africans regarding the efficiency of Japanese technologies and systems of enterprises.

We at JICA are proud to have walked with the Kenyan government, other development partners and stakeholders from the public and private sector in seeing Kenya’s development grow in leaps and bounds. We look forward to even greater collaboration in the future.

- Hideo EGUCHI
Chief Representative, JICA Kenya Office
Highlights 2013

Agriculture

• Signing of Agreement of 2KR Agricultural Machinery, January 2013
• CARD Conference in Senegal, February 2013
• Start of SATREPS Rice Research Project with KARI, May 2013
• Handing over of Relief Goods to the then Ministry of Special Programmes through Kenya Red Cross, May 2013
• Declaration of expansion of SHEP Approach (up-scaling and out-scaling) to other African countries, at the TICAD V Conference, June 2013
• Signing of Record of Discussions for new Gender Project, December 2013

Economic Infrastructure and Private Sector Development

• OVOP Exchange Programme with Malawi, January 2013
• ToT on Devolution, January 2013
• Renewable Energy Forum, January 2013
• Launch of Real Time Monitoring System / Cargo Control System (RTMS/CCS) for Customs Project at Namanga, February 2013
• Productivity Promotion Seminar, February 2013
• 7th Regional Joint Coordinating Committee (RJCC) for JICA Project on Capacity Building for the Customs Administrations of the Eastern African Region (Phase 2), in Tanzania
• Signing of Grant Agreement for Capacity Development of GDC, June 2013
• Detailed Planning Survey on Development of Dongo Kundu, Mombasa Special Economic Zone Project
• Joint Coordinating Committee on Project on Productivity Improvement, August 2013
• Launch of the Kenyan “Mobile Service for Tax Information via SMS and USSD Platform”, October 2013
• 1st Regional Joint Coordinating Committee (RJCC) for JICA Project on Capacity Development for Trade Facilitation in the East African Region, November 2013
• OVOP Technical Training Seminars, November 2013
• Visit to Olkaria Geothermal Project by JICA Vice President, November 2013
• BRIGHT Project Seminar for Dissemination of Needs Survey, Nairobi, November 2013
• ToT for BRIGHT Project, December 2013
• Launch of GDC Geothermal Development Master Plan Project, December 2013
• Commissioning of Nairobi Western Ring Roads, December 2013
• Mid-term Review on Project for Improving OVOP Services
• Signing of the Record of Discussions on Project on Capacity for International Trade Facilitation in Eastern African Region, December 2013
• Pilot TOTs for Technical Service Providers for the Productivity Improvement Project

Health

• National Policy Seminar on Improving Quality of Healthcare in Kenya, February 2013
• Launch of Products for Community Health Strategy, May 2013
• Inauguration of Arbovirus Research Project (SATREPS/KEMRI) in Alupe, Busia, June 2013
• Final Dissemination Workshop for SEMAH Project, Kisumu, June 2013
• Briefing for Health Cabinet Secretary on JICA-supported Health Projects, June 2013
• Handing Over of Project for Reinforcement of Vaccine Storage, June 2013
• Regional Meeting on Health Systems Management, December 2013
• National Forum for HTC Demonstration Sites, SPEAK Project II, December 2013
Human Resource Development

- SMASE National INSET at CEMASTEA, January 2013
- SMASE INSET Management Sensitization National Workshops for Education Managers/Administrators, January-August 2013
- Training for CCPO Officers, Kisumu, February 2013
- INSET for primary regional trainers (PTTC tutors) CEMASTEA, February-March 2013
- JEPAK Medical Camp at City Cotton Slums, Nairobi, March 2013
- DGSDO Workshop at JKUAT, April 2013
- National Robot Contest, Nairobi, May 2013
- SMASE Technical Workshop, Zambia, June 2013
- In-country Training for Empowering Women, JKUAT, June-October 2013
- National Mathematics and Science Symposium, CEMASTEA, July 2013
- SMASE Project Phase III (2009-2013) Terminal Evaluation by joint MOEST-JICA team, July-August 2013
- INSET for cluster trainers at the 19 PTTCs and cluster trainers for teachers, August, 2013
- Regional and cluster INSETs at the 19 PTTCs and at cluster training centres, August 2013
- Inspection of Completed CEMASTEA Facilities by Principal Secretary, MOEST, September 2013
- Launch of CCPO Materials, September 2013
- District SMASE secondary trainers’ representatives’ workshop, CEMASTEA, September 2013
- TCTP courses for 153 participants from SMASE-WECSA member countries, CEMASTEA, September-October 2013
- Annual JEPAK Conference, November 2013
- National Workshop for Japan LS trained ex-participants (QASO, TAC tutors), CEMASTEA, November 2013
- Official Closing of SMASE Project by Cabinet Secretary, MOEST, December 2013

Environment and Water

- Completion of the Project for Improvement of Water Supply System in Embu Town and Surrounding Area, February 2013
- Commissioning of Rural Water Supply Phase II (Machakos, Makueni), May 2013
- Signing of Exchange of Notes (E/N) and Grant Agreement (G/A) for the Project for Augmentation of Water Supply System in Narok, July 2013
- Signing of Exchange of Notes (E/N) and Grant Agreement (G/A) for the Project for Rural Water Supply in Baringo County, July 2013
- Fourth Stakeholders Consultative Workshop for the Project for Management of Non-Revenue Water, July 2013
- Signing of MOU between JICA, Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) and the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) on implementation of non-structural measures for the Project for Capacity Development of Effective Flood Management in Flood Prone Areas, August 2013
- Signing of MOU with Red Cross, WRMA and Red Cross for Flood Management Project, August 2013
- Terminal Evaluation of Phase IV of the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) Regional Training Course on Mitigating Climate Change in Africa through Social Forestry, August/September 2013
- Participation in the 3rd International Water Association (IWA) Congress and Exhibition, October 2013
- Completion of the Project on the Development of the National Water Master Plan 2030, October 2013
- Final Regional Training Course on Mitigating Climate Change in Africa through Social Forestry in Phase IV of the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP), October/November 2013
- JICA and KEFRI’s Special Recognition and Award for their contribution to South-South and Triangular Cooperation at the United Nations Global South-South Development Expo, November 2013
- Visit to KEFRI by JICA’s Vice President Mr. Hiroshi Kato after attending celebration to mark JICA’s Five Decades of Relationship with Kenya, November 2013
Trends of JICA’s Assistance to Kenya in the Last 3 Years

50 years after Japan-Kenya development cooperation began, JICA continues to strive for greater development of the Kenyan people, as stated in its Vision of ‘Inclusive and Dynamic Development.’

The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) further reaffirmed Japan’s commitment for the Development of Africa. JICA will therefore continue to implement its activities more effectively and efficiently in cooperation with the Government of Kenya and other partners.

Below is the trend of Japan’s assistance to Kenya in the last 3 years:

### Figures on JICA’s Operations in Kenya

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Aid</th>
<th>Japanese Fiscal Year (April - March)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Cooperation</td>
<td>2,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Unit: Million Japanese Yen)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>JICA’s ODA Loan</td>
<td>1,257</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Unit: Million Japanese Yen)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>JICA’s Grant Aid</td>
<td>2,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Unit: Million Japanese Yen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Participants (New)</td>
<td>513</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Unit: Persons)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experts (New)</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Unit: Persons)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JICA’s Volunteers (New)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Unit: Persons)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note) JICA’s ODA Loan is based on the amount of disbursement.

JICA’s Grant Aid is based on the amount of signed Grant Agreement.

JICA’s Volunteers include Senior Volunteers in addition to JOCV.
On 1st November 2013, the JICA Kenya Office hosted a luncheon to mark its 50th anniversary of development cooperation with Kenya.

The luncheon was attended by many people from both the public and private sectors – government ministries, parastatals, international organizations, donor agencies, UN bodies, NGOs and private companies. This was a fitting reflection of JICA’s work, which touches the lives of people from all walks of life.

JICA was also honored to host Prof. Judi Wakhungu, the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Environment and Natural Resources, who was the Chief Guest. Prof. Wakhungu commended JICA for its long history of cooperation with Kenya, and particularly in the field of environment, citing various long-standing and successful projects.

Mr. Hiroshi Kato, the Vice President in charge of the Sub-Saharan Africa Department at JICA Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, was the main speaker. He congratulated Kenya on marking 50 years since attaining independence in 1963, which also coincided with the start of Japan’s support to Kenya.

Mr. Kato shared some highlights from Japan’s 50 years of fruitful collaboration with Kenya. He pointed out some of the unique features of Japan’s assistance, and outlined JICA’s plans for the future.

Mr. Kato lauded JICA’s long-standing partnerships, noting that they had led to greater development. “The tireless efforts of the Kenyan people, and support from dedicated Japanese people have supported the country to take great strides forward. Today we see Kenya as an important and reliable partner with whom we can jointly extend cooperation across the African continent by spreading the knowledge and expertise we have accumulated together.”

Among the key sectors he highlighted was forestry preservation through the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). He noted with appreciation the positive impact of KEFRI, whose JICA-supported training program received a UN South-South Cooperation Solutions Award at the Global South-South Development Expo held in Nairobi in October 2013.

JICA also supports capacity development in the agriculture and technology sector, through its long-term engagement with the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). Japan supported the construction of the institution in 1979, and this fruitful collaboration continues to date.

Mr. Kato also touched on other projects in JICA’s main sectors – the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion Unit (SHEP UP) Project in Agriculture, the Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education (SMASE) Project in Education, construction of the Nyali Bridge and the Moi International Airport in Mombasa and the Sondu Miriu Hydro power project in Energy.

Others are the expansion of the Mombasa Port which is currently underway, construction of the Nairobi western ring roads, and in the energy sector the expansion of the existing Olkaria I Geothermal Power Plant, which will help to electrify more of the country and to do it in an environmentally friendly way. “As you know, being a volcanic country, Japan is proud to have advanced technology in geothermal energy production, and we hope this technology will be useful in supporting Kenya’s energy portfolio,” he said.

Mr. Kato gave three key features of Japan’s assistance - emphasis on human resource development, derived from Japan’s own experience, consistent emphasis on infrastructure development, and support for South-South Cooperation.

On JICA’s future plans, Mr. Kato noted, “Across the continent and over the next five years, JICA’s human resource development plan in Africa includes improving the learning environment for 20 million African children through mathematics and science education and others; increasing agricultural production, especially for rice cultivation; and promoting a ‘farming as business’ approach for 50,000 small-scale farmers.”

JICA as an international cooperation agency of the Government of Japan is committed to helping the Kenyan government and people to achieve these worthy objectives. We would like to see Kenya play a growing role to extend support to other African countries with its accumulated expertise.
Support to Agriculture

HISTORY OF SUPPORT TO HORTICULTURE

Horticulture is Kenya’s main export earner. Besides the export market, a significant proportion of all fresh fruit and vegetable produce is consumed locally, and the domestic market accounts for over 90 percent of the total growth in Kenya’s horticultural production (Tschirley et al. 2004).

Roughly 70 percent of all rural households sell some fresh produce. The gross value of smallholders’ sales of horticultural crops is almost as large as that of maize. Most fresh produce enters the national market from relatively few farmers.

Although horticultural crops have been relatively successful for smallholders, the sector is not without its challenges and problems. In the horticultural value chain, the greatest potential to improve rural and urban welfare lies in improving the functioning of the markets and farmers’ access to the same.

JICA has supported the sector over the years to empower farmers to access the markets both domestic and export. Past Projects in horticulture include the following:

Macadamia Nut (Horticulture Development Project)

This project ran from 1985-1991. The main agency in this project was the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI).

Its primary objectives were to promote research and training in order to develop suitable Macadamia varieties that would increase production for both domestic and export markets.

In this project, JICA provided experts and equipment, training in Japan and construction of a research and training facility.

Farmers learn better farming methods.
Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP)

The Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP) started in November 2006 for a three-year cooperation period under the technical cooperation program between the Government of the Republic of Kenya (GoK) and JICA. The project aimed at developing capacity of the smallholder horticulture farmer groups. It was implemented by the SHEP Project Team consisting of the members appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Horticulture Crops Development Authority (HCDA) and JICA, with close collaboration among them.

In the SHEP project, a series of trainings centered on capacity building from production to marketing, was conducted to the targeted small-scale horticulture farmers; this resulted in high growth of their incomes, demonstrating the project as a success.

The project confirmed the market-oriented approach as suitable for smallholder horticulture farmers in Kenya in terms of improving farmers’ access to markets and empowering them. The GoK regarded this success highly and paid attention to the support system demonstrated in SHEP to small scale horticultural farmers. Based on this conviction, GoK/MoA established the SHEP Unit to implement the SHEP Approach nationwide and requested Japan to support the startup of project and to build capacity of the SHEP Unit.

Voice of Project Officer

“When we started implementing SHEP, the farmers were not convinced that they would benefit from the new approach. However, when they tried this new approach, it did not take long to convince them since use of the approach increased their incomes. I feel motivated when I see farmers benefiting from our services.”

- Ms. Francisca Malenge, SHEP Unit Leader, MOALF

Voice of Frontline Extension Officer

“Before SHEP, there was less interaction between our office and farmers. Like my colleagues, I had very little motivation to work because I only had basic extension skills and felt less confident in my work. But after the SHEP trainings, I saw the livelihoods of the farmers improve over time. I felt encouraged to continue improving my extension work and pushed myself to a higher level. My farmers are also motivated to work closely with me by practising what they have learnt to improve their situations on the farms and in their households.”

- Ms. Christine Anyango, Frontline Extension Officer, Kisii South Sub-County

Voice of Farmer

“SHEP provided us with a chance to build linkages with the stakeholders through the FABLIST Forum where I met someone from a community-based agribusiness organization. He said, “You can be a millionaire practicing farming. What you lack is time planning rather than the agricultural techniques”. At the time, we were still not sure about our future outputs, but decided to take a step forward. I had never questioned the conventional way of farming, i.e. production-oriented farming, until then. But after SHEP, we started planting kales not only in the rainy season but even in the dry season so that we could harvest them in the peak demand month, which should be considered as market-oriented farming. At first, our neighbours saw us and said, “You are mad!” Now they have stopped laughing at us and want to join our group instead.”

- Ms. Peres Olwande, Ne Gi Wang Self-Help Group, Gem Sub-County

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion Unit Project (SHEP UP)

The purpose of the project is to establish a system which contributes to the improvement of income of the smallholder horticulture producers in all the provinces in Kenya. This will be achieved through establishment of the extension system of support consisting of technical assistance on organizational, production and management aspects articulated by previous cooperation schemes such as Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP) and utilisation of information relevant to
improving horticulture production and income.

The Project covers all 8 (former) provinces in Kenya. In each province, ten districts are selected by a proposal system as implementation districts. Each district selects five model farmer groups. Two representative farmers (male and female) from the groups are trained with Field Extension Workers/Group Facilitators (FE0s/GFs). The training is comprehensive; covering the entire value chain of farming, from seed selection to produce marketing, and post-harvest handling. By learning and implementing the SHEP Approach into practice, the farmers soon understand the shift of ideas from “Grow and Sell” to “Grow to Sell.”

The project begun in the year 2010 and it will come to an end in 2015. The Ministry of Agriculture is the implementing Agency while Horticulture Crops Development Authority (HCDA) is the Cooperating Agency.

The Project activities are geared towards supporting members of SHEP UP Model Farmer Groups to increase production and marketing of high quality produce which meets the market requirements. There are various crop production activities being undertaken by the Project. These activities include:

1. Baseline Survey Data Collection on horticultural crops for the SHEP UP Model Farmer Groups
2. Market Survey and Crop Selection by members of the SHEP UP Model Farmer Groups during Farmer Group Exercises
3. Production and distribution of crop production training materials (“KAMISHIBAI!”)
4. Facilitators’ Training for Farmers’ Demand Driven Extension (FT-FaDDE): Training of the Frontline Extension Officers (FE0s)/Group Facilitators and Divisional Crops Officers on production of crops selected by the SHEP UP Model Farmer Groups
5. In-field Training: Training of farmers by the FE0s/Group Facilitators on production of crops which the SHEP UP Model Farmer Groups have selected
6. Follow-up on the In-field Training to determine progress and quality of implementation

**SHEP Approach in Africa**

Currently, efforts are being made to utilize the Kenyan experience to spread the use of the SHEP approach across Africa. This is in line with the call by the Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe during the TICAD V Conference in Yokohama, to support smallholder farmers across Africa.

It is expected that soon, through the implementation of third-country training and the dispatch of third-country experts, support will be provided to disseminate the SHEP Approach across African countries.

**SIDEMAN SAL**

The project aims to improve resilience against drought and food insecurity through participatory smallholder community irrigation development.

The project is running for five years since 2012.

The initial plan of the project was to work in 16 sites selected in semi-arid lands across the country. However, the plan has been reviewed to concentrate on the first 8 sites (irrigation schemes); Olopoito in Narok North, Kasokoni in Taveta, Mdachi in Kilifi, Murachake in Mbeere, Muungano in Tharaka, Tumutumu in Igembe, Gatukai in Laikipia West and Kaben in Marakwet. The beneficiaries will be identified farmers living in those areas.

The organization partnering with JICA in the implementation of the project is the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF) as Executing Agency, while the Directorate of Irrigation in the same ministry is the implementing agency.

The project has successfully conducted Environmental Impact Assessments, the feasibility studies and detailed designs of the 8 sites. The commencement of construction works of the irrigation project is in 2014, conducted by the Irrigation Water Users Associations (IWUA) and private contractors.

The construction of the irrigation canals and pipelines will be undertaken by the IWUA under the Technical guidance of the District Irrigation Officers (DIOs) and the Project Management Team (PMT). This will enhance capacities of the IWUA members towards sustainable management of the irrigation schemes.
Mwea Irrigation Development Project (MIDP)

The objective of the MIDP is to increase rice production in the Mwea Irrigation Scheme (MIS) by rational water use through construction and rehabilitation of Thiba Dam, irrigation and drainage facilities and other related facilities. It will also improve infrastructure operation and management in MIS, thereby contributing to expansion of the irrigation area, improvement of the livelihood of farmers in MIS, and increased food self-sufficiency in Kenya as a whole.

The financing of project implementation has been done by the Government of Japan and the Government of Kenya through an agreement signed by the two parties. In 2011, consultancy services were procured by the Executing Agency, the National Irrigation Board (NIB), A Joint Venture of Nippon Koei and GIBB Africa successfully bid for the tender.

The objectives of the consultancy services are to:

a. Carry out review and modification of detailed design
b. Prepare pre-qualification and tender documents
c. Provide assistance during pre-qualification and tendering, and
d. Perform construction supervision of MIDP.

The Executing Agency and the Consultant are in the process of tendering to procure services of a contractor(s) to engage in construction of the dam, construction of irrigation facilities and the resettlement area development.

The people affected by the project have successfully received compensation in cash and by getting resettled elsewhere.

Rice-based and Market-Oriented Agriculture Promotion Project (Rice MAPP)

RICEMAPP commenced in 2011 after the signing of the Technical Cooperation agreement between the Government of Kenya and JICA.

The Project aims to increase agricultural profit for farmers in the rice irrigation schemes through the market-oriented approach beginning in Mwea Irrigation Scheme.

The project will achieve this by enhancing the basis of water management system, the production and post-harvest system, and ensuring the farming system developed is practiced in MIS.

Among the activities of the project in MIS include developing and demonstrating prototype of appropriate machinery, developing mechanization system in the Scheme, developing sustainable rice seed system in the Scheme and support trainings for farmers and millers.

The SATREPS Rice Research Project

The SATREPS project on Rice Research started in 2013 with the aim of developing rice varieties suitable to the various cultivation environments in Kenya and cultivation methods that extract full potential of each variety and realize sustainable rice production.

At the end of the 3 year project period:

- Kenya’s National Rice Breeding System will be developed,
- Rice parental lines suitable to the various cultivation environments in Kenya will be developed through tailor-made breeding,
- Knowledge required to develop cultivation methods that extract full potential of each variety and realize sustainable rice production will be generated and Research personnel for rice will be developed.
- Research activities will be conducted at the experimental fields and laboratories of the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Maseno University and NIB. The target area for the Project includes all rice production areas and potential areas for rice production in Kenya.
Towards Kenya’s Rapid Economic Growth

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

One Village One Product (OVOP):
“Tunajivunia Jamii Yetu, Tunajivunia Bidhaa Zetu”

Six years down the road and the One Village One Product (OVOP) concept that was initiated in Kenya in 2008 is still going strong. OVOP remains a flagship project for industrialization under the Vision 2030 and the second Medium Term Plan covering the period 2013-2017. The new phase that commenced in November 2011 has conducted a series of activities aimed at supporting local business groups to improve their products using locally available resources. The target areas have since then increased from the initial 11 counties in the pilot phase to 22 counties in the new phase covering Rift Valley, Nyanza, Central, Western, Coast and Eastern Regions.

Progress in some of these activities includes the holding of eight Business Management Seminars for selected MSMEs in 22 counties. A total number of 232 participants from 132 selected MSMEs were trained on: (1) record keeping, (2) marketing and (3) linking with business partners. From the seminar, participants were able to adopt a standard method of keeping records, conducting market research and meeting and discussing with business partners on one to one basis.

In addition, OVOP conducted Technical Training through lectures, practices and field visits. During these training sessions, the participants are expected to: (i) review basic skills of processing in a particular sector; (ii) learn value addition and processing techniques on various products in a particular sector; (iii) learn how to improve market access (i.e.: Packaging and labelling, KEBS certificate, etc.). At the end of this seminar, the participants acquired knowledge and skills to produce marketable products and sell more. In this regard, technical trainings on different products were conducted in 2013. These were: Honey Processing in September 2013 for 12 MSMEs and 24 entrepreneurs, dairy training in November for 13 groups with 24 participants, and fruit and vegetable processing for 24 people from 13 groups in December. Trainings for other sectors will be conducted in the following year as well.

The recent Mid-Term Review of the project conducted in October 2013 revealed that the Project is being implemented mostly as planned, but identifies some challenges such as the transition to County structure. The review came out with recommendations for the remaining project period which included monitoring of the business impact at the OVOP group level, i.e. increase of sales as well as profits will be important in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the OVOP.

OVOP products displayed at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June 2013.
The project had two elements: the development plan study and the technical transfer based on pilot activities. On the development plan study, a proposal of activities in productivity policies, as well as required PCK strategies for the enhancement of productivity improvement was made.

On the technical transfer, PCK’s capacity on productivity improvement was strengthened while pilot activities, such as consultation on pilot companies, ToT for Technical Service Providers and guidance on productivity indices were implemented.

Key among the tangible results on the capacity was the Consultation Methodology - KAIZEN - based on the Toyota Production System (TPS) which was applied in six pilot companies in 2013, together with the same number of companies who were consulted in the previous year. The TPS methodology applied in these pilot companies enabled the achievement of successful results in improving production processes, improving machine utilization by shortening machine set-up time, and improving storage management.

On the development plan side, the guidance to improve the quality of PCK’s reports on productivity indices, namely productivity statistics, was provided by a JICA expert, based on the results of the workshop among the experts of the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services (MOLSS). Further, successful cases of productivity promotion policies and productivity implementation strategies in other countries were learnt through “Training programme in Japan”, “Observation mission in Malaysia” and “Study in Neighbouring countries” (Ethiopia and Tanzania).

Based on the detailed study and the results of the pilot activities in this project, Ten Priority Action Plans (PAPs) have been proposed for productivity improvement in Kenya. These revolve around productivity awareness and promotion; productivity improvement practices; productivity measurement and research; enhancing productivity improvement (PI) practices through increasing the number of PI experts; developing materials and tools on PI, enhancing PI at firm level, packaging training for MSEs; enhancing PI for Public Sector; increasing PI at the counties and 5S sensitization. The tenth action plan would focus on improving supply and use of productivity statistics.

It is the desire of JICA’s support to this project, that the Kenyan Government considers implementing these action plans to help realize its vision of becoming a globally competitive country.
TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

JICA’s infrastructure support is aligned with Kenya’s Vision 2030. The Vision 2030 defines infrastructure development as an enabler for economic growth. Accordingly, the concept of JICA’s programme on improvement of infrastructure for transportation in Kenya has been developed. Overall, the sector interventions aim to reduce transportation costs with two (2) main outcomes thus: improvement of road networks, and facilities and functions at Mombasa Port. The sector support concept builds on the strengths or competitive edge of JICA’s operations in the transport infrastructure sector.

JICA has a three-pronged approach in the transport sector focusing interventions at the gateway to Kenya (Operations at Mombasa Port), Kenya’s Capital City (decongestion of the Nairobi Metropolitan area) and improvement of international trunk roads. The Nairobi transport infrastructure development includes expansion of Western Ring Roads and Ngong Roads. Development of both transport and city master planning are also supported by JICA.

Mombasa Port

As regards the improvement of facilities and functions at the Mombasa Port, JICA is heavily involved in the Port modernization program. The importance of Mombasa port as a major gateway to Kenya and other neighbouring countries that are landlocked cannot be overemphasized. Container handling volume at the port of Mombasa has more than doubled from approximately 240,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) in 2000 to approximately 600,000 TEU in 2013 while demand forecast indicates approximately 960,000 TEU in 2015.

While the Port’s annual handling capacity of 450,000 TEU is limited; the port needs to improve facilities for larger size containership, accessibility to the port and operational efficiency. The current project at the port aims at expanding cargo handling capacity through building of a new container terminal west of Kipevu. Concurrently, there is support to improve efficiency of cargo handling including supporting transaction advisory services and port planning at Dongo Kundu. The Dongo Kundu bypass also aims to provide evacuation of cargo from the Port.

Nairobi Western Ring Roads Project is Commissioned - “Cotton Road”

Endless traffic jams have become the norm in Nairobi, not only impacting negatively on people’s health and productivity in school or work, but also putting a heavy toll on the economy. According to a 2011 IBM Commuter Pain survey, Nairobi is one of the cities with the world’s longest traffic jams, averaging 2.1 hours. UN-Habitat estimates that the city, with more than 3 million residents, loses about Kes. 50 million a day to traffic congestion.

The Government of Japan, through JICA, assisted in the formulation of the ‘Master Plan for Urban Transport in the Nairobi Metropolitan Area.’ The Master Plan identified some projects to be developed as a priority, one of which was the construction of Nairobi Western Ring Roads. JICA implemented this grant aid project in collaboration with the Ministry of Roads and the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA).

The project sought to improve accessibility in the city, reduce traffic accidents and save time of non-motorized transport users. The 8.4km project, implemented from 2011-2013 connects several roads in the western part of the city. This has diversified traffic flow away from the main highways and reduced congestion in the central business district.

The project was officially commissioned by H.E. Mwai Kibaki, former President of Kenya, on behalf of H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta. This was part of the Kenya @50 Celebrations launched to mark the Golden Jubilee of Kenya’s independence, attained in 1963. Japan was also marking 50 years of collaboration with Kenya.

H.E. Kibaki noted that the Western Ring Roads and similar projects would transform Kenya into a global competitor with world-class infrastructure. This would drive the Kenyan economy to greater heights and attract investors. He decried the spate of road accidents and urged Kenyans to shun reckless driving.

One safety feature of the Western Ring Roads is that a lane for cyclists and pedestrians is provided throughout the length of the roads. This will make it safer for these often ignored road users and drastically reduce accidents.

Handing over the project, the Japanese Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Tatsushi Terada noted that Japan recognizes infrastructure as an important pillar for economic and regional development. He added that Japanese companies emphasize on commitment to quality in all their projects. JICA’s Chief Representative, Mr. Hideo Eguchi, also witnessed the commissioning of the roads.

JICA has over the years implemented numerous infrastructure projects across the country. This is a demonstration of Japan’s commitment to supporting Kenya’s economic growth by aiding the convenient movement of people and goods.

Annual Report 2013
JICA Finances 140MW Geothermal Power at Olkaria I Unit 4 & 5

The Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, on 9 September 2013, unveiled the proposed Roadmap for provision of more than 5000+ MW of electricity in the next forty months dubbed “5000+ MW Transform Kenya.” This approach will focus much more on utilizing non-conventional energy resources namely Geothermal, Coal and Liquefied Natural Gas.

Geothermal power plants are considered to be green energy projects that contribute to reduced emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Geothermal energy is cheap compared to expensive thermal energy thus will contribute to making our economy more competitive.

The commissioning date for Olkaria I Unit 4 & 5 is expected in 2014. Commissioning of the Olkaria IV (140 MW) by other Development Partners is also expected in 2014. According to the Energy Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Davis Chirchir, “Completion of these two projects will inject 280MW into the grid and will significantly address power costs in Kenya”.

Olkaria-Lessos Kisumu Transmission Line

Within the Least Cost Power Development Plan (LCPDP) developed by GoK are plans to construct new transmission lines and substations between Olkaria, Lessos and Kisumu that will form part of the interconnection between Kenya and Uganda.

JICA signed a loan agreement with GoK for the construction of the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu Transmission Line (O-L-K TL) Project (total 290 km) to evacuate power from the Olkaria geothermal development project in Naivasha to Kisumu City and Kenya’s western region via Lessos sub-station. The Olkaria-Lessos line is 400kV and the Lessos-Kisumu line will be 220kV.

The Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu transmission line will be part of the planned three regional inter connectors namely:

1) Lessos-Tororo 400 kV double circuit transmission line
2) Kenya-Ethiopia 500kV
3) 400kV Nairobi-Arusha lines

However, efficient and effective electric power transmission still remains a major challenge.

The O-L-K TL project is implemented by Kenya Transmission Company (KETRACO) under the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum (MOEP). It is expected to retire the expensive emergency diesel power generation at Muhoroni, stabilize power supply and enhance efficiency, reliability and security of electric power supply. This will be done by constructing higher voltage transmission line systems, thereby creating a conducive investment climate and enabling economic growth in Kenya and the region.

JICA’s Assistance to Promote Renewable Energy

Although Renewable Energy resources provide an area of great opportunity in enhancing electrification capacity for the country, they are under-utilized in Kenya.

JICA’s assistance to the two sister renewable energy projects with the Rural Electrification Authority (REA) and JKUAT has greatly improved the awareness and capacity in dealing with renewable energies in Kenya. These are:

i. The Project for Capacity Development for Promoting Rural Electrification Using Renewable Energy (“BRIGHT” Project) being implemented with the Institute of Energy and Environmental Technology (IEET) in JKUAT.
ii. The Project for the “Establishment of Rural Electrification Model Using Renewable Energy” being implemented with REA.

i. “BRIGHT” Project

“BRIGHT” project has three main components:

• Research
• Education – to improve on the curriculum delivery for renewable energy
• Training - to train technicians and trainers across Kenya in Renewable Energy

Under the Training component, the project aims at building a critical mass of certified trainers in Solar PV by increasing the number of certified trainers at National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) branches while at the same time increasing intermediate trainers at JKUAT.

A few recent highlights about the project include:

• The 3rd Training of Trainers (ToT) was held from 2nd to 6th December 2013. 16 participants from 10 Technical training institutes participated
• “Bright” Seminar at Crowne Plaza Hotel Nairobi - for dissemination of the needs survey for Small Wind Training in November 2013
• “BRIGHT” side event on “Small-Scale Wind Energy Systems” during the JKUAT Scientific Conference on 15th November 2013
- Conducted supplemental solar PV training course for trainers
- Training of JKUAT and Technical Training Institutes (TTI) participants
- Training of Technicians at T1 and T2 levels – certificates recognized by Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) of Kenya

ii. Sustainable Rural Electrification Models using Solar PV

JICA is collaborating with Rural Electrification Authority (REA) and MOEP in the Project for the “Establishment of Rural Electrification Model Using Renewable Energy.

Procurement and installation of Solar PV systems at four sites was completed in July 2013:

- Olkinyeti Dispensary (1.1 kW)
- Ikirinyeti Dispensary (1.1 kW)
- Olemoncho Primary Boarding (3.0 kW)
- Iltumtum Primary Boarding

Installation of an additional six sites will be done in the following sites in Samburu County in mid 2014:

- Tuum Primary school
- Ilaut Primary School
- Marti Primary School
- Latakweny Dispensary
- Angata Dispensary
- South Horr Dispensary

Through the project, counterparts from REA and MOEP are trained for relevant skills both locally and overseas under JICA’s budget. The Project also strengthens REA’s ability to supervise feasibility studies and projects in wind and biomass.

Project for Capacity Strengthening for Geothermal Development in Kenya

The Geothermal Development Company (GDC) is mandated to contribute to technical risk mitigation in geothermal development in Kenya.

To enhance the human resources of GDC, the Japanese Government through JICA has granted the Government of Kenya Ksh. 1.6 billion for a Technical Cooperation project to support a comprehensive capacity strengthening programme for geothermal development in Kenya.

JICA, MoEP and GDC signed the Record of Discussions (R/D) for the “Project for Capacity Strengthening for Geothermal Development in Kenya” on 28th June 2013.

In the signing of the Project R/D, JICA was represented by Mr. Hidetoshi Irigaki, the Director General, Industrial Development & Public Policy Department at JICA HQs and the Kenyan side was represented by Hon. Davis Chirchir, Cabinet Secretary, MoEP.

Hon. Chirchir noted that “The Government requires more than 20,000 Megawatts of electricity by 2030, and a quarter of this requirement (5,000MW) is expected to come from geothermal sources.”

Referring to the planned training of GDC personnel through JICA, Hon. Chirchir observed that “This training is different. While other trainings are classroom-based, this training will be in the field, thus mentoring and transferring of practical skills to GDC staff.”

The capacity strengthening project...
is expected to create a critical mass of skilled staff in GDC in key areas of geothermal development which include but are not limited to: conceptual models of reservoir; capacity to strike drilling targets successfully; interpreting well bore data; establishing calibrated reservoir models and evaluating geothermal resources.

Preparing economically and environmentally viable business plans as a steam provider will be enhanced; GDC’s internal mechanism to improve and continue training program will be established.

The GDC Geothermal Development Master Plan Project

Besides the “Project for Capacity Strengthening for Geothermal Development in Kenya” is the upcoming “JICA-GDC Project for the Geothermal Master Plan Development.” This is a new project which was given a go-ahead by the Japanese Government in December 2013 based on a request from GDC through the Government of Kenya.

The main objective of the Master Plan study is to evaluate and classify various geothermal resource areas under GDC according to their electric generation potential and to plan for the exploration and development activities that will be undertaken in future.
Support for the Health Sector in Kenya

Improvement of Hospital Facilities and Equipment for Better Services to Kenyans

The Japanese Government’s Grant Aid Project for rehabilitation of buildings and equipment at the Coast Provincial General Hospital was completed and commissioned in 1999. Its objective was to improve the services of the hospital, to enable it retain its position as the top referral hospital in Coast Province. The total amount of Grant extended to this project was about 1.2 billion Yen. The scope of works covered various hospital departments and sections, among them administration, rehabilitation, patient wards, pharmacy, operating theatres, outpatient, radiography, catering, laboratory, mortuary and the hospital maintenance unit.

In subsequent years, following recommendations from the JICA master plan study on the improvement of the referral system in Western Kenya, similar support was extended to Kisii Level 5 hospital (outpatient block and maternity) and Kericho district hospital (casualty unit). The project at both hospitals was completed in June 2010 at a total cost of Japanese Yen 1.3 billion.

Strengthening Community Health Strategy in Kenya

The Community Health Strategy (CHS) Project aims at strengthening capacities of health management teams with focus on the following functions; “leading”, “checking” and “supporting”, and ultimately at accelerating roll-out of CHS implementation.

The JICA CHS project has been instrumental in realizing the mission and vision of the Community Health Unit of the Ministry of Health, which focuses on the community strategy as a modality for social transformation to create healthy and vibrant communities. In the year 2013, the Project engaged in policy dialogue that contributed to shaping the attitude of the policy makers, leaders and communities, and produced evidence with guidelines which together helped in the orientation of the CHS policy.
A CHS mainstreaming workshop was held for stakeholders, and exchange visits conducted to Zambia and Ghana to share experiences in community health implementation. The Project also supported the development of a facilitators’ guide and participants’ manual for training of Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), including the revision of the training curriculum.

The advocacy and communication team also realized the development of the CHS website in December 2013. Great community health strategy feature stories at the grassroots were collected, processed and aired on local television networks including KBC, K24 and other local FM stations. The stories are available on the following links:

**Main Feature**


Brief Profile on Professor Miriam Were, CHS Goodwill Ambassador
http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Corporate-News/Making-of-community-health-champion/-/539550/2065254/-/fs4w4e2z/-/index.html

On Youtube (CHS Activity)
Volunteer Persuades Migori Residents to Seek Medical Attention
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpzO5dNRR9s

CHS (Brief introduction with CHS Song)
http://youtu.be/uLBuKpPpUgM

Launching Innovative Community Health Strategy (CHS) & Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) Products
http://youtu.be/WMRUe-r9h9I

TAJ SHOW-Community Health
http://youtu.be/qPNnaVatPJ4

**JICA SEMAH Project in Nyanza (July 2009 – June 2013) Successfully Ends**

Responding to the demand for Health Systems Strengthening, the former Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MoPHS) in collaboration with JICA designed and started a four-year technical cooperation project named “Strengthening Management for Health in Nyanza Province (SEMAH)” in July 2009. The SEMAH Project aimed at enhancing “Mindset Change” in organizational capacity development through servant leadership and creative management and hence strengthening the overall health systems in an autonomous and self-reliant manner.

Since its inception, the Project extensively worked on fostering health leadership and managerial skills for Provincial and District Health Management Teams (PHMTs and DHMTs) in the former Nyanza Province to improve health services and outcomes through improving Health Systems Management (HSM). The Project featured teamwork approach to foster synergy effects between supply and demand side interventions through organizational development.

**Statistics for Health Indicators in Siaya and Kisumu West Districts.**

![Statistics for Health Indicators](image_url)

**Team Building Activities Supported by JICA SEMAH Project.**

![Team Building Activities](image_url)
The Project articulated HSM as one of the most essential prerequisites for middle-level health managers in the province and district to realize equitable and effective health service deliveries in an efficient manner. Therefore, the project designed the HSM training program for PHMTs and DHMTs. They are responsible for health planning, management and development in advanced techniques and strategies in use for solving these problems and dealing with them in their various contexts.

HSM describes the leadership, management and governance of health administration. It has been described as a “hidden” health profession because of the relatively low-profile role managers take in health systems, in comparison to direct-care professions. However, the visibility of the management profession within health care has been rising in recent years, largely due to the widespread problems in the health systems.

The Project not only developed three operational models in the areas of HSM Training, Health Promotion, Service Quality Management through Supportive Supervision and Community Health Development successfully, but also mainstreamed these models to national policies and strategies. It enabled the target health management teams to improve the levels and quality of health services, resulting in better outcomes. The above illustrations from the former Siaya and Kisumu West districts respectively attest to these positive changes.

**SPEAK Project II Closes**

Strengthening Peoples’ Empowerment against HIV/AIDS in Kenya (SPEAK) Project II, a four-year bilateral technical cooperation project between the Governments of Kenya and Japan through JICA, commenced in January 2010, and terminated in January 2014. SPEAK II was implemented by the National AIDS and STIs Control Program (NASCOP) of the Ministry of Health.

The overall goal of SPEAK II was to ensure that quality HTC services are provided at HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) service delivery points. Some of the successes of SPEAK II include:

1) **Strengthening institutional mechanisms:**

NASCOP realized the need to focus on synergistic interventions to address both individual and structural level capacities. Hence, throughout the course of the implementation of SPEAK II, NASCOP established institutional mechanisms that created the foundation for long-term sustainability for HIV/AIDS prevention efforts.

Some of these efforts included working closely with JICA to gain management and coordination including administrative competence; developing national strategies, service standards and tools to guide provision of quality HTC services in the country; keenly monitoring HIV service provision; and above all fostering organizational development.

2) **Empowering through sharing of experiences:**

With new guidelines and standards in place, NASCOP and her partners recognized the need to empower HTC providers to be able to effectively and appropriately apply these guidelines and standards in provision of quality HTC services. Empowerment has been enhanced through trainings, collaboration and exchange programs among partners and demonstration sites. NASCOP has encouraged cross fertilization by initiating a series of exchange visits at various levels of the project.

3) **A showcase of quality services:**

NASCOP devised an initiative (demonstration sites) to showcase best practices and in the process give feedback to be documented for sharing with national level and with non-demonstration sites. The sixteen demonstration sites established in Nakuru, Nairobi and Mombasa have endeavored to apply full quality measures in HTC service delivery.

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Ms. Emily Mutheu, HTC Counselor at Langa Langa H/C, Nakuru (SPEAK II Model Site).
Establishment of Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)

After independence in 1963 and prior to the establishment of Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), public health research in Kenya was under the auspices of the East African Medical Research Council (EAMRC), established in 1957. Among the major objectives of the EAMRC was the recruitment of and training of indigenous research personnel from the member states of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The EAMRC was also mandated to coordinate, set health research priorities, and submit research programmes, annual reports and financial statements.

In the early 1970s, while I was a Medical Student in Nairobi, Dr. James Gikonyo came to the University to give us a talk on Medical/Health Research. He was then the Medical Officer in charge of Research at Kenya’s Ministry of Health. It was a topic close to his heart. But he questioned several times, “How do you carry out research when the only space you have is a tiny office in a building laden with bureaucracy?” He went on to say, “Even our health facilities are so overcrowded that there is hardly any space for one to think quietly and carry out health research.” Other person who shared in his frustration was Prof. Joseph Mungai, who was then the Dean of the Medical School.

Following the collapse of the East African Community (EAC) in 1977, all the institutions established under the EAC were rendered non-functional. In the wake of these events, the Government of Kenya established KEMRI through the Science and Technology (Amendment) Act of 1979, as the national body responsible for carrying out health research in Kenya.

At the point of establishing KEMRI, the Government did not have the resources to set up research facilities, and several partners were thus approached to assist in this venture. It was at this point and after a series of bilateral consultations that Dr. Gikonyo then declared, “JICA has come to our rescue”. “Who is JICA?” This was the question he was asked most of the time. The year was 1979 and the Government of Kenya and JICA had just concluded the first agreement for Technical Cooperation. JICA itself had been established only in 1974 and so it was not such a big surprise for people to ask who or what JICA was! JICA had yet to be as widely known as is the case now. That agreement resulted in the basic design and construction of the KEMRI headquarters in Nairobi. I am pleased to note here that the very first Director at KEMRI was none other than Dr. James Gikonyo.

The KEMRI/JICA collaboration spans over 3 decades and was realized in three forms. First was the Grant-Aid component. This component made immense contribution in three main aspects. The first of these was the construction in 1979/80 of the original facilities and supply of equipment at the KEMRI headquarters in Nairobi. The second aspect was the completion and commissioning of a P3 level Biosafety facility in 1999 and P2 laboratory that accelerated many of the basic research activities in HIV. The third aspect of this component was the construction of the Training Centre and Production Unit at which various items are produced on commercial basis. These include HIV/AIDS diagnostic kits, the viral hepatitis kits and also the production of bottled antiseptic liquids for hand-washing for infection prevention and control.

The second form of the KEMRI/JICA collaboration was the Technical Cooperation component. This took place in 5 successive phases of 5 years each between 1979 and 2006. While the first phase targeted research in communicable diseases, the second phase focused on the development of the research capacity of KEMRI. Phases 3 to 5 were all designated as the Project for Research and Control of Infectious Diseases. During phase five, (2001-2006), one component of the research undertakings concentrated on the control of parasitic diseases that included schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthes, malaria and filariasis. The other component focused on the control of infectious diseases that encompassed infectious hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and opportunistic infections.

The enhanced aspect of technical cooperation was the initiation of the Third Country Training Program (TCTP) in 1999, utilizing the capacity developed at KEMRI over the previous years of cooperation. The TCTP on blood safety, trained researchers from 23 African countries during the period 1999-2007. The TCTP was expanded to also cover parasite control benefitting researchers from 8 African countries during the period 2000-2009.

The third form of the KEMRI/JICA collaboration involved KEMRI initiating direct collaboration with some outstanding Japanese universities in the area of health. Thus, KEMRI has had collaborative agreements with Japan’s oldest Medical University, Nagasaki University for a number of years, Kanazawa University and recently Shiga University of Health Sciences have developed research collaborations with KEMRI. These relationships have broadened the scope of collaboration to include the development of diagnostic kits for Yellow Fever and Rift Valley Fever as well as nutrition focus by scientists from Nagasaki University.

Twenty seven years after that historic agreement, in the year 2006, the then Minister for Health, Hon. Charity Ngilu, wrote in the Commemorative publication; “The Ministry of Health and indeed, the people and Government of Kenya will remain forever grateful not only to JICA, but also to the People and Government of Japan for all the invaluable assistance rendered to Kenya through the KEMRI/JICA collaboration. We in the Ministry of Health shall forever cherish the KEMRI/JICA collaboration as a living model of excellence in health research partnerships”.
ICA’s support for the education sector in Kenya has continued since the early 1960s when the first Japanese Volunteer was dispatched to a Kenyan school. Since Kenya’s independence, JICA has been focusing more on development of education and training since these are the foundations for production of human capital necessary for national development. This is due to Japan’s historical experiences in national and economic development.

Japan’s technical cooperation support in education and training through JICA is clearly illustrated in the establishment of institutions such as JKUAT, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenya Medical Training Centre (KMTC), Kenya Institute of Surveying and Mapping (KISM), and the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA). Many Kenyans in all fields of human endeavors have been trained under the auspices of JICA in Japan and in other countries. This is especially in the South East Asia and through locally mounted courses under JICA’s in-country training programmes. Graduates of these institutions and ex-participants of the training programmes under JICA’s technical cooperation programmes are providing expertise in various activities across the country in all sectors.

Education - SMASE Project (1998-2013)

One major training programme in education in the country has been the Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education (SMASE) Project which has been going on since 1998. SMASE was launched to mitigate causes of repeated poor performance in mathematics and science at KCPE and KCSE examinations after various studies and media reports on the same. The SMASE Project as a cascade model of training focused on in-service training of all (about 20,000) secondary mathematics and science teachers and 300 primary teacher training college (PTTC) mathematics and science tutors during the 1998-2008 period; and 60,000 primary school teachers during 2009-2013. During the Project period,
stakeholders’ sensitization workshops were held annually for relevant education managers/ administrators, namely: quality and standards officers, district education officers, teachers’ advisory centre (TAC) tutors, secondary school and college principals and primary school head teachers. Since 1998, 538 Kenyans have been trained overseas on SMASE related activities: 315 in Japan, 122 in the Philippines and 101 in Malaysia.

In addition to training, the project established and equipped the Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA) in Karen, Nairobi, as a national in-service education and training (INSET) centre. It also equipped 108 district training centres for secondary mathematics and science teachers, 19 regional training centres at PTTC for primary mathematics and science cluster trainers and over 3,300 school cluster training centres across the country. The current national ICT innovation and integration centre (office block) at the Kenya Science Teachers College (KSTC) was built with JICA’s support in 2000 to cater for more national trainers (See table below).

To expand the SMASE Project beyond Kenya, JICA has established a network of strengthening of mathematics and science education in Sub-Saharan Africa through holding annual conferences since 2001. It has also been conducting Third Country Training Programmes (TCTP) for mathematics and science educators from Sub-Saharan African countries since 2005. Through the TCTPs, 1500 educators from 27 African countries have been trained at CEMASTEA as INSET trainers and INSET managers for their countries.

To strengthen application and adoption of ‘activity, student, experiment, improvisation’ (ASEI) and ‘plan, do, see and improve’ (PDSI) i.e. ASEI/PDSI approach to teaching (developed by the Project in 1998 by teachers in their teaching and learning), 3 technical workshops have been held on ASEI/PDSI and learner-centred lessons besides Continuous Professional Development of Teachers (CPDT) in Lesotho, Nairobi and Zambia for teachers and decision makers.

**SMASE Technical Workshop in Zambia**

The 2013 SMASE Technical Workshop on “A Comprehensive Approach Towards Learner-Centred Lesson Based on Classroom Practice” was held in Lusaka, Zambia for 120 participants from 27 African countries. The workshop was officially opened by Hon. Dr. John Phiri, MP Zambia’s Minister for Education. It was addressed by H.E. Mr. Akio Egawa, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia and Mrs. M. Thiongo, Director, Field and Other Services, Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MOEST), Kenya, besides other high ranking officials of Zambia Ministry of Education. Zambian experiences on ASEI-PDSI teaching approach, Lesson study and School-based CPDT were deliberated upon. Participants were provided with Manuals on School-based CPDT through Lesson Study, Teaching Skills Book and Management Skills Book for use during the field visits to Zambian schools for observations of lesson study practice and ASEI/PDSI approach.

In conclusion, participants were unanimous that Lesson Study practice was an effective way of getting mathematics and science teachers to apply ASEI/PDSI principles during teaching and that effective application of ASEI-PDSI and lesson study practice leads to both learner-centred teaching approach and school-based continuous professional development of teachers. The official closing speech was given by Zambia’s Ministry of Education, Permanent Secretary, Ms. Chishimba Nikosha.

**Project for Upgrading and Refurbishment of CEMASTEA Facilities**

The construction of the Upgrading and Refurbishment of CEMASTEA Facilities by Kshs. 581 million Grant was completed.
in September 2013. The groundbreaking ceremony for the project had been presided over by the late Hon. Mutula Kilonzo, the then Minister for Education in July 2011. The completed facilities were inspected by Dr. Belio Kipsang, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Education, MOEST, on 30 September 2013.

Dr. Kipsang applauded and appreciated JICA’s role in Kenya’s development and in particular in the education sector as illustrated by JKUAT, SMASE Project and establishment of CEMASTEA. He urged CEMASTEA’s management to maintain the facilities properly as the facilities and SMASE INSETs will play a significant role in the integration and implementation of ICT programmes in schools. He expressed Kenya’s gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for their tremendous contribution to Kenya’s education development.

SMASE Project Ends

The SMASE Project’s official closing ceremony was held on 4 December 2013 and was presided over by Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, MOEST. The ceremony was attended and addressed by H.E. Mr. Tatsushi Terada, the Japanese Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Hideo Eguchi, JICA Kenya’s Chief Representative, Mr. Farah of the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), Dr. Wanjiru Kariuki, Chairperson of CEMASTEA’s Board of Governors (BOG) and Mr. Moses Kawa - Deputy Director of CEMASTEA. The ceremony was attended by senior MOEST officials, County Directors of Education and Nairobi County TAC Tutors.

Prof. Kaimenyi appreciated Japan’s support through JICA to Kenya’s development in all sectors since independence and thanked the Japanese people for their generous contribution. He acknowledged with appreciation the immense contribution made by Japan to the development of JKUAT; the SMASE Project implementation since 1998 and grant aid of over Kes. 500 million for the upgrading and refurbishing of CEMASTEA facilities in 2011/2013.

The Cabinet Secretary further observed that the realization of Kenya’s Vision 2030 hinges on the quality of human resources and an all-round adoption of science, technology and innovation (ST&I). He commended SMASE Project’s performance and contribution to the improvement of mathematics and science education. MOEST will therefore do its best to sustain and enhance what JICA has helped to establish during the 15 years of the SMASE Project.

In-Country Training Programme on socio-economic development at JKUAT

One of JICA’s long-supported on-going training programmes is the In-country Training Programme at the JKUAT which was launched in 1994 to train rural women group leaders on enhanced agricultural productivity. The trained women leaders are expected to induct their group members on lessons learnt during the training at JKUAT. The programme has been managed by JKUAT in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for gender under auspices of JICA.

Between 1994 and 2008, the
That Veronica Kimengich is passionate about farming is obvious when one meets her. She is a successful farmer whose farm is always full of activity – due to the numerous activities she engages in, as well as many visitors who come to learn from her. Veronica is a beneficiary of the JICA-sponsored In-country Training for Women, which is held in collaboration with the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and conducted at the institution.

The mother of 4 has in turn trained over 1,000 farmers on voluntary basis in several of the activities she engages in – beekeeping, fish rearing, chicken farming, water harvesting and biogas production. She is also a dairy cow breeder, registered with the Kenya Study Group. In recognition of her efforts in empowering the community, she won a UN award in 2012.

Along with other community members, Veronica formed an NGO – Running Water International. “This has helped us to broaden our scope and empower more people,” says Martin Kipengei, a youth leader and the CEO of the NGO. “We have been able to help many groups to become more economically empowered, including persons living with disabilities,” he adds.

Agnes Oriri, the County Coordinator in the Department of Gender & Social Development notes that Veronica has incorporated persons living with disability in her training, helping them to become self-reliant. Veronica expresses her conviction that self-reliance will spread throughout the community.

Veronica has been working as a Volunteer with the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), sensitizing women on the benefits of taking up loans with the Fund. Consequently, Nakuru county is leading in the uptake of WEF.

One of the women who have benefited from Veronica Kimengich’s training is Veronica Njoki Mburu. She is also a recipient of the JKUAT Regional In-country Training at Nakuru and is closely following in her name-sake’s footsteps. Njoki has been able to rebuild a profitable farming enterprise after suffering from effects of the 2008 post-election violence.

To support her 11 children, Njoki has embraced diversification in agriculture. She keeps cows, goats, chicken, and rabbits, and grows various crops – tissue culture bananas, guavas, oranges, maize, pawpaws, mushrooms, beans and potatoes. She is also a beekeeper and produces honey that she supplies to the local community.

“I developed interest in all the projects we learnt at the JICA-sponsored training, so that I could be able to train other women. Some women may prefer one project over another, but I decided to master them all,” she says. Njoki has served as an example of perseverance and has been able to pick up the pieces after facing serious tragedy that included losing her husband.
Due to its impact and demand, the programme was extended and restructured into a 2-tier cascade model and decentralized in 2009-2011 so as to train more women group leaders. Selected programme’s 50 ex-participants and others are trained at JKUAT and used as mentors and trainers at the regional training venues in different ecological zones. The training at the regional centres is conducted and administered by the JKUAT personnel, trainers of trainers (TOTs) trained at JKUAT, outsourced personnel and local DSDOs.

Regional courses have been held at Bondo, Eldoret, Garissa, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kilifi, Kisii, Kisumu, Machakos, Marakwet, Mwingi, Nakuru, Nyahururu, Nyeri and Vihiga for women group leaders from the neighbouring districts. The 2013 TOT course for 50 women group leaders was held at JKUAT in June 2013 and was officially opened by Hon. William Kabogo, Governor of Kiambu County.

It was addressed by Prof. Mabel Imbuga, JKUAT’s Vice Chancellor, Mr. Hideo Eguchi, JICA Kenya Office Chief Representative and the Kiambu County Women Representative. The 8 regional courses in 2013 for 400 women group leaders were held at Isiolo, Kabarnet, Kisumu, Maralal, Meru, Mwingi, Narok and Voi.

Since 2000, the programme has trained about 3,000 women. These ex-participants are to be found in all corners of the country playing important roles in national development activities. Some of the ex-participants have been appointed to administrative and elected positions, and they are mobilizing their communities for socio-economic development.

**JICA Supports JKUAT /PAUISTI Research and Innovation**

The commission of the African Union appreciates JICA’s support for higher Education and research in Africa including the Flagship Pan African University.

JKUAT is hosting the Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUISTI). In this connection, JICA’s support to the JKUAT Research and Innovation Programme will help provide capacity to be shared with PAUISTI.

The first batch of 57 MSc. students from different nationalities across Africa (49 males and 8 females) was admitted in September 2012. Courses being undertaken by the PAUISTI students include:

1) Mathematics,  
2) Molecular Biology/Biotechnology,  
3) Electrical Engineering and  
4) Civil Engineering.

A Joint Task Force comprising of JICA and JKUAT personnel finalized the project details in July 2013.

The task force also physically investigated the status of Equipment and their condition including maintenance and management of the same.

For the purpose of implementing the Project effectively, JICA and JKUAT agreed on the points of reference for the concept and scope of “Innovation” whereby innovation with local/indigenous knowledge, resources, experiences and wisdom will be emphasized.

JICA’s assistance will bring new ideas to strengthen relevant technologies including the on-going technologies in JKUAT which include: Tissue culture aloe vera, tissue culture banana seedlings, oyster mushrooms and Nissin foods to mention but a few.
One of the pillars of JICA’s cooperation in the forestry sector is the Regional Training Course held annually by the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) under JICA’s Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) which has been running uninterrupted since 1995. This long standing collaboration recently bore fruit as KEFRI and JICA jointly received awards in recognition of their special contribution to South-South and Triangular Cooperation at the United Nations Global South–South Development Expo 2013 held in Nairobi in late October-early November 2013.

In the meantime, the fourth phase of the “Regional Training Course on Mitigating Climate Change through Social Forestry” commenced in 2009 and is scheduled to end in March 2014. This is a phase with a new face. For the first time, a Policy Level Workshop was held during the first year of this phase and a Policy Level Seminar scheduled for February 2014. At the same time, Southern Sudan and Somalia were also invited to join the course hence expanding the total number of participating countries to 20. The other 18 countries are Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The objective of this course is to enhance the capacities of participating countries to practically mitigate the effects of climate change through implementation of participatory social forestry extension methodologies. In order to assess the achievements made under this phase and consider how to the course can be improved, terminal evaluation was carried out jointly by JICA Kenya Office, KEFRI and Kenya Forest Service (KFS). This exercise included visits to some of the participating countries i.e. Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Namibia and Rwanda. The situation in Kenya was also evaluated.

One of the key findings of the evaluation was that there is great demand for the course. The promotion of activities that enhance the livelihood

Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Environment and Natural Resources, hands over the Joint KEFRI/JICA Award to Dr. Ben Chikamai, Director of KEFRI. Present was JICA Kenya’s Chief Representative, Mr. Hideo Eguchi.
of communities, especially those in arid and semi-arid areas was also noted as a possible strong incentive to their implementation of social forestry. It is expected that the inclusion of training in this area in the next phase will greatly enhance the positive impacts of this course in the region.

Non-revenue Water

In 2011/2012, urban Water Service Providers (WSPs) lost an estimated Ksh. 10.6 billion through non-revenue water (NRW) which was estimated to be about 44%. This marginal improvement from 45% losses in 2010/2011 highlights the need to maintain reduction of NRW as a major priority in the sector and streamline the provision of water services.

While WSPs differ in many aspects such as their size and population served, human resources capacity and attitude, state of their infrastructure and kind of equipment available to them, strengthening of management systems remains a key factor in NRW reduction. The Project for Management of Non-Revenue Water that is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources with support from JICA therefore seeks to ensure that systems and mechanisms for reducing NRW in Kenya are set up and implementation capacity is developed. The target of this project is to reduce NRW from between 20%–25% by 2020 so as to achieve the sector’s acceptable benchmarks.

Drawing on the experience of Meru Water and Sewerage Services Trustees (MEWASS), this project is being implemented in three pilot WSPs i.e. Embu, Kapsabet-Nandi and Narok which all face different challenges with respect to infrastructure, terrain, water availability, data, equipment and human resources capacity among others. Manuals, guidelines and standards for NRW management are therefore being compiled based on the situations encountered in these pilot areas.

Through the project, the Kenya Water Institute has also developed a syllabus for training Water Services Boards (WSBs) and WSPs staff on the use of the manuals and guidelines. Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB) will also play a key role in implementing the Nationwide Dissemination Plan of Non-Revenue Water Management which came into effect in late 2013.

Embu Water and Sanitation Company (EWASCO) prepared an NRW reduction plan and presented it to participants at the 4th Stakeholders Consultative Workshop held on 3rd July 2013. At the same time, major improvements have been noted for both Kapsabet-Nandi and Narok WSPs where NRW significantly reduced from 63% and 54% respectively in 2010/2011 to 51% and 40% in 2011/2012 respectively.

It is therefore expected that NRW reduction measures developed under this project will be replicated by other WSPs so as to reduce the national average of water and revenues lost.

Project for Rural Water Supply (Phase II)

With the national population having access to safe water in rural areas standing at just under 50%, the need for further development of water resources remains high. This is more so in arid and semi-arid areas of the country where water sources are few and far between.

JICA’s latest intervention in provision of this commodity is the Rural Water Supply Project Phase II that was implemented through Tanathi Water Services Board (TAWSB) in Machakos and Makueni Counties from August 2011 to May 2013. The objective of this project was to increase the served population with safe and stable drinking water supply in 58 communities in these counties. A total of 58 boreholes were therefore drilled and equipped with 36 hand pumps, 14 submersible pumps, 1 windmill and 7 solar driven pumps. The project cost was 609 million yen (approx. Kenya shillings 646 million) from the Government of Japan, with a 72.3 million yen (approx. Kenya shillings 76 million) contribution from the Kenyan Government. While it was initially estimated that a population of 60,000 will benefit from this Phase, the expected beneficiaries are now estimated to have doubled to 120,000.

The inclusion of windmill and solar driven pumps in this project was a first for JICA in Kenya and broke new ground in promoting cost effective clean
energy technology in the water sector. This complements well the project’s soft component for capacity development of beneficiaries in participatory operation and maintenance and enhancement of their awareness on sanitation and hygiene. The combination is bound to promote the project’s sustainability and become a good model for future projects such as the recently commenced Project for Rural Water Supply in Baringo County.

A colourful commissioning ceremony graced by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Prof. Judy Wakhungu, the then Ambassador of Japan to Kenya, H.E. Toshihisa Takata and the Deputy Governor, Makueni County, Ms. Adelina Mwau was held in on 31st May, 2013 to mark the end of this project. Other dignitaries from the county including the County Commissioner and Members of Parliament for Kaiti and Mbooni East Constituencies also attended the ceremony.

National Water Master Plan

Way back in 1992, JICA supported the then Ministry of Water Development to formulate the National Water Master Plan which together with the 1998 Aftercare Study on the National Water Master Plan became the key documents guiding formulation and implementation of many of the projects implemented in the sector since then.

Over the years however, water demand for all uses has been on the increase and the country still falls short of meeting the MDGs. Water sector reforms leading to creation of new institutions with specific mandates coupled with the acknowledgment of water as an essential resource for realization of Vision 2030 necessitated the renewal of the Master Plan. The emergent issue of climate change and its effect on water resources also had to be factored in. In order to address these issues, The Project on the Development of the National Water Master Plan 2030 commenced in April 2010. The outputs of the project were:

a) To assess and evaluate availability and vulnerability of the country’s water resources up to around 2050 taking into consideration the effects of climate change.

b) To formulate the National Water Master Plan towards the year 2030 for sustainable water resources development and management for six catchment areas.

c) To prepare action plans for activities of Water Resources Management Authority’s regional offices up to the year 2022 to strengthen their Water Resources Management capability.

d) To transfer technology on water resources development and management through the implementation of the project.

The final Master Plan was completed in October 2013 and takes into consideration the effects of climate change on water resources up to the year 2050. It also incorporates an action plan including flood and drought disaster management up to the year 2022. This is in line with the aspirations of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in early June, for sustainable management of natural resources and promotion of resilient growth.

The document will be officially launched during the Annual Water Sector Review Conference slated for March 2014 and distributed to all key stakeholders in the sector.

EWASCO’s New Water Treatment Plant.
JICA Assists Flood Victims

JICA’s Chief Representative in Kenya, Mr. Hideo Eguchi, in May 2013 handed over items worth Ksh. 13 million to the then Ministry of State for Special Programmes to assist flood victims in Western, Upper and Lower Eastern, Coast, Rift Valley, Central and North Eastern regions. These areas were badly affected during the floods which occurred in Kenya in March and April 2013 during which thousands of people were displaced. The goods were distributed by the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS).

The Permanent Secretary in the then Ministry of State for Special Programmes, Mr. Andrew Mondoh received the items. The KRCS Secretary General, Dr. Abbas Gullet, speaking at the Society’s warehouse, said the items would go a long way in helping victims of the floods in the affected areas. Also at the ceremony was the Japan Embassy’s then Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Yoichiro Yamada, JICA Kenya’s Chief Representative, Mr. Hideo Eguchi, the Eastern African Regional Representative of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), Mr. Finn Jarle Rode, and the

Country Representative of the Japanese Red Cross, Ms. Maki Igarashi.

The items included water purification agents, plumbing tool kits for maintenance of water facilities and emergency health kits. The Japan Red Cross and JICA facilitated this assistance. JICA has contributed to disaster prevention in the flood-prone Nyando river basin, and is currently implementing technical cooperation on “Capacity Development for Effective Flood Management in Flood Prone Areas” in collaboration with the Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA).

The project in the Nyando river basin included construction of dykes, evacuation centres and foot bridges. It also included community flood management training, disaster management education and awareness campaigns. The project was launched in 2009 and implemented until 2011. It covered 24 communities in Nyando and Kisumu districts. The Master Plan for Integrated Flood Management in the Nyando River Basin was also formulated from 2006-2009.

Mr. Eguchi said the floods had caused deaths and displacement of over 100,000 people. They also destroyed houses, bridges, roads and water services. The affected people had been exposed to risks of water-borne diseases and needed safe water, hygiene and sanitation services, hence the need for the donation.
As Kenya and Japan celebrate 50 years of partnership, JICA has had a long history in training Kenyans. Since 1976 when the very first participant went to Japan for the training of “Leather Tanning Techniques”, JICA has trained over 4,500 Kenyans, with the majority from the public sector. Courses range from 2-week training to 2-year Master’s programs. The trainings offered by JICA are specialized and cover all spheres of government including health, education, governance, infrastructure, etc.

Kenya has also been privileged to host in-country trainings in education and environment to other countries under JICA sponsorship. Our ex-participants have been called upon to share their knowledge, experiences and expertise in the form of lectures in Japan & other countries in the trainings they have previously attended.

To give back to society, the JICA Ex-participants Alumni Association of Kenya – JEPAK – carries out medical camps once a year where ex-participants in the medical profession and their colleagues take the time to treat children & adults in informal settlements. This alumni organization is open to all accepted participants to JICA trainings, and utilizes member contributions to fund the medical camps. In the last two years, JEPAK has held their medical camps in Mitumba Slums, behind Wilson Airport with great success and impact to the community. JEPAK, with support from JICA, also carries out an annual conference open to members of the public where they invite participation from Government officials, JICA experts and fellow alumni members. The 2013 theme on Harnessing Road Safety was very timely and invited press attention as they had officials from transport companies, training ex-participants, the Police and other government officials to each share and deliberate on the issue.
Empowering Persons With Disability

Issues of handicapped people are receiving increasing attention worldwide. Many countries have adopted policies and measures to improve the lives of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), and Kenya has not been left behind.

In this regard, JICA has been conducting a course in Japan entitled “Mainstreaming of Persons with Disability for African Countries” since 2011. Among the pioneer group of 3 disabled persons that visited Japan for this course were 2 Kenyans, Mr. Michael Kilonzo and Mr. Alexander Munyere, who have physical and visual disability respectively. The two later visited the JICA Office to pay a courtesy call on Mr. Hideo Eguchi, JICA Kenya’s Chief Representative. Mr. Eguchi explained that JICA has for a long time implemented initiatives towards empowerment of the disabled, and supported the Asia-Pacific Institute for Disability.

Mr. Kilonzo and Mr. Munyere were very appreciative of the training received and the experience in Japan, noting that the country is very receptive to people with disabilities. “We saw that Japan is very well adopted for people with disabilities. Even the very severely disabled are able to move around easily due to the technology. For instance, the pedestrian walkways are equipped with braille conductors which assist the visually impaired,” said Mr. Kilonzo.

The training was held in Japan for 3 weeks and in Thailand for 1 week. “We also gained very good experience in Thailand. We would wish that the Disabled Persons Organizations (DPO) representatives and Government representatives were included in this training,” noted Mr. Munyere.

Further, our ex-participants have also had a chance to disseminate the knowledge and experiences they have had in Japan in their various fields through presentations either at the JICA offices, or at their organizations. Depending on their fields of study, this has resulted in Follow-up cooperation with budget from JICA Headquarters for workshops/seminars where they share the same information with a bigger forum.

In January 2013, two ex-participants from the Ministry of Devolution and planning who had gone to Japan for a one-month training on "Local Government Reform Programme for Anglophone African Countries" had a chance to share their experiences on devolution and governance with county officials charged with the devolution process in the country. During this workshop, the two also got to share not only what they learnt in the lecture-halls, but also what they saw first-hand as they were taken on tours in and around the city.

As we look to the future, we welcome the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for the Youth which is a Master’s Degree and Internship Program that Japan’s Prime Minister Abe introduced during the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in 2013. ABE will therefore seek to support young African personnel from among government officials, academics and private sector who have the potential to contribute to the development of industry and cultivate excellent personnel networks with stronger public-private partnerships.

The initiative will then have achieved its objectives when the growing and dynamic network of contributors in African industry and Japanese enterprises together engage in economic activities in Africa and for Africa.
Supporting Regional Integration

Capacity Development for Trade Facilitation in the Eastern African Region

Trade facilitation is a key to promoting economic development and integration in the region. For this purpose, JICA has been promoting infrastructure and energy development, trade and industry promotion, private sector development and regional integration under the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). One such initiative is to support construction of 14 One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) in Africa and capacity building for Customs and trade sectors through training and other forms of technical support.

With this background, JICA started a Project on Capacity Building for Customs Administrations in the Eastern Africa Region in 2007. The project produced various outcomes such as the development of the OSBP Operational Model for truck cargo and started developing ICT systems for the expected OSBP in Namanga. The second phase of the project was implemented over a four-year period, from September 2009 to September 2013 and aimed at primarily enhancing the capacity of customs agents. The second phase also delivered the projects such as the Detailed Design of Namanga OSBP, pilot of OSBP Operational Systems (Real Time Monitoring System / Cargo Control System) and its Customs part launched at the Namanga border on 18th February 2013. There was attendance of the Top Management of the border agencies from both the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania, the EAC Secretariat, community leaders, various private associations, development partners, the Embassy of Japan and JICA.

Mobile Service for Tax Information

The Project also supported introduction of the SMS and mobile payment system services for KRA, TRA and URA through the provision of SMS gateway and technical advice. The Kenyan “Mobile service for tax information via SMS and USSD platform” was launched at KRA on 14th October 2013.

The Project further supported other capacity building and regional cooperation work such as: facilitated the initiation of the Joint Border & Water Surveillance activities by Customs Administrations of East Africa at key borders (Malaba, Namanga, Lake Victoria, Gatuna/Katuna, Kobero/Kabanga) in the region by providing various patrol equipment.
and facilitating joint meetings and necessary training.

The Project implemented 3-year trainer’s training program called Master Trainer Programme, which certified a total of 53 officers from 5 Customs Administrations in the area of Customs Valuation, Harmonized System (HS) classification and intelligence analysis. This Programme was delivered in partnership with Japan Customs, World Customs Organization (WCO) and the East African Community (EAC). Relevant training handbooks and training aids were developed by the members.

A National Task Force has been created and training in partnership with Japan Customs, World Customs Organization (WCO) and the East African Community (EAC). Relevant training handbooks and training aids were developed by the members.

The Project also provides support for the improvement of standards and service delivery by the clearing agents through facilitation of the policy discussion on creating an Accreditation System on Customs Clearing Agents in the EAC.

1st Regional Joint Coordinating Committee (RJCC) Meeting for the New Phase

On 28th November 2013, JICA and KRA hosted the 1st Regional Joint Coordinating Committee (RJCC) meeting for the JICA Project on Capacity Development for Trade Facilitation in the Eastern African region. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Generals of the Eastern African Revenue Authorities, OSBP Coordinating Agencies such as Rwanda Immigration, the EAC Customs Directorate and the WCO ROCB ESA (World Customs Organization, Regional Office for Capacity Building, East and South Africa), the representative of Japan Customs and Tariff Bureau, and the JICA representatives from the EAC partner states and the HQs in Tokyo. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to implement the OSBP operation successfully and to continue other capacity development efforts based on the achievement from Phase 2 of the Project.

One of the major targets of the third phase is to support the operationalization of the OSBP at the Namanga and Rusumo borders, where JICA has also supported the construction of the OSBP facilities. The Project has just implemented the time measurement survey at the Namanga border in order to establish the baseline before the operationalization of the OSBP, which is expected at the end of year. The Project further aims at improving the border procedures and capacity of officials in order to improve the efficient and effective border clearance and control process. The Project’s Record of Discussions was signed on 17th December 2013 and is expected to run over the next four-year period.
The SMASE–WECSA Association stands for Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education in Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. It was borne out of a regional conference held in Nairobi, Kenya hosted by SMASSE–Kenya in February 2001.

The SMASE-WECSA Annual Conference was held on 28 October–1 November 2013 in Nairobi. The theme of the Conference was “Rethinking the Strategies for the Future Sustainability of SMASE-WECSA Association”. This was a follow-up of the 2012 Annual Conference on the sustainability of SMASE-Africa Association as an independent continental association for strengthening mathematics and science education after the end of SMASE Kenya Project in 2013. The official opening address of the 2013 conference was delivered by Prof. C. Suda, the Principal Secretary, MOEST, State Department of Science, Technology and Innovation on behalf of Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The Conference opening ceremony was also addressed by Mr. Makio of the Japanese Embassy.

The Conference Keynote address on “Relationship between SMASE-Africa and JICA beyond the Kenya SMASE Project Period” was delivered by Prof. S. Ishihara from JICA headquarters, Human Development Department. Prof. Ishihara elaborated on the needs and role of the SMASE-WECSA association since 2001 in advocacy and introduction of ASEI/PDSI teaching approach, focusing on teaching of mathematics and science. He observed that the association had now accomplished its original objectives and that many member countries have the necessary SMASE INSET capacity. However, JICA as a bilateral agency will continue strengthening mathematics and science education in SMASE-WECSA member countries through a modified and needs-based SMASE-WECSA network that will include TCTP and technical workshops as necessary.

JICA’s future strategies and focus will be more on student teaching/learning outcomes. Prof. Ishihara highlighted on how JICA will support SMASE-WECSA network activities including Technical workshops towards improvement of student learning achievements in mathematics and science.

Mr. Edward Tindi (from Zambia), the association Chairman since 2001, Mr. Adama Faye (from Senegal) Vice-chairman since 2001 and Mr. A. Matachi (SMASE Project) the treasurer since 2010 retired and the following were elected: Chairman - Mr. Benson Banda (Zambia), Vice-chairman - Mr. M. Felix (Burundi), Vice Chair-person - Prof. Sarifa Fagilde (Mozambique), and Treasurer – Ms. M. Sichangi (CEMASTEA). The CEMASTEA Director will remain the Association’s Secretary and Chief Executive Officer. Mrs. Leah Rotich, Director of Basic Education delivered the official closing address on behalf of the Principal Secretary, MOEST, State Department of Education.
Japanese Volunteers’ Grassroots Contribution

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) assist and encourage overseas activities on the part of young people who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development of developing countries. It is one of JICA’s programs that is aimed at providing technical assistance in developing countries at the grassroots level. In principle, JOCVs spend two years living and working with people in the community.

JOCVs in Kenya work together with counterparts to enhance the capacity of the host organization. They plan, strategize, work and carry out evaluation with the local staff. Through interaction with the counterparts and the community, fresh and unique ideas stemming from their youthfulness provide opportunities to experience and discover the joy of creating and striving to achieve economic and social development.

Since 1966, more than 1,500 volunteers have been dispatched to Kenya. As at 2013, there were 66 JOCVs attached to various government ministries. Their assignments are based strictly on the specific requests forwarded by the Government of Kenya. The program of Senior Volunteers (SVs) enlists middle-aged and older people who have a wealth of experience and the volunteer spirit. 5 SVs were sent to Kenya in 2013 in order to assist in development.

P.E. Teacher – “Ugali Samurai”

“It takes nine hours by bus going west from Nairobi to Rangwe village. I teach music and Japanese arts and crafts to children in the upper grades of the elementary school in Rangwe. I focus on physical education of the 4-8 year olds, and teach gym class for the lower grades,” says Mr. Yusuke Hamada, affectionately called “Hama” by the villagers. In grades 1 to 3, there are very few children who can speak English, so the main language used in instruction is Kiswahili. In addition, the lower grade students have never attended a physical education class, and most of them do not know such things as alignment and warm-up exercises. “I want to nurture their teamwork and cooperation through the gym class,” Mr. Hamada says.

Since there is no playground in the school, Mr. Hamada conducts the physical education classes just outside the school. They sometimes have to contend with shooing away livestock to find adequate space to have their class!

When he was posted to the school at the beginning of his assignment, some pupils would fight or play and were generally unruly during his class. However, he would emphasize to them: “PE is a lesson!” The pupils now appreciate that they need to take PE as seriously as they do other lessons.

Materials are not enough to adequately conduct classes, but Mr. Hamada has resulted to ingenuity, “Through trial and error, I want to nurture children’s compassion, intellectual curiosity and creativity through the lesson,” he says.

He enjoys the friendliness of the Kenyan people, who he has interacted with very well since his arrival in Rangwe. “Being the only foreigner living in this village, everyone greets me whenever I walk in the village,” he says. He often asks them, “Do you know anything about Japan?” To which they often answer about the science and technology in Japan, Japanese cars, televisions and other electronics which seem to be highly appreciated here.

Mr. Hamada’s house is in the school compound, and he is invited to share some meals at the Principal’s house. The staple food in this village is Sukuma Wiki (kale) and Ugali (a dish made from corn flour). It took him some time to adjust to the food when he begun his new life in the village. He found the taste strange, and ate very
little. Villagers would often say “Hama cannot eat Ugali”. However, the food was beginning to grow on him and he really liked it. It now surprises the villagers to see the amount of Ugali he eats. “Before I knew it, friends started calling me “UGALI SAMURAI,” he quips. “I want to taste as many different Kenyan local cuisines as I can during my assigned term.”

2013 Eco Caravan

“In October 2013, I took part in the Eco Caravan for a week as a member of JOCV Environmental Education Sub-committee,” says Ms. Aoi Yasuda. The goal of the Eco Caravan is to raise awareness, get people to think about environmental issues and draw interest in children with regard to the environment. The JOCV Environmental Education Sub-committee members who are keen on environmental matters gathered to plan and share information. A total of 11 JOCVs from various fields got together and visited the central region near Mt. Kenya. “Rice paddies, fields, woods, and lush greenery were a sight to behold and it felt like we were in Japan,” observes Ms. Yasuda.

The main activity at the Eco Caravan was a Picture Competition. The purpose of the competition was so that children could draw pictures freely regarding the issues associated with the environment, and this would get them to think of the environment as they saw it. For a start, there was a lecture with the photos of a waste disposal site, animal poaching and human body damage by contamination, etc. as the point of interest.

The children were very eager to draw a picture within the given time limit. They drew frames with rulers and colored or painted vividly. When asked to draw the “Environment” in the first workshop, almost all the students drew a picture of “Home”. It was a big surprise for Ms. Yasuda to find that the most familiar “environment” for them was home.

“When I told them to draw “environmental issues”, they drew deforestation and smoke coming out from a factory, such as dust and water pollution, to depict various environmental degradation issues.” She was quite impressed that the children had such a firm knowledge of the environment.

By going around several schools, the Volunteers brushed up on their teaching methods, and got a great opportunity of interacting with honest children and friendly teachers. Ms. Yasuda hopes that children who will lead the future of Kenya can focus on the environment which they live in, and strengthen the power to improve their own environment.

“On the other hand, what we learned this time was that we should take initiative of volunteer activities on our own, and spread interest in the environment. By carrying out workshops at each assignment place, I hope to make a contribution to the activities of the JOCV Environmental Education Sub-committee,” concludes Ms. Yasuda.

Volunteer makes his mark at the Getathuru Reception Centre

The Getathuru National Reception Classification and Assessment Centre accommodates the boys temporarily (for three months) who have been committed to rehabilitation schools by the courts mainly due to delinquency. The school usually accommodates one hundred boys on average, and provides them with food, clothing and shelter. The pupils also receive primary education, daily life guidance, recreation and counselling.

During the three months, the school examines the children based on their attitude to life, adaptability and improvement of rehabilitation, then decides which among the eight rehabilitation schools all over Kenya is best suited for the boys. They also categorize their status – whether the child requires social protection or whether he has committed an offence.

Many of these children lack self-worth, receptiveness, and cooperation due to their difficult lives, complicated backgrounds and family circumstances.

Mr. Yoshinori Koga teaches children how to write their names.

Ms. Aoi Yasuda displays drawings of the environment.
JICA started supporting Getathuru National Reception Centre in 2007 through the JOCV activities. The JOCVs focus on developing the children’s social skills and self-motivation. Mr. Yoshinori Koga is one such volunteer, who mainly handles Physical Education (P/E) and Crafts & Arts (C/A). Through these and other activities, Mr. Koga is able to have fruitful interactions with the children, and support their rehabilitation.

Volunteer Supports Irrigation in Arid District

Mr. Yuta Sakamoto works as a Volunteer in the District Irrigation Office at Siakago, an arid part of Mbeere North in Embu County. He assists in the management of groups which use irrigation system facilities made by farmers with the assistance of JICA. The main irrigation pipe was provided under JICA’s technical assistance project.

Lateral pipes, from which villagers draw water to individual farms, have to be drawn by the community members themselves. In order to draw these pipes effectively, members must properly manage the systems. They also have to maintain the facility by themselves. Mr. Sakamoto advises them on effective use and maintenance of the facility during their regular meetings.

When posted to begin his volunteer activities, Mr. Sakamoto took the initiative to come up with activities that would most benefit the community. This was because the requirements of his office changed during his training period. He visited villagers’ houses, communicating with them and obtaining information about what they needed most. “This was a difficult task,” he says.

During their meetings, he experiences some difficulties in communicating with some community members, especially those who only speak Mbeere, their mother tongue. In such cases he requires a translator who then communicates in Kiswahili, which Mr. Sakamoto speaks fluently.

“Many community members make efforts to draw lateral pipes to their farms and to maintain the irrigation facilities. I am very proud when they accept my advice,” he says.

He has made efforts to constantly communicate with farmers, and has become good friends with many community members. He has recently introduced NERICA (New Rice for Africa) to them, to improve the performance of upland rice for use in African farming systems. Many community members have expressed their appreciation for his work, which makes him very happy. He looks forward to being even more active in his efforts towards the development of the community.

Volunteer Supports Horticulture Activities

Tomato-growing in a greenhouse

Mr. Toshihiro Yoshida, a JOCV Volunteer, teaches cultivation of vegetables and other horticultural crops to communities in Diani, at the Kenyan coast, at an NGO known as Eco-Ethics International-Kenya.

Prior to his arrival in Kenya, Mr. Yoshida majored in Agriculture at a Japanese university, and he was later engaged in agriculture instruction and landscaping. He decided to apply for the volunteer position because he wanted to share the knowledge and skills which he acquired in Japan.

Mr. Yoshida undertakes the teaching of horticulture to communities, groups and individuals. At the NGO’s demonstration farm, he grows tomatoes and sweet potatoes, which are relatively easy to grow with the community and NGO members. When he was dispatched as a Volunteer, he helped to set up a greenhouse. They use irrigation techniques and grow tomatoes in the greenhouse. This has helped many community members to grow crops whose unit price is high, thereby increasing their families’ incomes.

Clash of Views over Cultivation

“I had problems initially using Kiswahili language when giving instruction,” he says. Some community members speak only in Kiwahili, and he therefore had to learn the language. He also says that it is sometimes difficult to guide in agriculture skills because there are sometimes clashes of views over how to cultivate. Community members have their own way of farming, and are sometimes reluctant to accept his suggestions even if these are effective ways of farming. “In that case, I listen to their opinions and respect their methods without pushing through my own opinion,” he says.

He concludes, “We are at a moment where we hope to harvest enough from the tomatoes that we planted. I am looking forward to harvesting them. I would like to continue guiding on agriculture skills and to help increase the yield of crops in the community. In the future, we hope that community members can benefit from selling the surplus crops they harvest.”

Volunteer Helps to Rehabilitate Children

Wamumu, located in central Kenya, is a small town about 110 km away from Nairobi. Mr. Kenji Fujimoto is a Japanese Volunteer working as a teacher at the Wamumu Rehabilitation School. The institution assists children who have left home due to various factors, including child neglect or poverty. Some children are also taken to the school due to delinquency – children who have committed crimes such as robbery, breaking and entering or more serious crimes, to undergo rehabilitation and social reintegration.
Mr. Fujimoto teaches the students physical education (P.E.) in a unique way. He not only teaches them technical skills but also through sports aims at cultivating their ability to think and reason. During his class, he says over and over again to his students, “Act after reasoning in order to take action more simply and efficiently.” This is because he hopes that his students give deep thought to their actions and that they become independent after they finish school. He desires that they foster cooperation and cultivate good teamwork through sports. He emphasizes that cooperation is very important for good socialization.

When Mr. Fujimoto started his new post as a teacher, he had trouble communicating with his students. This is because four out of five classes in the rehabilitation school are conducted in Kiswahili, and he had a poor grasp of the language then. At the time, he could only speak a little Kiswahili but could not write it. He took this up as a challenge and studied the language hard at the beginning of his volunteer assignment during his spare time. Through these efforts, he now has an excellent grasp of the language and conducts his classes in fluent Kiswahili.

In addition to formal learning, students also take vocational classes in beadwork, baking and other skills.

Mr. Fujimoto also teaches them how to effectively sell products which they make in the vocational classes and gives them financial advice.

He says that circumstances of these students are likely to be harsh even after they finish school. It may be difficult for them to get a job, and some children might be tempted to take to delinquency again. He however observes, “Many students are eager to study. I hope that they become independent economically and become tough through learning in school. I will continue to teach children the importance of thinking deeply to act efficiently and simply.”

Japanese Volunteer is passionate about Wildlife Conservation

Kenya is home to many species of animals, and protected areas like preserve landscapes/seascape that have been surveyed, demarcated and designated either as National Parks and/or National Reserves. Protected areas in Kenya embrace various types of ecosystems namely: forests, wetlands, savannah, marine, arid and semi-arid areas. These parks and reserves attract a lot of tourists from all over the world. It is therefore an important industry for Kenya since tourism is the second largest sector in Kenya’s economy.

Wildlife managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) forms the backbone of Kenya’s tourism industry. It is the main attraction for most tourists visiting the country. KWS conducts activities aimed at wildlife conservation in Kenya, using rangers.

Mr. Tomokazu Fukui works as a Volunteer in KWS’s, Mombasa Marine National Park. He has been dispatched by JICA under the JOCV program. Mr. Fukui is active in his role of wildlife conservation education and mainly teaches the importance of protection to children who visit the National Park on school trips.

However, it is difficult to deepen people’s understanding of wildlife protection. There is no end to poachers who hunt wildlife, especially rhinos. “Many people in Kenya have interest in wildlife, but some residents are afraid of animals or are hostile to them because of the danger they pose. For instance, elephants have been known to destroy crops and houses,” Mr. Fukui observes.

Mr. Fukui adds that he would like to teach more people in Kenya how precious wildlife is, and the great need for wildlife protection. He even extended his period of volunteer activity, so that he could continue to provide environmental education for the purpose of communities’ deep understanding and appreciation of wildlife protection.

Mr. Tomokazu Fukui is no stranger to animals.
The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) was introduced in 2002 to support and collaborate with the implementation of projects formulated by Japanese NGOs, Japanese local governments, and Japanese universities to utilize their accumulated knowledge and experience in assistance activities for developing countries.

JPP is a technical cooperation program implemented by JICA to contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries at the grass-roots level in collaboration with “Partners in Japan.”

The program is implemented by JICA in collaboration with Partners in Japan based on proposals submitted by the Partners. The recipient government’s approval is necessary prior to implementation of the programs or individual projects, in accordance with the procedures agreed upon between the two governments. Because JPP is not based on official requests from the recipient government, there is no requirement for an international agreement between the governments of the recipient country and Japan.

In Kenya, 19 projects have been implemented since 2002. Currently, four projects are ongoing as indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the Project</th>
<th>Project Term</th>
<th>Counterpart Organisation</th>
<th>Name of the Organisation</th>
<th>Objective of the Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Community Participatory HIV Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Project in Ukwala Division, Ugenya District</td>
<td>Sep.2011-Aug.2014</td>
<td>Ugenya Sub-County Health Office</td>
<td>Positive Living AIDS orphan Support organization (PLAS)</td>
<td>To promote awareness among community members about the risks of Mother to Child Transmission (MTCT) and importance of prevention of MTCT in the target areas and increase numbers of Antenatal Care (ANC) visits to health facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Improvement of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service in Remote Locations in Kericho District</td>
<td>Feb.2012-Jan.2014</td>
<td>Kericho County Health Office</td>
<td>Health and Development Service (HANDS)</td>
<td>To establish Community Strategy focusing on the improvement of maternal and child health in the pilot area through outreach activities by Community Health Workers of newly established Community Unit system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Supporting Health from School to Community in Mbita District</td>
<td>Feb.2013-Jan.2018</td>
<td>Mbita Sub-County Health Office &amp; Mbita Sub-County Education Office</td>
<td>Nagasaki University</td>
<td>To improve health and sanitation of the community through a school health program in primary schools of the target areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Project for Securing Children’s Health and Education by Promoting Basic Education through Community Participatory Approach in Kivaa and Masinga Location, Masinga Division, Masinga District, Machakos County</td>
<td>Oct.2013-Sep.2017</td>
<td>Masinga Sub-County Commissioners Office</td>
<td>Community Action Development Organization (CanDo)</td>
<td>To improve cooperation among local administration, teachers and parents for primary schools and community members to secure children’s health and education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching Man How to Fish

Nowhere has the adage ‘teach a man to fish and you will have fed him for life’ been proven right than at the arid Nguni village, Mwingi County. Just about four years ago, a local NGO, Community Action Development Organisation (CanDo), taught parents how to build one classroom for their children using cheap local materials. In a period of three years, they have used the same knowledge to build five others.

This has increased enrolment of children at Syunoo Primary School from around 20 in 2009 to 268 today and it goes up to class seven. And this, say parents, is just the beginning! They shall develop the school to even double this enrolment in the very near future.

Mr. Patrick Musyoki Masai, a staff of CanDo, says his organisation got involved in building of a classroom in 2009 and with just about Sh. 400,000, part of it donated by JICA. When CanDo intervened, the school had only two classrooms. “We involved the parents in the building of only one classroom using local materials which were cheaper. The parents then used this experience to teach other villagers how to build more classrooms on their own. Now the parents have built five others using the knowledge they gained from CanDo.”

The training which took place in 2009 involved teaching the parents how to collect locally available materials such as sand, ballast, hardcore and water, among others. They were also taught how to engage competitive masons and carpenters after clearly identifying the work to be done to build the classrooms.

This transfer of skills and technology from technical experts who came from CanDo in Nairobi included leaving the parents with detailed notes on how to achieve what they needed to do to build the classrooms, such as the right ratios for mixing cement, timber joinery and even how to organize themselves as they went about building the classrooms.

The Head Teacher, Ms. Fibi Wambui Peter, says that school enrolment has increased due to availability of the new classrooms. She says when CanDo came in, there were only 27 parents supporting the project, now they are 103.

She adds that support from CanDo came through the Education office at Mwingi. Before the new classrooms were built, parents would take their children to other schools far away from home. Because the children would arrive home tired, they performed poorly in school.

Mr. Masai says CanDo contributed iron sheets, cement, timber, door handles and other hardware during the school’s construction. It also helped the women develop a group culture and organizational skills that enabled them to work together.

Speaking on behalf of the parents, Chairlady Esther Kilonzo said children in the area suffered a lot before the school’s expansion because they had to walk long distances to other schools. Now most of them walk less than two kilometres to reach the school.

“Because of the problems our children used to experience, we knew we needed to expand but did not know how to go about it until CanDo came and we realised how simple it was especially to participate in the construction of the classrooms. They opened a new door of knowledge and skills for us,” she says.

Area Education Officer, Mr. Leonard Mwangi, says perhaps the biggest achievement for the CanDo project in Mwingi was the ability to make parents discover, in their own simple ways, their own potential to develop themselves. “They discovered they could achieve a lot by coming together to do a common task and this led to a rapid expansion of the school.”

Project Coordinator, Mr. Benjamin Mulanzo, says the project brought people together. It changed their thinking from being dependent to self-supporting. “In my view,” he says, “this has been the greatest impact of this project on the community’s development. It was an eye-opener and especially among the women and enhanced community spirit.”

CanDo has its headquarters in Yanaka, Taito-Ku Tokyo, Japan with a branch in Kenya and elsewhere. Its mission and objective is to work in partnership with communities in Africa to improve the quality of their lives. It does this through improvement of education, environment and other poverty alleviation initiatives.

CanDo has comprehensive social development projects with emphasis on the high level of community participation in Mwingi East, Migwani and Masinga districts, all in the poor arid parts of Kenya. The main sectors under the programme are education, health and environment.

The actual activities are participatory classrooms building, renovation of primary schools, soil conservation and environmental activities in primary schools, early childhood development, AIDS education and early pregnancy prevention training in primary schools, and basic household health care training and AIDS training in the community. It gets part of its funding from the Embassy of Japan, JICA and other donors in Japan.
Project for Improvement of Quality and Capacity of Higher Education in Eritrea

Eritrea’s National Board for Higher Education (NBHE) and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in late October 2011 that established a framework for cooperation between NBHE and JKUAT in academic capacity building, including teaching, research and programme development.

This was followed by a request by the NBHE on behalf of the Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) to the Government of Japan for assistance to improve quality and capacity of higher education of three Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) i.e. Eritrea Institute of Technology (EIT), Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC) and College of Marine Science and Technology (COMSAT).

Subsequently, the Project for Improvement of Quality and Capacity of Higher Education was formulated and the Record of Discussions signed between NBHE and JICA in early October 2012 leading to commencement of activities between JKUAT and the three IHEs in 2013. The purpose of the Project is to strengthen the capacity of the three IHEs in terms of research-oriented postgraduate education suitable for Eritrea.

The specific objectives of the Project are Curriculum Development through Staff Exchange, Joint Research and implementation of PhD Programs through Sandwich Program. To kick off the activities, a visiting professor, Dr. Woldeamlak Araia, Associate Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies from HAC participated in the staff exchange programme and taught some units of a course in Agronomy (for research methods) at JKUAT from mid-July to early September 2013.

At the same time, five out of the six Eritrean students from EIT, HAC and COMSAT expected to participate in the PhD programme under supervision from JKUAT professors arrived in Kenya and commenced their studies in July 2013. By the end of the year, the students had already completed the initial phase of their studies and arrangements to commence the joint research by Eritrean and JKUAT lecturers were already underway.

Based on the MOU and Agreement signed between JICA and JKUAT, the latter will support the activities of the Project as a service provider. Activities under this Project are expected to gain more momentum in 2014.

Milestones for Somalia

Year 2013 was a milestone for JICA’s assistance for Somalia, and there were several remarkable events on the Japanese bilateral assistance for Somalia.

On the occasion of TICAD V, a special session on Somalia took place on 31st May 2013, with the attendance of Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Government of Somalia, and Mr. Shinzo Abe, the Japanese Prime Minister. In the special...
session, Mr. Abe announced resumption of the Japanese bilateral assistance for Somalia. Also, the new approach of the Japanese assistance for Somalia was announced, which consists of three pillars:

1) Reinstating delivery of basic social services,
2) Strengthening capacity in public security and
3) Revitalizing the economy

Another historic event was the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) Seminar in Japan, which was held in November 2013. Eighteen officials were invited to Japan to have discussions on reconstruction plans of Somalia and to deepen their understanding of reconstruction and development activities in Japan.

In Miyagi-prefecture, which was severely damaged by the earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, seminar participants visited some reconstruction sites and the City Hall of Ishinomaki-city.

During the visits, the participants appreciated the necessity of preparedness for disasters and collaboration between local municipalities and local residents. The participants also visited the maritime security institution, port authority and water treatment plant in Yokohama-city.

In addition to these events, JICA continued to be engaged in capacity building activities. Labor-based Technology (LBT) training programme was provided to nine (9) Somali engineers at the Appropriate Technology Training Institute (ATTI) in Mbeya, Tanzania from January to March 2013. Training participants expressed satisfaction with the classroom training as well as practical training. Also, some of the participants suggested the possibility of application of LBT to other reconstruction programmes in Somalia in their action plans.

Support for the Environment in Seychelles

The final Steering Committee meeting for the Study for Coastal Erosion and Flood Management in the Republic of Seychelles is planned for 2014 heralding the winding up of the Study that commenced in early 2011. The objectives of this Study which comes to an end in March 2014 were:

1. To formulate a coastal conservation plan with regard to disasters to enhance coastal management
2. To formulate a flood management plan to reduce flood risks
3. To implement pilot projects for coastal conservation and flood management.

This is in order to confirm the effectiveness of the measures to be taken and to enhance the capacity of relevant personnel engaged in coastal conservation and flood control management.
4. To undertake technology transfer to relevant personnel through joint activities of the Study as well as trainings and workshops.

The team of Japanese experts led by the highly experienced Dr. Hiroshi Hashimoto worked very closely with the Seychelles Ministry of Environment and Energy’s Department of Environment staff. Technical transfer was enriched through implementation of joint activities, seminars, workshops and training of the experts’ counterparts on-the-job and in Japan. This enhanced the counterparts’ understanding of engineering concepts and techniques. They were able to work hand-in-hand with the Japanese experts to improve technical guidelines for EIAs, storm water drainage design and develop new guidelines for aerial and bathymetric surveys.

Four pilot projects were also implemented to confirm the effectiveness of the measures proposed in the Study and to enhance the capacity of relevant personnel. Two of the projects were at North East Point and La Passe in line with the Coastal Conservation Plan, and two at Pointe Larue and Aux Cap under the Flood Control Management Plan.
However, even as this Study winds up, the Government of Seychelles has already requested for a new project to support Seychelles’ renewable energy sector through technology used in Japan’s small island areas (photovoltaic power generation). The objective of this project is to improve stable energy supply and enhance partnerships in both public and private sectors between Seychelles and Japan’s island areas. At the same time, there is also another proposal forwarded to the Government of Japan for the Project for the Construction of Fisheries Facilities at Province Zone 6. If approved, this Project will serve to strengthen further the long standing cooperation between Seychelles and Japan in the fisheries sector.

**Development of Infrastructure in Burundi**

Japan has been supporting the peace building process in Burundi after the long period of civil war and resumed bilateral assistance to the country in 2006. Japan’s assistance to Burundi sets two pillars for its priority areas. Under the pillar of peace consolidation, Japan executes programs for peace building through assistances to the international organizations such as UN Agencies. JICA is also keen on capacity development of Burundian personnel in various fields such as agriculture, environment, health care and security, and provides training in Japan for government and government-affiliated officials.

One of the main infrastructure projects implemented by the Government of Japan in Burundi was the grant aid project for rehabilitation of North-south corridor and circular road in Bujumbura. The 4.4km road, part of which was named “Boulevard du Japon”, was completed in 2013 and is expected to ease traffic congestion experienced in the city during peak hours. It will also provide an alternative bypass to the western part of the city and close to the port. The road was constructed at a cost of 2.7 billion Japanese yen (34 billion in Burundian currency), and the project involved widening and paving of the existing road, and construction of drainage and bridges.

The President of Burundi, H.E Pierre Nkurunziza presided over the opening ceremony for the roads on 28th March 2013. Appreciating the assistance received from Japan, H.E. Nkurunziza observed: “This project by our Japanese friends is a step forward in the development of our country, especially in terms of rehabilitation activities for roads through the city of Bujumbura, in the pledge to make Bujumbura a model town within the East African Community.”

The president assured the Government and the people of Japan that they would make good use of the grants, and urged the Burundi people to take good care of the roads.