

NEWSLETTER

DSD/JICA PROJECT ON DISABILITY

Department of Social Development (DSD) / Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Project for the Promotion of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Disability Mainstreaming



The Project for the Promotion of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Disability Mainstreaming was kick-started on 9th May 2016, and the 1st Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) was held on 21st July 2016.

The 2nd Newsletter will cover the objective of the JCC and discussion points of the 1st JCC.

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Objective of Joint Coordinating Committee

Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) is the highest decision making body of the project where officials from the partner country and JICA and project stakeholders discuss project annual plan, progress of project activities and issues arose during the project for approval. Our project plans to hold JCCs 6 times during the 4 year project period. The 1st JCC was held at the DSD board room in Pretoria. The objectives of the 1st JCC were 1) introduction of the members of JCC, 2) briefing of the project outline, 3) clarification and modification of Project Design Matrix (PDM) and Plan of Operation (PO) and 4) approval of the project annual plan.



1st JCC meeting

Report of 1st JCC of the Project

In the 1st JCC the project invited officials from the project study sites, Limpopo and Free State provincial and district DSD, JICA South Africa office and other chief directorates of DSD (e.g., children, social mobilization and international relation) and representatives from Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) of South Africa (e.g., Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) and South African Disability Alliance (SADA)). In total, 25 people participated including persons with

disabilities from Free State province who drove 5 hours to participate. The project has put in practice the vision: **“persons with disabilities must play the central roles of the project”**.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr Mzolisani Toni, the project director and Deputy Director-General (DDG) of the Branch: Rights of Persons with Disabilities welcomed members and stated;

"We plan to elevate the voices of the people directly involved".

Ms Mokone Nthongoa, Head of Department (HoD) of Free State province described;

"We feel honoured to be a part of this project, and the province will do its part for this project to succeed and to ensure that participation at all levels is met. We face the reality of more than 10% of people in Thabo Mofutsanyane district where the project is targeting is persons with disabilities; therefore this project would really be a life changing tool".

Her remark expresses high expectations for the project.

Following that, Mr Daisuke Sagiya, Chief Advisor explained project purpose, activities and annual plan. Questions and comments were raised from participants, especially, regarding the dispatch of the short-term expert. Participants requested the project to seek human resources from South Africa who participated in DSD/JICA training so that obtained knowledge and experiences will be expanded and the outcome of the project will be

sustained. These comments were reflected to the PDM, and modified PDM, PO and annual plan were approved.

Finally, Mr Hiroyuki Kinomoto, the Chief Representative of the JICA South Africa office concluded;

"The number of persons with disabilities is estimated to be beyond one billion - approximately one out of every seven persons in the world today. We all know that, many persons with disabilities today live in extreme poverty and are not capacitated to contribute to their development to the optimal level. Mainstreaming the disability issues and plight of persons with disabilities into the process of development is crucial to realize the goal of "no one is left behind". JICA is looking forward the project outcomes and promises to support the efforts of South Africa and the neighboring countries towards empowerment of persons with disabilities and disability mainstreaming through the project".

The 2nd JCC will be held in March 2017 in which the results of the baseline survey and the progress of the project activities will be reported.

Way Forward

The project team is conducting the baseline survey in Vhembe district, Limpopo province. Through questionnaire, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and home visits, the living conditions and needs of persons with disabilities in the project site are being revealed.

We are going to share the project activities through this website.

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Mr Daisuke Sagiya, Chief Advisor explains project outline and activity plans to stakeholders in the project study site