

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016. From 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Project conducted a Team Building Workshop and Disability Mainstreaming Training for members of the project working group in Limpopo.**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter will cover the contents of the Workshop and Training.**

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## Establishment of the Project Working Group

In order to plan, implement and monitor project activities, the Project established the project working group at the project site in Limpopo. The working group consists of 40 members who are officials of national, provincial and district Department of Social Development (DSD), officials of related departments such as Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and Office of Premier, focal person of municipality, South African Police Services (SAPS) and, representatives of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and persons with disabilities from community. From 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Project conducted a Team Building Workshop and Disability Mainstreaming

Training to create mutual understanding and trust among members, deepen understandings on disability based on the social model of disability and develop concrete and practical project action plan.



Team Building Workshop

## Report of Team Building Workshop

Mr Maake, an official of DSD Limpopo province facilitated the Team Building Workshop to promote mutual understanding and trust among members of the working group through a number of programmes. "Build a Tower" was one of the programmes which members were divided into small groups and compete to make a higher tower with provided materials. In the review of the programme, participants pointed out the importance of the foundation of the tower, the concrete design plan before building the tower and role sharing of all members. And participants agreed that these findings are all applicable to the working group activities.

In the afternoon programme which was conducted outside, participants enjoyed games ensuring participation of persons with and without disabilities. In terms of the participation, a number of good ideas were observed. For example, team members guided persons with visual impairments to touch the target and team members made a noise near the target to inform the position of the target. The programmes gained a good evaluation because participants could enjoy the game and at the same time, they realised the importance of team work and learned the way to promote the participation of persons with disabilities.

## Report of Disability Mainstreaming Training

Disability mainstreaming training consists of; 1) Disability Equality Training (DET) which pertains to social model of disability, 2) introduction of good practices in South Africa and other countries which persons with disabilities initiate the activities to create inclusive society and 3) project action plan making by participants, etc. In DET, Ms Zukiswa Nzo, a wheelchair user, facilitated participants to notice disability is not in individual person but in society. In addition, she shared her experiences and emphasized that in order to ensure social participation of persons with disabilities, society needs to be changed. In the introduction of good practices in South Africa, Mr July Mathebula, a wheelchair user, introduced the concept of Peer-Counseling and Self-Help Group (SHG). Peer-Counseling is a method which persons with disabilities listen their experience each other. Self-Help Group is a group where persons with disabilities in community support each other and discuss issues on disability, family, life, education, work, etc. Mr Mathebula described how he was encouraged and empowered by participating Peer-Counseling and Self-Help Group.

One of the participants, Ms Victoria Japane is a lady with impairment in her hand from her birth.

She said “it was difficult for me to move around in my community without hiding my hand because some thoughtless people teased me.” However, through the training she learnt that disability is in society and now she wants to create inclusive community for all and as the first step she leads to establish a self-help group with peers in her community.

The voices of persons with disabilities in community including Ms Japane, Peer-Counseling and the establishment of Self-Help Group are incorporated in the project action plan, and the Project will implement activities in community based on the action plan developed in the training.



Ms Nzo (right lady) facilitates DET

## Way Forward

Currently, the project is preparing for Peer Counseling seminar scheduled in February and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) scheduled in March.

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



Ms Japane (second lady from the left) actively participates



Participants develop project action plan

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