

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. The 5th Newsletter will cover the contents of the Workshop on Self-Help Group (SHG) of persons with disabilities which was conducted on 26th and 27th July 2017 in collaboration with Mr. Yutaka Takamine, JICA short-term expert.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Establishment of Self-Help Group | 1 |
| Organise Workshop on SHG | 1-2 |
| Wayforward | 2 |
| Project Facebook page opened! | 2 |

Establishment of Self-Help Group

The project team has been implementing activities to empower persons with disabilities in the project site, Lim345 municipality in Vhembe district, Limpopo province. For example, peer counsellings were conducted twice in both Makahlule village and Xikundu village and once in Phaphazela village. In Magona village, the project team met community leaders and persons with disabilities and promised to conduct the peer counselling. In the villages where the peer counsellings were conducted, persons with disabilities who participated in the peer counselling have established Self-Help Group (SHG) of persons with disabilities and started to hold regularly scheduled meetings to share challenges that persons with disabilities are facing and implement income generating activities. However, some SHGs are facing challenges such as small number of members, lack of finance and support system to continue income generating activity, lack of awareness on SHG in community, etc. Therefore, the project team organised the workshop on SHG which targeted persons with disabilities from the village and stakeholders such as officials of the Department of Social Development (DSD) and Lim345 municipality to deepen understanding on the significance and importance of SHG at the village level and federation at the ward and municipal levels.

Organise Workshop on SHG

Upon organising the workshop on establishment and strengthening of SHG, the project invited Mr. Yutaka Takamine, the president of Empowerment Okinawa as a JICA short-term expert. Mr. Takamine worked for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and engaged to support establishment and strengthening of SHG in Asia such as India and Thailand. After his assignment

in UNESCAP, Mr. Takamine lectured issues on social welfare in University of the Ryukyus as a professor in particular development of persons with disabilities in Japan as well as at the regional and international level. After his retirement, Mr. Takamine established the Empowerment Okinawa, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) which provides training on “Social Participation and Livelihood of Persons with Disabilities through a Community-Based Inclusive Approach” to officials and persons with disabilities from all over the world. Mr. Takamine is a leading authority in the field of disability.



Mr. Takamine lectured in the workshop (right)

In the 2-day workshop on SHG held on 26th and 27th July 2017, over 40 people participated including persons with disabilities from villages, councilors of Lim345 municipality, municipal officials, district officials, officials from the Department of Social Development (DSD) and Education (DOE), disability forum members, representatives of Disabled People’s Organisation (DPO), etc. On the 1st day of the workshop, Mr. Takamine explained the definition, historical background of SHG and the guiding principles of strengthening SHG, etc.

He also explained the importance of establishment and strengthening SHG in the village level with wide range of viewpoints by introducing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID) and good practices of SHG in India.



SHG members developing their action plan

On the 2nd day of the workshop, participants developed and presented the action plans on establishing and strengthening SHG in the village level. Persons with disabilities from 4 villages were divided into 4 groups and developed action plans on their SHG activity. Their plans reflected the guiding principles of strengthening SHG which explained by Mr. Takamine on the 1st day. For example, action plans developed by persons with disabilities include following activities: the promotion of the participation of new SHG members through home visit, peer counselling to empower persons with disabilities, training to increase the number of peer counselor, advocacy for community leaders and the creation of a democratic and accountable group where voices of all types of impairments are reflected, etc.



Lim345 municipal councilors and officials developing their action plan

Action plans developed by municipal councilors and officials and DSD officials to support SHGs include following activities: making a list of SHGs members in Lim345, outreach activities in other villages in Lim345 to support establishment of SHGs in cooperation with disability forum members, monitoring of SHG activities, etc.

The developed action plans were presented by each group and had a discussion to improve and modify. In regard to the awareness raising activity, the discussion was very active. For example, participants engaged in a lively debate about the objective of the awareness raising activity, selection of target people and area, necessity of process break-down for organising awareness raising activity, identification of responsible persons for each activity, etc. Based on the discussion, participants modified their action plans and promised to implement and monitor their action plans and actions.

Wayforward

After the workshop, the successful case was reported. In Makahlule village 2 new members were recruited through home visits of SHG members. Currently SHGs in Phaphazela village and Magona village are on the process to select participants and venue for the peer counselling scheduled in August 2017. The project team will continuously support activities of SHGs in the villages.

Project Facebook page opened!

The project team opened the Project Facebook page to share the progress and activities of the Project. The name of the Facebook page is "JICA SADEM" which stands for Southern African Disability Empowerment and Mainstreaming. Please visit and follow our Project Facebook page and press "Like!"



The Project Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jicasouthafricadisabilityempowermentmainstreaming/>

We look forward to connecting with you!

Department of Social Development (DSD):
134 Pretorius Street, HSRC Building, Pretoria,
0001, South Africa

Editors:

Daisuke Sagiya: DaisukeS@dsd.gov.za

Ren Kamioka: RenK@dsd.gov.za

