

# 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.**

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Newsletter will cover the contents of the country-focused training in Okinawa, Japan “Establishment and Strengthening of Self-Help Group (SHG) of Persons with Disabilities through Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID)” from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

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## Objective of the training

The project team has been supporting establishment and strengthening of Self-Help Group (SHG) of persons with disabilities in the project site, Collins Chabane municipality (renamed from Lim345) in Vhembe district, Limpopo province. In July 2017, the project team organised the workshop on SHG in collaboration with Mr. Yutaka Takamine, JICA short-term expert aiming to deepen understanding on the significance and importance of SHG, and more than 40 people including government officials and persons with disabilities participated in the workshop.

The country-focused training in Okinawa, Japan “Establishment and Strengthening of SHG of Persons with Disabilities through Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID)” is designed for participants; 1) to analyse the roles, functions and network system of government agencies, NGOs and Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs) for social participation of persons with disabilities through the case studies of Okinawa Prefecture, 2) to analyse the effective usage of community resources to achieve social participation of persons with disabilities in Okinawa, and consider the applicable measures in South Africa and 3) to formulate effective and feasible action plans on social participation and establishment and strengthening of SHG of persons with disabilities through CBID. After the training, participants with disabilities are expected to understand the role and the importance of SHG of persons with disabilities and CBID and acquire ability to implement and expand SHG activities in South Africa. Those of government officials are expected to understand the role and the importance of SHG of persons with disabilities and CBID, learn the structure and how to support sustainable SHG activities and acquire ability to implement and expand inclusive activities in cooperation with SHGs in South Africa.



The lecture by Mr. Yutaka Takamine, Empowerment Okinawa

The training participants were 15 people including government officials and persons with disabilities from Limpopo province where the project has conducted activities, Eastern Cape province where the Department of Social Development (DSD) will initiate activity from 2019 and the national DSD. In addition, 3 personal assistants and Mr. Daisuke Sagiya, JICA expert also joined, thus in total 19 people visited Okinawa. There were some government officials with disabilities, therefore 10 out of 15 participants were persons with disabilities. This member composition clearly reflects the project principle “Persons with disabilities must play the central roles of the project”.

## Programme of the training

The duration of the training is 2 weeks. In the 1<sup>st</sup> week, participants learnt the role of various organisations such as Okinawa Welfare Association of the Blind, Naha city Welfare Association for Persons with Physical Disabilities, Employment Support Centre “Land of

Hope”, etc. In addition, the lecture on the partnership between Naha municipality and DPOs and the practices of the method to change society by persons with disabilities such as Disability Equality Training (DET) and accessibility check were conducted. Participants were impressed how local government and DPOs play their roles and how they collaborate each other to promote social participation of persons with disabilities in Okinawa. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, participants joined the programme such as observation of the Employment Support Center "Sotetsu", home visit of persons with severe disabilities, the lecture of the role of Okinawa Independent Living Center, IRUKA, etc. Participants were surprised at seeing and hearing persons with severe disabilities who live independently and go out as persons without disabilities do. The last two days of the training were allocated for the development of action plans and the participants were divided into three groups, the national DSD, Limpopo and Eastern Cape.



Limpopo team develops their action plan.

## Action plan on SHG

The action plan developed by the national DSD aims for institutionalising SHG at local government level which includes activities to organise SHG conference inviting relevant national department and organisations which manage and supervise local governments, activities to establish Steering Committee which includes relevant departments and organisations, and monitoring and evaluation. Currently, SHGs has been formed in village level and its importance has been recognised, therefore it is essential to institutionalise the system at national level to sustain SHGs. The action plan developed by Eastern Cape aims to establish SHG in OR Tambo municipality which includes activities of consultation with stakeholders such as local government and DPOs, identification of persons with disabilities, conducting capacity development workshop on SHG. Since the project activity has not started in Eastern Cape, participants will start to deepen understanding on the significance and importance of SHG among stakeholders.

The action plan developed by Limpopo aims for expanding the number of SHGs in Collins Chabane municipality. Their activities are: 1) identification of members with disabilities for SHGs, 2) consultation with stakeholders such as municipal / ward councilors, 3) training on establishment of new SHG in 18 villages, 4) conducting peer counselling, 5) developing activity plan for each SHG, 6) registration of SHG as NPO, 7) monitoring and evaluation, and 8) sustainable activity to strengthen existing SHGs. Since participants from Limpopo understand the procedure, necessary activities and the importance of involvement of stakeholders from their experiences, detailed action plan was developed. In addition, action plans to promote accessibility in public market in Eastern Cape and Limpopo were also developed.

The action plans were presented by each group and commented by Mr. Takamine, Mr. Sagiya and members of other groups. Participants said “we would like to implement a number of activities in South Africa by utilising the learnings in Okinawa”.



Eastern Cape presents their action plan

## Wayforward

The project team will support establishing, strengthening and expanding SHG based on the developed action plans. And also the project team will promote efforts to ensure sustainability of SHG in collaboration with the national, provincial, district DSD and local government. In addition, the project team will start activity in the 2<sup>nd</sup> project site in Free State province from 2018.

**You can find more information from our Project Facebook Page (JICA SADEM)!!**

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

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

Editors:

Daisuke Sagiya: [DaisukeS@dsd.gov.za](mailto:DaisukeS@dsd.gov.za)

Ren Kamioka: [RenK@dsd.gov.za](mailto:RenK@dsd.gov.za)