

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*

Training on DEM approach towards CBID was conducted!

The training called “Promoting Disability Empowerment and Mainstreaming (DEM) Approach towards Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID)” was conducted in Okinawa, Japan from 3rd to 14th December 2018. In total 14 delegates including 1 official of the national Department of Social Development (DSD); 1 official from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA); 2 DSD officials, 1 official of the Premier office and 3 persons with disabilities from Free State province; 1 DSD official and 1 person with disability from KwaZulu-Natal province and 4 personal assistants participated in the training.

The DEM approach is the sustainable methods and procedures that groups of persons with disabilities in community in collaboration with officials of DSD, local governments, etc. conduct activities to promote social participation and improve the access to the services. The activities on empowerment include peer counselling, establishment and strengthening of Community-based Empowerment Group (CEG), etc. and activities on disability mainstreaming include advocacy through the social model of

disability, improvement of accessibility, etc. The training aimed that participants learn from the good practices of Okinawa, customise the activities according to the situation in South Africa, and develop the feasible action plans to implement, expand and monitor the DEM approach in South Africa.



[Photo] Course Orientation

The training programme of the 1st week was comprised of the history of disabled people’s movements, independent living, the collaboration between government and persons with disabilities, etc. which are related to empowerment of persons with disabilities. One of the most impressive programmes for Mr. Cyprian Mogane, an official of the Premier office in Free State was the visit to a home of a person with severe disability. Mr. Cyprian said “Many persons with

severe disabilities in South Africa stay at hospital for entire life and rarely participate in society. However, in Okinawa, those people go out and participate in social activity by utilising the personal assistant system and accessible public transportation, which impressed me a lot. It was also impressive that the independent living centres which dispatch personal assistants are managed by persons with disabilities.”

shared their good practices in South Africa to other participants.



[Photo] Workshop on access audit



[Photo] Visit to Okinawa Independent Living Centre “IRUKA”

The training programme of the 2nd week focused more on accessibility and development of action plans which are related to disability mainstreaming. The programme on accessibility included not only lecture but also exercise in which participants could have hands-on experiences through practice such as workshop to obtain access audit skills, demonstration ride for public transportation such as train and bus and practical access audit at the JICA Okinawa Centre. The participants learnt how accessible environment in Okinawa is essential for social participation of persons with disabilities through the experience. In addition, since the activities on accessibility have been already conducted in Free State province, participants from Free State province

Based on the learnings from the lectures and practices, participants developed action plans which will be implemented in South Africa. For example, the action plan of the Free State province team consists of 7 activities, 1) sensitisation of stakeholders and community through shedding light on social model of disability, 2) establishment of Community-based Empowerment Groups (CEG), 3) peer counselling, 4) access audit, 5) learning through site visit to Limpopo province, 6) meeting with stakeholders, 7) progress report and monitoring.

The project team will follow up the action plans developed in Okinawa and promote implementation and expansion of the DEM approach towards CBID in South Africa with the participants of the training.

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