

## 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

### DEM Project has been started in KwaZulu Natal province!

The Disability Empowerment and Mainstreaming (DEM) workshop was conducted from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in Mandeni municipality, KwaZulu Natal province, and the DEM project has been started.

The DEM project in KwaZulu Natal province follows the projects in Limpopo, Free State and Eastern Cape provinces. This makes the DEM project are piloted in almost half of provinces in South Africa.



[Map] 9 provinces in South Africa

About 25 people including persons with disabilities from local community, officials of the Department of Social Development (DSD), a councilor of Mandeni municipality where the project

site locates, officials of relevant departments including the office of premier, teachers of special school, etc. participated in. The workshop contents were amended based on the lessons learnt obtained from the similar workshop in Eastern Cape province conducted in June. The workshop duration is extended from 1.5 days to 2.5 days to secure time for discussion and consideration of dates for conducting activities. In addition, the flow of activities was clarified that the first activity after the workshop is a training for human resource development, then the community-based activities by developed human resources will follow.



[Photo] Ms Zama presented the results of baseline survey (centre right)

The 1<sup>st</sup> day of the workshop was to deepen understanding on disability based on social model and present on the results of the baseline survey. Ms Zama,

district disability coordinator analysed the questionnaire survey targeting persons with disabilities in June, compile the results by using PowerPoint and made a presentation. The challenges identified through the baseline survey were access to buildings, public transportation, information especially among persons with visual impairments, attitudinal barriers in society, etc.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day was development of activity plans. Participants were divided into 4 small groups, and each group selected 1 challenge based on the results of baseline survey and developed the activity plan to tackle the challenges. The 4 developed activity plans were 1) promotion of employment of persons with disabilities in the departments, 2) improvement of accessibility of the public transportation, 3) improvement of building and information accessibility at the special school and 4) improvement of information and communication accessibility on public services for persons with visual and hearing impairments.



[Photo] Participants discussed and developed activity plan

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, participants set priority of the activities and compiled and finalised the activity plan. Developed 4 activity plans have a common challenge which was accessibility, thus participants agreed to conduct the access auditor

training in September. After the training, 4 activity plans will be conducted one by one.



[Photo] Participants discussed the developed activity plans

### **Disability Mainstreaming initiatives by DSD is expanded!**

"Our Directorate and Department shall take action for disability mainstreaming in our programmes..." Such inquiry to the DEM project is gradually increasing. The following two cases show good practices on disability mainstreaming initiatives by DSD officials.

### **Disability mainstreaming training by DSD Limpopo province**

The disability mainstreaming training was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August in Vhembe district, Limpopo province. The training was designed by DSD Limpopo and Vhembe who are the core members of the project. Around 35 people including social workers and managers of DSD facilities, etc. participated in.

The training was facilitated by provincial and district disability coordinators by utilising the knowledge obtained through the project. The training programme has the content that followed the series of steps taken in the project, namely, 1) knowledge acquisition, 2) practical activities, and 3) action plan development. In addition, a person with

disability capacitated by the project participated in the training as a facilitator which reflected the philosophy of the project that persons with disabilities should play the central roles of activities. Through the training, 3 activity plans were developed; 1) development and implement advocacy campaign for different types of impairments, implement the access audit and improve accessibility of the centre for persons with disabilities and 3) include the programme on empowerment of persons with disabilities into daily activities of the centre.

DSD Limpopo plans to conduct similar trainings in other districts and it is expected that the disability mainstreaming will be promoted steadily at the community level.



[Photo] Participants discussed appropriate ramp for their own facilities

## Disability mainstreaming training was conducted for the children unit in National DSD

The Disability mainstreaming training targeting the officials of the children unit was conducted in the national DSD on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in response to the request of children unit.

Ms Manthipi Molamu, director and Mr Krish Shunmugam, deputy director explained the outlines of services to persons with disabilities and the DEM

project. Mr Benny Palime who is responsible for advocacy presented on the legislative framework on disability in South Africa. The training was well received and a lively discussion on the promotion of participation of children with disabilities in the services provided by the children unit was held.



[Photo] Officials in children unit listened to the presentation earnestly.

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