



10

YEARS

OF JICA IN RWANDA

2005-2015

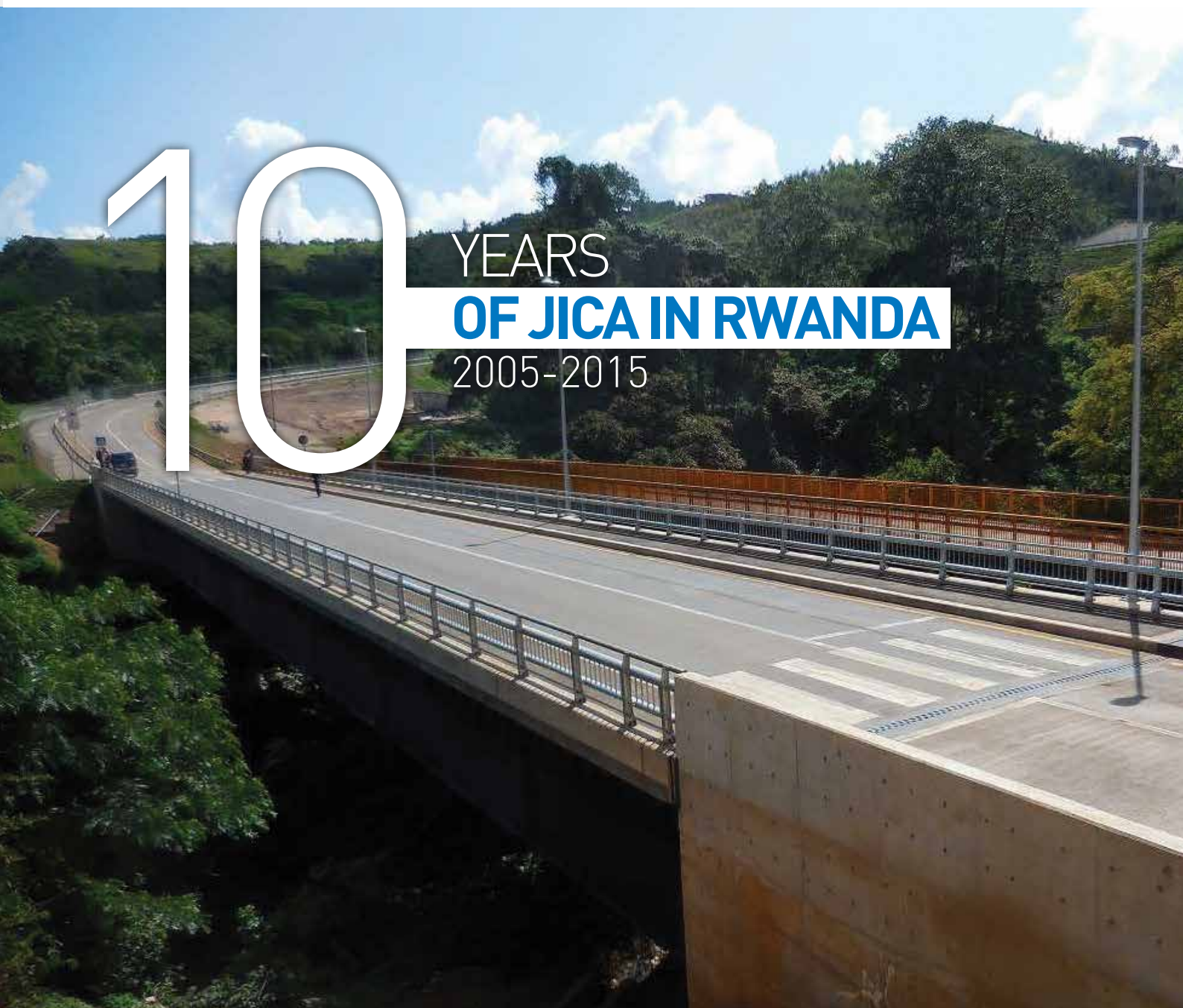


Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



CONTENTS

Foreword	5
Vision and Mission of JICA	7
JICA in Rwanda.....	8
Economic Infrastructure	11
Water and Sanitation	15
Agriculture	18
Science and Technology Education.....	21
Innovation through ICT	24
JICA Training program	27
Volunteers (JOCV)	30
Messages from the first JOCVs in 2005	32
Messages from former JICA Chief Representatives	33
Staff Corner	34
Pictorial.....	35

Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



Photo: Ray Wilkinson



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



FOREWORD



The Commission on Human Security's definition of human security defines it as: to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment. - Commission on Human Security 2003 -

In the last 10 years, Rwanda has developed remarkably, especially in poverty reduction, and enjoyed stability and peace due to the deep commitment of all the people of Rwanda. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Rwanda has had the pleasure of taking part in the development process and supported the Rwandan people.

Moreover, as the representative of the country office, I am most grateful to all the people who have supported us in this country.

Ms. Sadako Ogata, who was the President of JICA at that time, took the initiative to re-open the country office in the year 2005.

Under her vision for "Human Security", cooperation programs started, first to restore the Rwandan society from the tragedy of the 1994 genocide. From the beginning, partnerships between Rwanda and JICA have been strong and have gradually picked up as the country goes through reconstruction and reconciliation.

Based on mutual understanding through these partnerships, valuable programs to tackle specific issues have been conducted through a combination of

various instruments from grassroots to higher levels and Japan's own virtues under the framework of the Tokyo International Conference for Africa Development (TICAD).

This booklet contains events of the past 10 years of JICA's history in Rwanda.

However, this does not mean a conclusion but a milestone in the commencement of a new era, where Rwanda was transformed from a post-conflict country to an emerging country.

From the year 2016, JICA, as a development partner, is strongly committed to support Rwanda in the attainment of the global agenda "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" by the year 2030, in order to eradicate poverty and to have significant benefits trickle down to every person.

In addition, JICA Rwanda seeks to contribute to regional and international peace and prosperity.

Mr. Masaya Hattori, the Japanese who was once the governor of the National Bank of Rwanda kept providing and implementing many ideas which were helpful to the Rwandan people. He ultimately supported institutional capacity building of the bank.

JICA is renewing mindsets to work collectively to provide valuable inputs in order to build on institutional capacity as an everlasting asset of the Rwandan organizations to deliver a better life to all the people in Rwanda.

Finally, it will be a great pleasure for all of us if all the readers share with us in this beautiful journey of where we have come from and where we have reached.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Moriya'.

Takahiro Moriya

Chief Representative

JICA Rwanda

VISION AND MISSION OF JICA

Vision:

Inclusive and Dynamic Development

Mission:

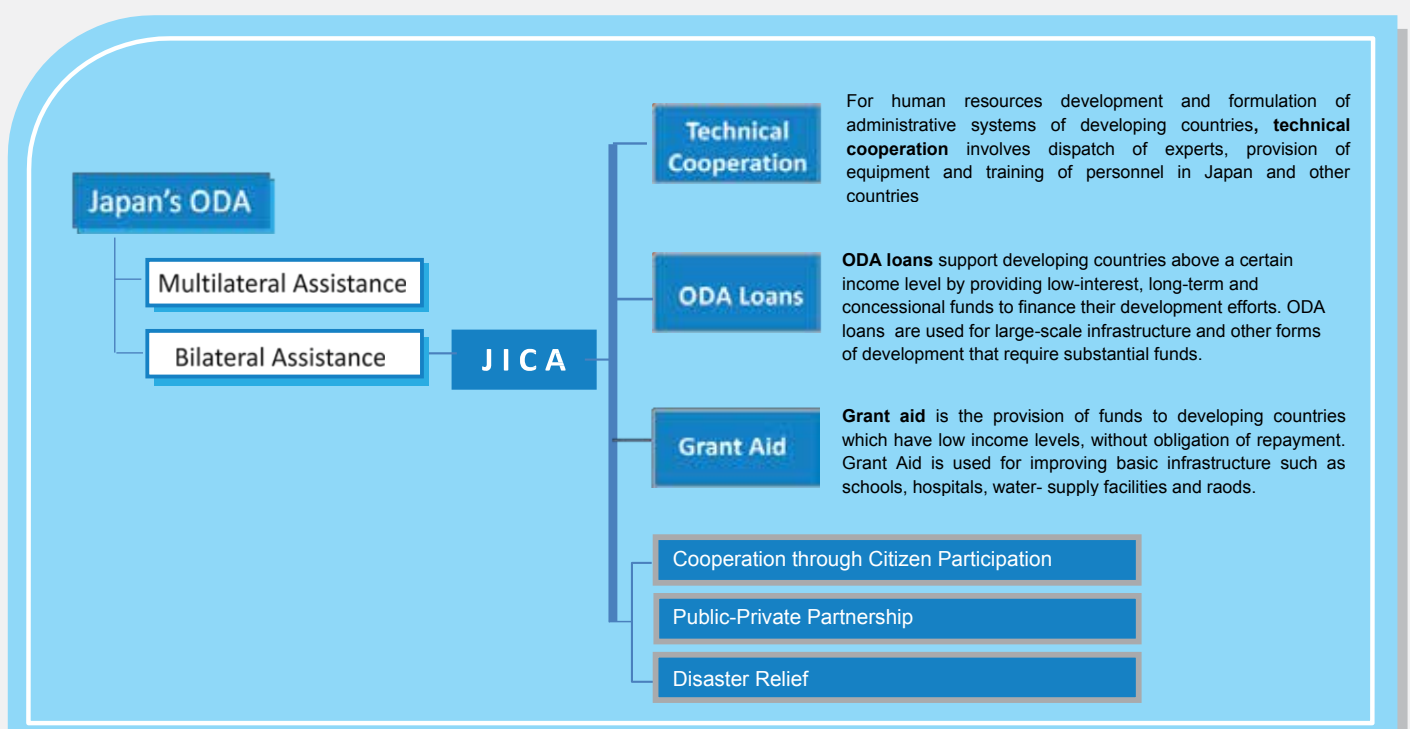
- Addressing the global agenda
- Reducing poverty through equitable growth
- Improving governance
- Achieving human security

JICA and ODA

JICA was established in 1974 and is the development agency of the Japanese Government. After merging with the ODA loan part of former Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in 2008, JICA is in charge of administering Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan such as technical cooperation, ODA loans and grant aid in an integrated manner, except for contributions to international organizations. JICA, the world's largest bilateral aid agency, works in over 150 countries and regions and has some 100 overseas offices.

Since joining the Colombo Plan in 1954, Japan has been providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries through ODA, aiming to contribute to the peace and development of the international community.

JICA assists and supports developing countries as the executing agency of Japanese ODA. In accordance with its vision of "Inclusive and Dynamic Development," JICA supports the developing countries to tackle their challenges by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional, country and issue oriented approach.



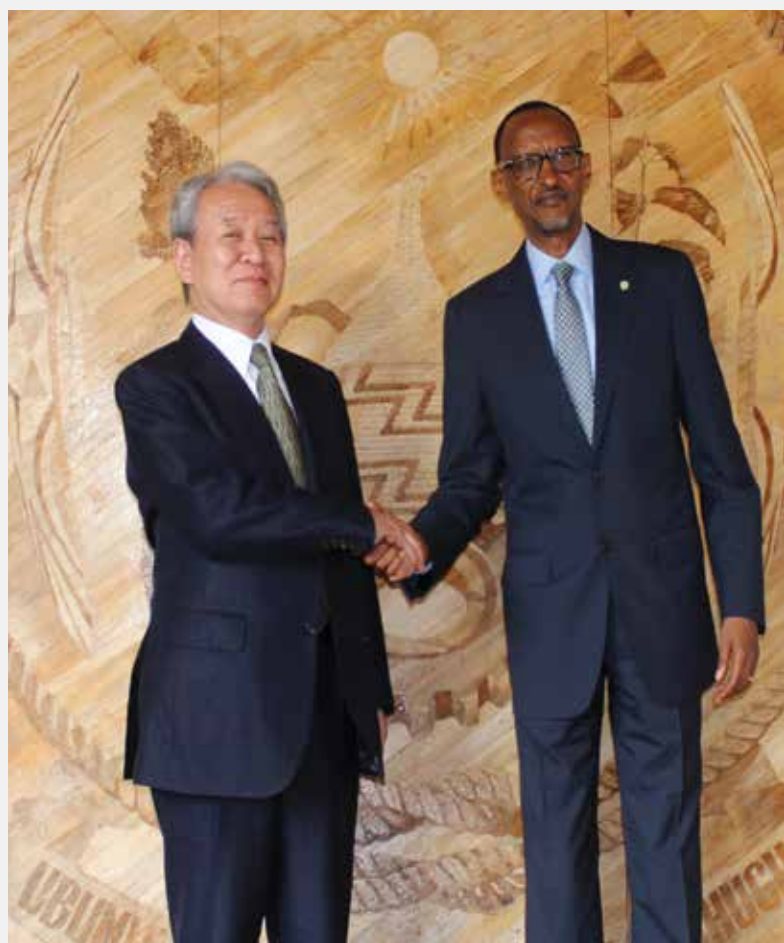
JICA IN RWANDA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as the development arm of Japanese Government endeavours to use Japan's experience to help developing nations make progress in line with their own culture. This philosophy can be significant in Rwanda, where the Government envisions modern but distinctly Rwandan way of development.

JICA concentrates its support on the sectors where Rwanda has expressed a need that can be met by Japanese expertise. JICA not only builds infrastructure, but also builds capacity of Rwandans through Japanese experts and volunteers to work hand in hand with Rwandans and giving Rwandans the opportunity to be trained in Japan and other countries.

JICA aims to combine grassroots work with policy-level activity by bringing lessons learnt from its on-the-ground activities to the institution building and policy debates. It is helping the Government of Rwanda improve its management systems, from top to the bottom, to ensure the effort put into Rwanda's development can be sustained into the future.

In Rwanda, JICA provides technical and financial cooperation in four sectors namely Economic Infrastructure, Agriculture, Water&Sanitation and Education.



JAPANESE AID TO RWANDA

Japan's cooperation from 2005 to 2013 (grant aid(GA) and technical cooperation (TC))

unit: million USD			
	GA	TC	TOTAL
2005	1.78	1.94	3.72
2006	8.93	3.81	12.74
2007	13.96	5.58	19.54
2008	10.26	7.49	17.75
2009	12.70	8.64	21.34
2010	11.01	11.81	22.82
2011	11.84	12.54	24.38
2012	15.75	17.04	32.79
2013	38.56	11.30	49.86
TOTAL	124.79	80.15	204.94

source: OECD/DAC report



HISTORY OF 10 YEARS

2004:

First advisors were dispatched (ODA advisor, skill training advisor for ex-combatants, KIST advisor)

2005:

- Opening of JICA Office
- First Grant aid project "Project for the Rehabilitation of Public Transport" (618 million JPY)
- First Technical cooperation project "Skills Training for the Reintegration of Demobilized Soldiers with Disabilities" which trained 2,462 ex-combatants and other people with disabilities
- First two Volunteers were dispatched (Architecture, Youth activity)

2006:

- First visit of then JICA President Mme. Sadako Ogata
- First project in Water & Sanitation to build water facilities
- First project in Agriculture to provide fertilizers to farmers

2007:

- Opening of Tumba College of Technology (TCT)

2008:

- Mme. Sadako Ogata's second visit for Inauguration of TCT

2009:

- First graduates from TCT

2010:

- Opening of the Embassy of Japan in Rwanda
- First Project in Energy sector for improvement of substations and distribution network

2011:

- Signing of grant aid project for construction of Rusumo International Bridge and OSBP facilities

2012:

- Establishment of kLab, where 12 start-up companies were born since then

2013:

- First Coffee Seminar as the opening of JICA's support in Coffee industry in Rwanda

2014:

- 200th volunteer arrived in Rwanda
- First batch of ABE Initiative (10 people selected)

2015:

- Visit of then JICA president Dr. Akihiko Tanaka to celebrate the completion of Construction of Rusumo International Bridge and OSBP facilities

2016:

- Japanese Yen Loan to be re-started with Kayonza – Rusumo road



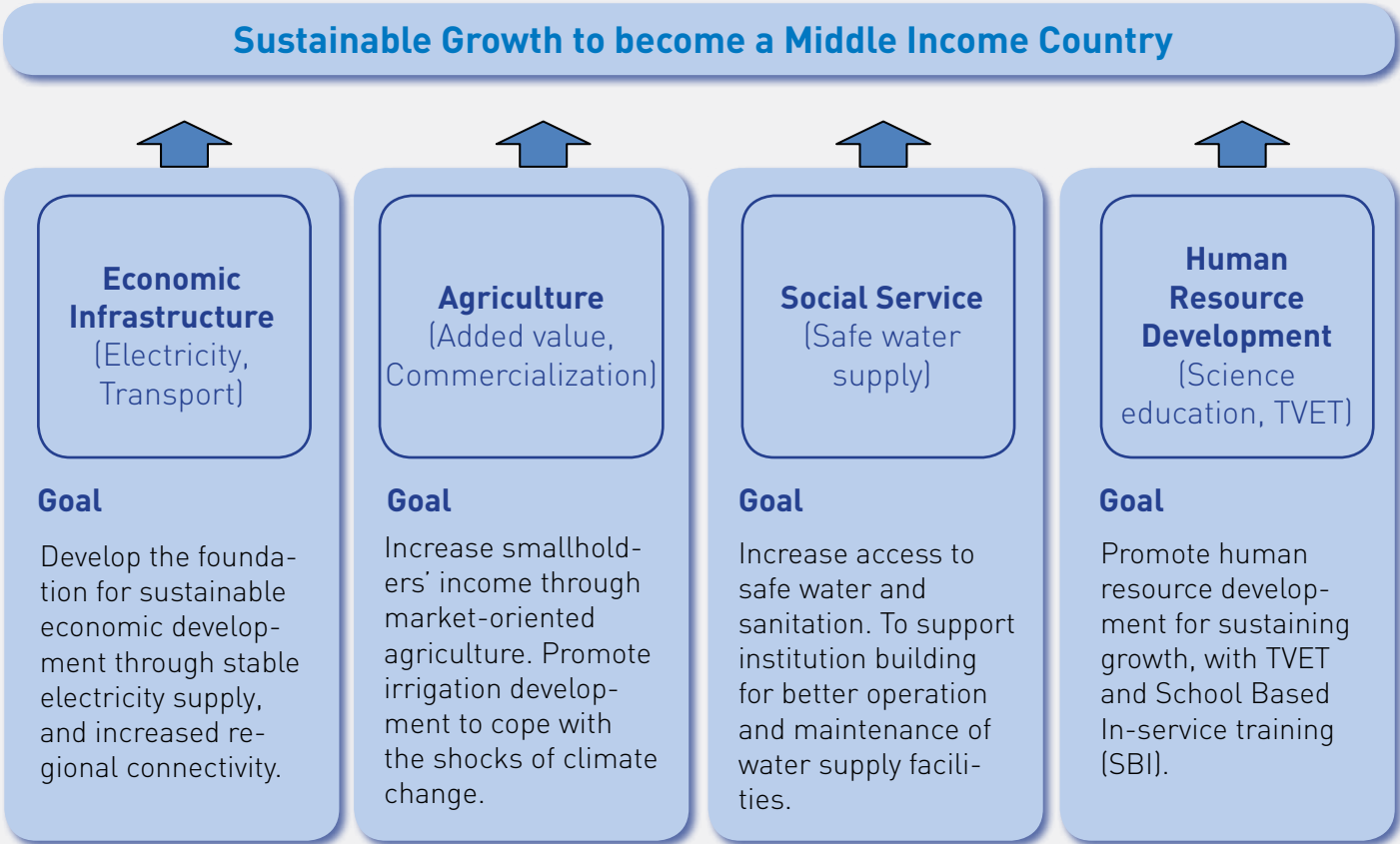
Photo: Ray Wilkinson



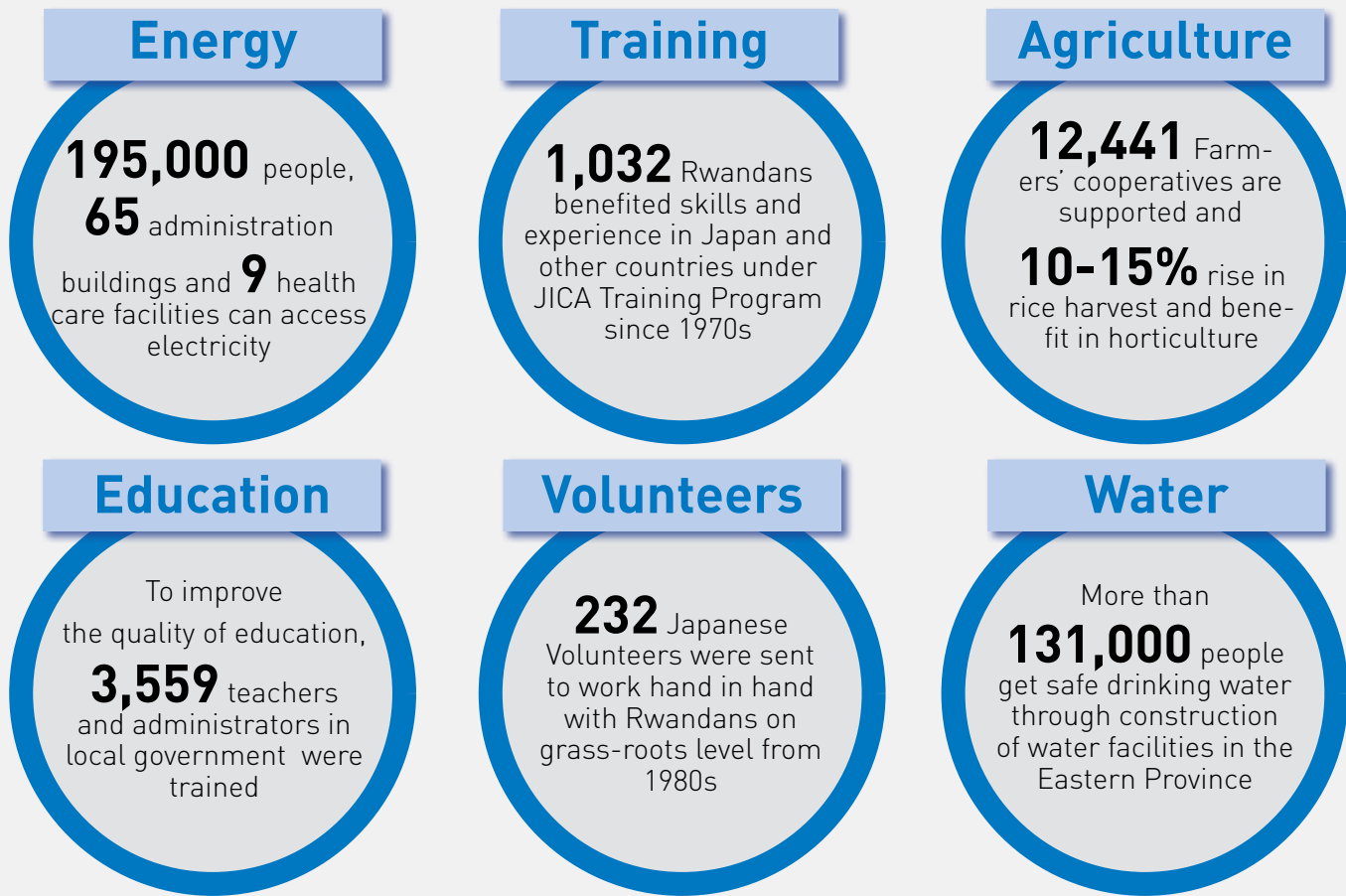
Photo: Ray Wilkinson



FOUR SECTORS SUPPORTED BY JICA IN RWANDA



FACTS AT A GLANCE



ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE





Background

One of the key priorities for the Government of Rwanda in order to achieve economic growth targeted in EDPRS 2 and Vision2020 is to develop infrastructure. Rwanda is a landlocked country where road is a major form of transportation to be connected with neighbouring countries as well as the main seaports on the eastern shore of Africa through the Northern and Central Corridors. Improvement of road infrastructure and the system of international trade will enhance the regional connectivity. In addition, to ensure the access to safe, reliable and efficient energy is urgent needs for the population. The Government of Rwanda sets an ambitious target of increasing the generation capacity to 583MW and the access to electricity to 70% by 2017/18.

JICA's Cooperation in Rwanda

In JICA's Program on Improvement of Economic Infrastructure in Rwanda, the main expected outputs are namely "stable electricity supply", "promotion of power development", "increased access to electricity" and "the increased regional transport connectivity." By realizing these outputs, JICA aims to achieve the overall goal of developing the foundation for sustainable economic development in Rwanda.

JICA Rwanda has implemented a number of grant aid and technical cooperation projects to support the efforts of the Government of Rwanda by combining the hardware infrastructure development and the software capacity development. JICA did not only provide high quality infrastructure but also tries to transfer skills for capacity development for its Rwandan partners so that they can maintain the infrastructure more sustainably. Through this approach, quality infrastructure will not only be built but also properly maintained for many years by the Rwandans.

Key achievements

In JICA's support to transport sector development, the Project for Construction of Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Border Post (OSBP) Facilities at the border between Rwanda and Tanzania is the most recent flagship. The newly built two-lane Rusumo Bridge will have a direct impact on the transport by increasing the axle load limit from 8 tons to 20 tons and speed limit from 5km/h to 30km/h, and facilitate the trade along the Central Corridor. The OSBP facilities will help easing the movement of people and cargos once fully operationalized. Alongside the construction of the Rusumo Bridge and OSBP facilities, a technical cooperation project is being implemented to support the smooth operationalization of the Rusumo border under OSBP model.

In energy sector, JICA has worked to comprehensively improve the sector, through the provision of stable electricity supply, the improved accessibility, and capacity building for the Rwandan institutions. The grant aid project to improve substations and distribution lines has improved the stability of electricity access in Kigali, Huye and their surrounding areas.

The technical cooperation project supported the former EWSA to improve the operation and maintenance activities for power facilities. It helped EWSA to start thinking about a well-defined framework of human resource development for engineers and technicians, a proper training mechanism and a distribution system database. Following the project, Senior Advisor has been attached to REG/EDCL/EUCL to support building the capacity of planning and management after the restructuring of EWSA into REG/EDCL/EUCL.

Additionally, through the creation of the Master Plan for Electricity and Geothermal Development Plan, JICA helped REG/EDCL to develop a mechanism to continuously update their demand forecast and power system analysis. The study also provided the technical inputs, by analyzing the potential of geothermal resources, on how to move forward the geothermal energy development.



List of projects in Economic Infrastructure sector (2005-2015)

Scheme/Name of Project	Target Population	Target Area/ Organisation	Budget (Million JPY)	Period
GRANT AID				
The Project for the rehabilitation of Public Transport	2.4 million people	ONATRACOM	937	2005, 2006
The Project for Construction of Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Border Post Facilities	-	Rusumo Border	3,800	2011-2014
The Project for Improvement of Substations and Distribution Network	195,000 people	Musha, Rwinkwavu, Jabana, Huye, Kigali	2,454	2010
TECHNICAL COOPERATION				
Project for the improvement of Public Transportation Management System	-	ONATRACOM	-	2006-2007
Project for Capacity Building for the Customs Administrations of the Eastern African Region (Phase 2)	-	DGIE, RRA (with five partner states in EAC)	-	2009-2013
The Project for RECO's Capacity Building for Efficient Power System Development	-	MININFRA/RECO	-	2011-2014
Senior Advisor to the Energy Sector	-	MININFRA (attached to REG/EDCL/EUCL)	-	2011-2016
Project on Capacity Development for International Trade Facilitation in the East African Region	-	DGIE, RRA (with five partner states in EAC)	-	2013-2017
Project for Preparation of Electricity Development Plan for Sustainable Geothermal energy Development	-	EWSA (later REG/EDCL)	-	2013-2016



Photo: Ray Wilkinson

Stable Energy for All

Rwanda has achieved an impressive economic growth rate of as high as 8.4% on average in 2006-2010, which indicates the growing electricity demand. On the other hand, at that time back in March 2011, the electrification rate was still 14% and electricity supply was not stable. The instability has been one of the critical bottlenecks for the development of domestic industries as well as high quality service delivery from public institutions. Stable power supply is necessary for continued economic expansion and social development.

In 2012, JICA financed a \$US25 million project to substantially improve the performance of key electricity substations and Rwanda's distribution networks.

The Gikondo, Jabana, Rwinkwavu and Musha substations were constructed in 1970 to be the hub providing electricity to the whole country but it is too old to continue to manage ever increasing amount of electricity. Therefore, JICA had decided to provide support in upgrading the network and replacing all the switch yard equipment.



"JICA project upgraded the power system voltage in Musha and Rwinkwavu from 70kV to 110 kV which helped to handle low access rate and several outages caused by the deteriorated electrical equipment in substations and distribution network," Robert Nyamvumba, in charge of Energy Division in MININFRA said.

Apart from that, JICA supported a lot in the area of capacity building of engineers. Some 20 Japanese experts transferred skills to Rwandans to be able to maintain the national grid and deliver the power to people with modern technologies in generation, transmission and distribution network.

"We know the entire network helping with the optic fiber installation thanks to the GIS database made with the support of JICA," Robert added.

The government of Rwanda submitted a request to the government of Japan for financing the construction of Ndera primary substation including two sets of 25 MVA transformers and 110 kV in-coming transmission line from Gasogi substation to Ndera substation. They hope the continued support from JICA will enable themselves to deal with the rapidly increasing demand for energy.

WATER AND SANITATION



Background

Rwanda set its target in water and sanitation sector at 100% access to safe water and sanitation by 2017/18. To achieve this target, it emphasizes to ensure the sustainability of rural water supply system through developing effective management structure and public-private partnership for water supply system. Moreover, it is also the priority in its policy to ensure safe, reliable and affordable urban water supply services while strengthening financial viability of the utility, reducing non-revenue water (NRW) and making necessary extensions and resizing to meet the growing demand.

Rwanda is still on the way to the universal access and there is disparity of safe water access in urban and rural areas. In addition to the accessibility, there remain challenges on sustainability such as follows; high non-functioning rate of water systems in rural areas and lack of continuity of service in urban area; high operation cost and insufficient cost recovery; lack of capacity in local authorities and water service providers; inexistence of relevant guidelines; high NRW in urban areas.

JICA's Cooperation in Rwanda

JICA Rwanda's water and sanitation program has responded to the challenges for water supply by comprehensive support to increase access to safe water. The program has targeted the Eastern Province since its beginning, because it has the lowest access rate for safe drinking water. It supports infrastructure development of water supply facilities, at the same time, assists capacity building for proper operation and maintenance of these water supply facilities. The initiatives of Rwanda Water Security Action Team (RW-SAT) by JICA volunteers in water management and hygiene promotion at grassroots level give additional value to the infrastructure development and capacity building programs by promoting the behavior change of local people.

As a co-chair representing the development partners in Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Sector Working Group (SWG) since 2014, JICA works with the government of Rwanda and Water and Sanitation Corporation Ltd. (WASAC), to address the challenges of water and sanitation in rural and urban areas. JICA, in partnership with various stakeholders in the sector, tries to find solutions even to emerging challenges such as the last mile to achieve 100% access in the remote areas, NRW problem in urban areas.

Key Achievements

After ten years of intervention, the water and sanitation program has made significant impacts in the everyday lives of local people. More than 130,000 people in the Eastern Province have obtained access to safe drinking water through the series of projects to construct water supply facilities. Moreover, hundreds of users, cooperative members, sectors, and districts officers have acquired hands-on knowledge in handling the operation and maintenance including water quality control, repair of facilities, financial management, and also hygiene promotion. The access to safe water in the Eastern Province has improved from 57.7% in 2006 to 80.6% in 2014.

These achievements would lead to the reduction of the workload for women and children, the more regular attendance to schools by children, and the decrease of water borne diseases. At the same time, JICA makes a more direct support at policy and sector coordination level in the capacity of co-chair of the WATSAN SWG since 2014. JICA has facilitated the dialogue between the government of Rwanda and various stakeholders, and has provided recommendations on policy and technical levels to the government of Rwanda to address various challenges and to enhance the coordination mechanism in the sector.



Photo: Kenshiro Imanura

List of projects in WATSAN Sector (2005 - 2015)

Scheme/Name of Project	Target Population	Target Area / Organization	Budget (Million JPY)	Period
GRANT AID				
Rural Water Supply project phase I	43,000	Rwamagana, Kayonza, Ngoma	1,243	2006
Rural Water Supply Project Phase II	55,000	Ngoma and Kirehe districts	1,435	2009
Rural Water Supply Project phase III	33,000	Ngoma, Kayonza, Gatsibo	1,013	2014
TECHNICAL COOPERATION				
Project for the Improvement of the water supply and sanitation in the Southern Part of the Eastern Province (PURASANI Project)	-	MININFRA/EWSA Rwamagana, Kayonza, Ngoma, Kirehe	-	2007-2011
Development Study for the Improvement of Rural Water Supply (master plan)	-	All 7 districts of the Eastern Province	-	2008
Project for Strengthening Operation and Maintenance of rural water supply systems (RWASOM-HORANA AMAZI Project)	-	WASAC	-	2015-2019

Water: A vital natural resource

A thousand hills give beautiful scenery, but some difficulty at the same time. Kirenga Tharcisse, the president of a cooperative named MKM serving as water service provider in Rwamagana district, explained, "The area is very hilly and it was hard especially for women and children to collect water. Even people with bicycles could not easily access it."

The cooperative was established to provide access to clean water for their community. However, their effort did not bear much fruit as they have limited number of water supply facilities and insufficient management skills to maintain the facilities both technically and financially.

JICA came to the district at a critical time with its construction project. At the beginning, people had thought it would take long time like the ones implemented by other organizations. However, at the end, they got surprised that water was already in the area within a year.



MKM also worked closely with JICA's experts to improve the management. They keep using the guidelines and manuals developed by the JICA experts. "Today we are able to supply water to a population of over 30,000," Kirenga went on to say that this generates enough income for the cooperative to maintain the facility and allow further expansion. The cooperative has 20 staff members including seven technicians. From time to time, JICA volunteers visited the cooperative to train the technical team.

Kirenga expressed his gratitude to JICA because they were able to meet the objectives they had set for themselves thanks to its support.

AGRICULTURE



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura

Background

Around 70-90% of workforce in Rwanda is working in agriculture. Agriculture currently contributes to 33% of Rwandan GDP and it grows by 5.8% on average over the last several years. Given the size of the population involved in agriculture, income generation for farmers is the key for poverty reduction in the country. The strategic plan for agriculture transformation (PSTA) aims to transform agriculture sector from subsistence farming to market-oriented agriculture.

The challenge for the agriculture in Rwanda is its limited size of land, as it is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. Besides, most of the farmers depend on rain-fed agriculture, without access to irrigation facilities. To make the best use of the limited land, the sector needs capacity development of farmers' associations and cooperatives, better analysis of value chain, and better infrastructure. In recent years, adaptation to the climate change is another important challenge.

JICA's Cooperation in Rwanda

In 2006, JICA's support in agriculture in Rwanda started with its project to help farmers in Bugesera District, where there still remains the devastation from the civil war and genocide, as a part of the rural development program for the reconstruction in the Easter Province. Since then, it continued to support local farmers by introducing various agricultural expertise as well as market-oriented approach from Japanese experts. It has helped the income generation for these farmers through commercialization and value chain approach. It also supported the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from the grassroots levels in Rwanda.

More recently, JICA, through its Irrigation Advisors from Japan, has been working with MINAGRI and Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) to promote irrigation development in Rwanda. The effort aims to build the institutional capacity of the government as well as to support infrastructure development. The success of such effort will mitigate the shocks of the climate change for local farmers.

Key achievements

JICA's projects implemented in recent 10 years have attained progresses in the human resource development featuring market-oriented agriculture and business development for the government and cooperatives, as well as the infrastructure development as the basis for the value-added agriculture.

As JICA implemented a technical cooperation project in rice and horticulture targeting two districts in the Eastern Province (Ngoma and Bugesera Districts) from 2010 to 2013, around 12,441 farmers benefited from improved techniques for rice and horticulture farming. This project was successful in increasing the rice yield up to more than 7 MT/ha and doubling income of horticulture farmers. Currently, the succeeding project, Small-holder Market-oriented Agriculture Project (SMAP) is undergoing to roll out the success to the entire country.

In the field of irrigation development, the Project for Construction of the Irrigation Scheme in Ngoma District is now being implemented. The irrigation scheme will combine marshland and hillside irrigation and will be operated with renewable energy (solar energy), the first of its kind in Rwanda. In total, 300 ha will be irrigated for rice in marshland and high value horticultural crops on hillside. The scheme will not only contribute to the increase in farmers' income and agriculture growth but also to the enhanced resilience against the climate change.



List of projects in Agriculture and Private Sector Development (2005 - 2015)

Scheme/Name of Project	Target Population	Target Area/ Organization	Budget (Million JPY)	Period
GRANT AID				
The Food Security Project for Underprivileged Farmers		Nation wide	130 300 190	2006 2008 2010
The Project for Development of Irrigation Scheme in Ngoma District	265ha (irrigation coverage area)	Ngoma District	1,549	2014
TECHNICAL COOPERATION				
Study on Sustainable Rural and Agricultural Development in Bugesera District	-	MINAGRI	-	2006-2009
Capacity Development for One Village One Product (OVOP) Program	-	RDB	-	2010-2012
PiCROPP (Project for Increasing Crop production with quality Extension Services)	-	MINAGRI		2010-2013
Irrigation Advisor	-	MINAGRI/RAB	-	2011-2013 2013-2016
Advisor for Micro Organism Utilization	-	MINAGRI/RAB	-	2012-2014
Agricultural Mechanization Advisor	-	MINAGRI/RAB	-	2012-2016
Micro Small Medium Enterprises advisor	-	MINICOM/BDF	-	2014-2015
SMAP (Smallholder Market oriented Agriculture Project)	-	MINAGRI/RAB/NAEB	-	2014-2019

Market oriented, life changing support

The insufficient rain and the lack of knowledge among the farmers have always been a challenge for COPABINYA, a farmers' cooperative in Munini sector, Rwamagana district. Today it is a different story, when you see fruits and vegetables the cooperative is growing. The area is now becoming famous for great watermelons, tomatoes and various sorts of vegetables produced by the farmers since they obtained skills in cultivation methods from JICA's Smallholder Market Oriented Agriculture Project (SMAP).

According to Antoine Nzabagerageza, the president of the cooperative, their lives have changed tremendously since they began working with JICA. JICA's experts trained the members how to cultivate the soil in a better way to make it retain water and yield more harvest. Nzabagerageza intimates that the watermelon alone can give them higher income after only three months of planting. "I invested total of 800,000RWF, and I expect to get at least 2,500,000 RWF" he said. For Antoine and his fellow cooperative members, they will never switch from horticulture to anything else, because their experience with JICA have proven to them that they made a good choice thanks to JICA.



Another member of the cooperative says that apart from a better income they have get from the fruits and vegetables, they have also learnt good cultivation methods. "We used to plant randomly, now we plant in straight lines and the results are tremendous," Nzabagerageza said.

The skills the farmers acquired include 'making something that is saleable.' "We have learnt how to conduct market-oriented cultivation. That means we produce crops depending on the market demand. Also, the cooperative management skills helped the members gain higher profit," he added.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura

Background

The government of Rwanda puts a special emphasis on human resource development in science and technology in a vision to transform the country into a knowledge-based economy. To this end, it remains as a challenge to establish solid systems for human resource development. This challenge is to be tackled partly through the improvement of quality and relevance of science and technology education and training as well as further expansion of access to education and training throughout the system.



In line with the government policies, Vision 2020, EDPRS 2, and Education Sector Strategy Plan II (ESSP2), the Ministry of Education has been trying to improve and strengthen access, quality and relevance of education towards the needs and demands of society and labor market.

JICA's Cooperation in Rwanda

JICA's first project to support human resource development in Rwanda was the project for Skills Training for the Reintegration of Demobilized Soldiers with Disabilities from December 2005 to December 2008, in partnership with the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC). The support was intended to ensure the social reintegration for consolidating stability by training practical skills for the demobilized combatants, with a special focus on those with disabilities. The support to vocational training for ex-combatants and other people with disabilities had continued until March 2014.

Since the re-opening of the office in Rwanda, JICA's support for capacity development of Tumba College of Technology (TCT) has been its flagship project in promoting the human resource development, particularly in the science and technology education. With its three academic departments, information technology (IT), electronic engineering (ET), and alternative energy (AE), TCT has been stressing the 'hands-on' skills that are relevant to the need of labor market. JICA aims to support TCT to be a model for TVET (technical and vocational education and training) institutions in Rwanda.

In basic education, JICA has been working with MINEDUC and REB to explore mechanisms to encourage quality teaching and learning at school level. Initiated by the Strengthening of Math and Science in Secondary Education Project (SMASSE), it has always been encouraging the collaborative learning between teachers at school level, namely, strengthening School-based In-service Training (SBI).

Key Achievements

In the two phases of project to help the ex-combatants and other people with disabilities, 2,464 (925 in first phase in 2005-2008; 1,539 in second phase in 2011-2014) persons with disabilities were trained in partnership with RDRC. Working with the project through the two phases, the vocational training centers (VTCs) across the country had raised the awareness for persons with disabilities (PwD). JICA continues to support the mainstreaming of issues related to PwD with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD).

In basic education, JICA has been contributing to teachers' capacity development since 2008. Survey results show that the trained teachers were able to improve their teaching ability and they had positive impacts on the learning of pupils. In introducing the new Competence-based Curriculum (CBC), SBI, introduced and supported by the SBCT project, is applied as the form of training at the bottom of the cascade training. The training system will also work to improve the stability of CBC among teachers even after its introduction.

For secondary education, JICA has supported TCT to be a model institution of quality TVET in Rwanda focusing on hands-on skill and practical training, and to ensure sustainable management as a school. As TCT promoted stronger ties between the educational institution and private companies, it has been able to better align with the demand in labor market. The tracer survey in 2014 showed TCT attained the result that over 94 % of the employers are satisfied with TCT graduated students (ESSP2 target is 76% in 2015/2016).

List of Projects in Education sector (2005 - 2015)

Scheme/Name of Project	Target Area/ Organization	Budget (Million JPY)	Period
GRANT AID			
Project for the Improvement of TV Programs of Rwanda Television	Rwanda Television	46	2009
TECHNICAL COOPERATION			
The Skills Training for the Reintegration of Demobilised Soldiers with Disabilities	RDRC	-	2005-2008
The Skills Training and Job Obtainment Support for Social Participation of Ex-Combatants and Other People with Disabilities	RDRC	-	2011-2014
Strengthening Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education (SMASSE Rwanda) Project	MINEDUC	-	2008-2011
TVET Industrial Attachment Specialist	MINEDUC	-	2010-2012
Strengthening School-based Collaborative Teacher Training (SBCT Project)	Rwanda Education Board (REB)	-	2013-2015
Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Tumba College of Technology (TCT)	MINEDUC, TCT	-	2007-2012
Advisor for Strengthening Partnership with Industry for TVET schools	WDA	-	2013-2015
Education Planning & Monitoring Advisor	MINEDUC	-	2013-2015
Project for Strengthening the Capacity of Tumba College of Technology Phase 2	MINEDUC, WDA, TCT	-	2013-2017

TCT, regional center of excellence in EAC

JICA has been supporting the Tumba College Technology (TCT) for almost 8 years in various aspects. In the first project started in 2007, JICA focused on equipping TCT with the necessary resources to become an effective A1 level institution that provides practical technical education and training relevant to the demand from industries and society.

This included provision of training equipment, receiving Japanese experts to train the teaching and administrative staff and a series of training for capacity building. This support contributed significantly to the improvement of the quality of training and school management.

In a workshop held to complete the first project, TCT presented their major achievements including curriculum relevant to industry needs, well equipped laboratories, qualified teaching staff and strong relations with industry.

"According to the current tracer survey, 94 % the employers are satisfied with TCT graduates. That's something we are very proud of", states Eng. Pascal Gatabazi, Principal of TCT.

The second phase of the project focused on making TCT become a model TVET institution that provides the Rwandan Government with effective approaches for improving TVET sector.

"As skills are critical in the development of Rwanda, TCT is playing a big role and now it is one of the best colleges in Rwanda. In addition to this, EAC member states have recognized it as a regional centre of excellence" said Gatabazi.

In order to help communities, to provide on-the-job training to the students and to get their own income, TCT has started an initiative to collect old computers from government institutions, refurbish them and donate them to secondary schools. In addition to this, TCT has been sharing with communities the bio-mass technology.



INNOVATION THROUGH ICT



Photo: Ray Wilkinson

Background

As Rwanda envisions being a knowledge-based economy, the appropriate and effective use of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are crucial in the country to advance its socio-economic development. As the key driver that cuts across the sectors, the promotion of ICT-based solutions will encourage the development of the country. By creating the enabling environment for ICT sector development, Rwanda aspires to be a regional hub of ICT and innovation.

The strategy for ICT sector development by the government of Rwanda has been shifted from building the foundations such as policy framework and infrastructure to helping the human resource development, and to encouraging the private sector development. The government tries to promote innovative, information-driven, ICT-enabled solutions with the Smart Rwanda Master Plan.

JICA's Cooperation in Rwanda

Upon the request from the government of Rwanda, JICA has dispatched its ICT Advisor to work with various Rwandan institutions, including MYICT, RDB (Rwanda Development Board), and ICT Chamber of PSF (Private Sector Federation), since 2010. Through the activities and guidance by the Advisor, JICA intends to help the government develop its capacity to formulate, coordinate and implement its policies and support the development of an ecosystem in which more private entrepreneurs, together with foreign investors, can be born and flourish.

Under the ABE Initiative (Africa Business Education Initiative for Youth), young ICT entrepreneurs from Rwanda are invited to the Master's degree programs in Japanese universities and provided with the internship opportunities in Japanese companies. They are expected to become a bridge between the private sectors of the two countries.

Key Achievements

The ICT Advisor helped the government to create its ICT development strategy NICI-III (National Information Communication Infrastructure, phase 3) through enhanced participation by and coordination with various stakeholders including the private sector.

In collaboration with RDB and PSF-ICT Chamber, JICA supported the establishment of the first innovation space in Kigali, k-Lab. Since its inauguration in 2012, 917 members have been registered and they meet in the space to share their ideas and learn from each other. 12 start-up companies have graduated from k-Lab.

18 Rwandan students have been invited to Master's degree programs in Japanese universities under the ABE Initiative and other JICA programs. By their communication with Japanese ICT companies, they have attracted stronger interest from the Japanese private sector towards Rwanda and facilitated their active engagement in the Rwandan ICT sector development.

List of Projects in ICT Sector

Scheme/Name of Project	Target Area/ Organization	Budget (Million JPY)	Period
TECHNICAL COOPERATION			
IT Human Resources Development Advisor	RDB	-	2010-2011
Support for NICI-2015 implementation	ICT department, RDB	-	2011-2012
ICT Private Sector Development & Policy Development Support	Ministry of Youth & ICT and PSF ICT Chamber		2013-2015

Japan's uniqueness in supporting ICT sector is being "result-oriented"



From 2010, when JICA started to work with the Rwandan Government in ICT, the private sector has been given priority through the Private Sector Federation (PSF).

Alex NTALE, the Executive Director of the PSF ICT Chamber says that since 2011, 18 Rwandan students have obtained scholarships to study in Japan in ICT field, including a 6 months' work placement in Japan, and more than 20 Japanese business people have come to Rwanda.

He asserts that the uniqueness of JICA is that they show great interest in helping the private sector develop and the ICT sector be more results oriented.

In September 2015, the PSF ICT Chamber in partnership with JICA led a business delegation of seven local ICT companies. The purpose of the business mission was to further cement the relationship that the two countries have developed by visiting Japan and meet the business people. Over 300 Japanese companies, which attended the public seminar, were encouraged to invest in Rwanda.

"Japan is an advanced economy in terms of technology adoption and development, therefore, as an African country that aspires to be a technology hub of the continent, we only make good judgment to create relationship with such a strong partner," Ntale said.

The mission was also an effort to rally Japanese companies into the chamber's strategy of creating 1000 software engineering jobs in Rwanda. The initiative best known as k-Initiative aims at outsourcing software development such as mobile phone apps, web apps and the likes from Japanese companies to Rwandan developers. The plan has already gained momentum with Japanese companies already on board and business mission stirred more interest from Japanese companies.

"There is big potential in JICA's collaboration with the private sector in ICT that will lead to strengthening business ties between Japan and Rwanda," Ntale said confidently.



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura

JICA TRAINING PROGRAM



Overview

The training program is a distinctive feature of JICA's work across the world. It was launched more than 50 years ago to provide key professionals in developing countries the chance to obtain skills and knowledge in Japan and other countries. The program also has long history in Rwanda since 1971 when the first trainee was invited to Japan and it has continued even during the absence of JICA Rwanda Office. After the office came back to Kigali, an average of 70 Rwandan people every year benefit from JICA training program.

The majority of training courses take place in institutions across Japan. The courses range from two weeks of intensive trainings to two years of study for a Master's degree. A wide variety of subjects can be studied, from Information Technology to agriculture.

JICA has also built up links for training opportunities in other countries such as Indonesia, Nepal, Senegal, Egypt, Singapore, Thailand, Kenya and Ethiopia, with which JICA has cooperated to for a long time. Institutions in such countries can provide experiences and skills learned from their collaboration with JICA, and they can be more relevant to participants as mutual learning between developing countries. JICA is also keen to encourage developing countries to help each other in finding and sharing their own solutions.

Since 2014, JICA launched the African Business Education Initiative for youth (ABE Initiative) as one of the core commitments in TICAD V, held in Yokohama, Japan in 2013. The initiative was introduced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as a strategic five-year plan providing 1,000 youths in Africa with opportunities to study at Japanese universities as well as to experience internships at Japanese enterprises to foster human resource development for Africa's sustainable and sound industrial development. Rwanda sent 10 participants in the sectors of ICT and energy in the first year (2014) and 6 participants were selected in the second year (2015).

JICA believes that the knowledge and internship experiences that they will gain in Japan will enhance their ability as leaders in developing Rwanda's industries and strengthen Rwanda-Japan relationship, particularly promoting engagement in business between the two countries.

In addition, JICA Rwanda supported ex-participants to set up a professional forum to enable knowledge exchange and outreach to larger communities through small interventions. This professional forum of ex-participants named JICA Alumni Association of Rwanda (JAAR) is a local NGO made of around 400 members who benefited from JICA Training Program. The association was established in 2004 and has started actual activities related to the promotion of Agriculture, Environment, Livestock, Health, Education, ICT and Infrastructure. JAAR intends to contribute to the development of the country based on the knowledge and skills of its members who benefited from JICA training program.



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



The Topic and numbers of trainees since 1971

Topic	Number of trainees
Human Resource	259
Agriculture, Forestry etc.	204
Administration	162
Infrastructure	153
Energy	63
Health	63
Mining	52
Business and Tourism	44
Social welfare	17
Others	15
TOTAL	1,032



Transferring skills to more individuals for capacity development

After attending JICA's training in Japan for four months on community health services in 2001, Anicet Rwama, who was then working for the Ministry of Health, realized that he couldn't keep the knowledge and skills obtained from Japan by himself and thought of starting JICA Alumni Association of Rwanda (JAAR). Sharing the idea with his four other colleagues, in 2004, he started gathering information to make the association into reality.

JAAR started working and they organized the first general assembly with around 25 people in 2005. The main objective of the association is to strengthen cooperation and friendship between Rwanda and Japan as well as putting the skills acquired to use broadly, not only in their workplace but in the wider community.



Anicet Rwama, JAAR chairperson

JAAR members hold reporting sessions to share their skills with other members. They contribute to the members' learning for daily operating needs. JICA supports JAAR's new activities to support local communities, such as planting trees, training farmers in processing tomatoes into jam and ketchup, to enhance their self-support.

"The main challenge so far is the limited available time for members, but we developed a structure to hire permanent staff and non-permanent staff for smoother follow-up of our activities," Anicet says.

Currently JAAR is a local NGO registered under the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB). They are working to conduct projects with the same purpose of transferring skills to other Rwandans and contribute to Rwanda's development but also generate some income so they can be independent even financially. The NGO have more than 400 members today.

VOLUNTEERS(JOCV)

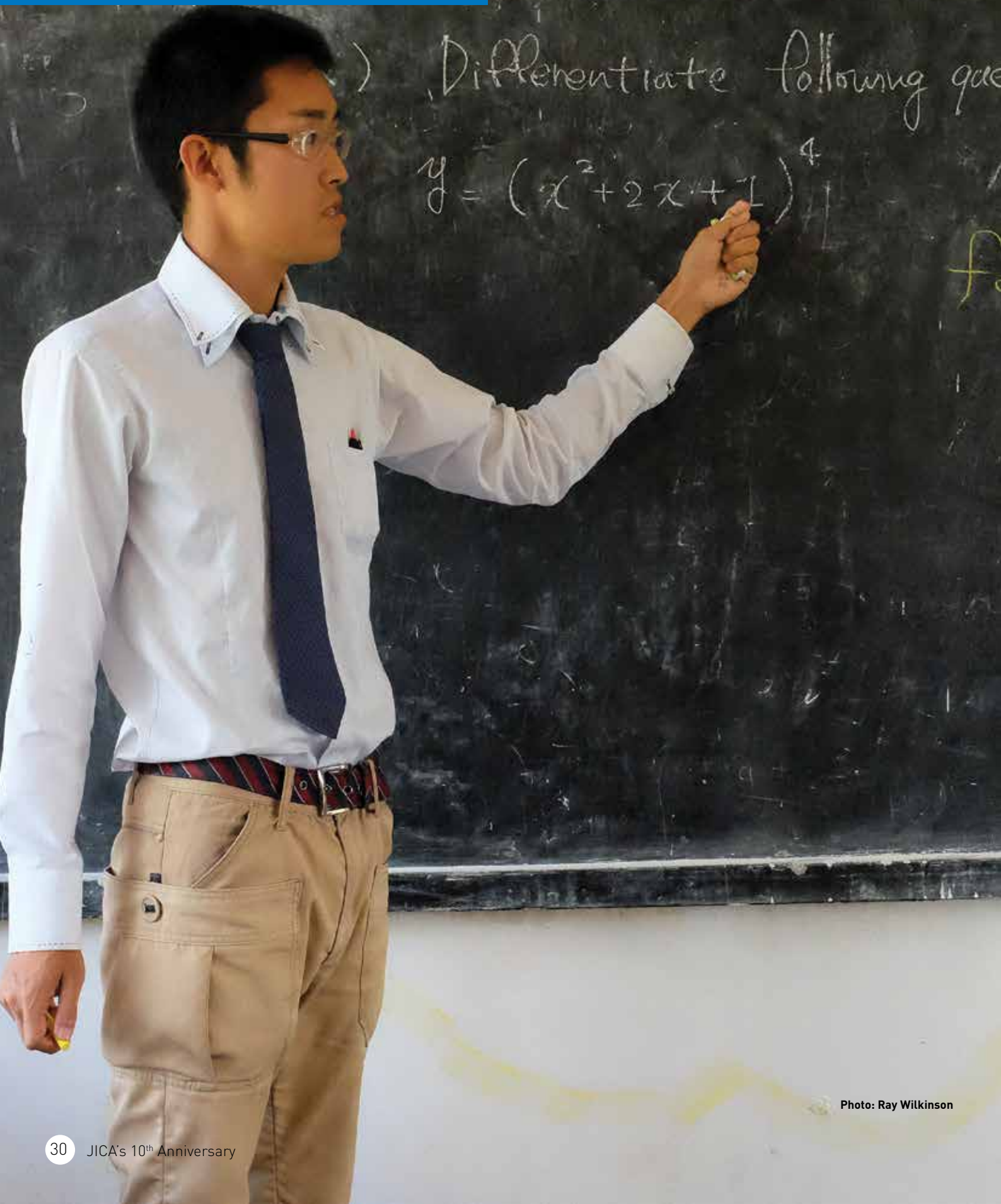


Photo: Ray Wilkinson

Overview

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is a unique program to support host community at grass roots level and also to make it possible for Japanese volunteers to gain valuable experiences in terms of international goodwill, mutual understanding and expansion of their perspectives.

The volunteers' mission is to contribute to the socio-economic development with their variety of background as well as to strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between receiving countries and Japan.

JICA Volunteers are generally dispatched to governmental institutions and stay in developing countries for two years, living and working with the local people in the tasks of community development. Their spirit is characterized by the will to help others, strong motivation to pursue the goals and make the difference, modest attitude to learn from others to be integrated into local communities, flexibility and open mind.

Rwanda had received the volunteers from 1987 to 1993. After 12 years of absence, the volunteer program came back to Rwanda in 2005.

As of November 2015, there are 42 volunteers working in Rwanda in water& sanitation, agriculture and education

Hosting JICA volunteers has been so beneficial to our school

Umuco Mwiza School has a long history with JICA and particularly eight years' experience hosting JICA volunteers since they received their first volunteer Ms. Sachiko Fujita in 2007.

The school was established in 2000 with the help of the people of Japan who became friends with Mrs. Marie Louise Kambenga, who worked with JICA volunteers in Kigali before the Genocide in Rwanda and went to Japan.

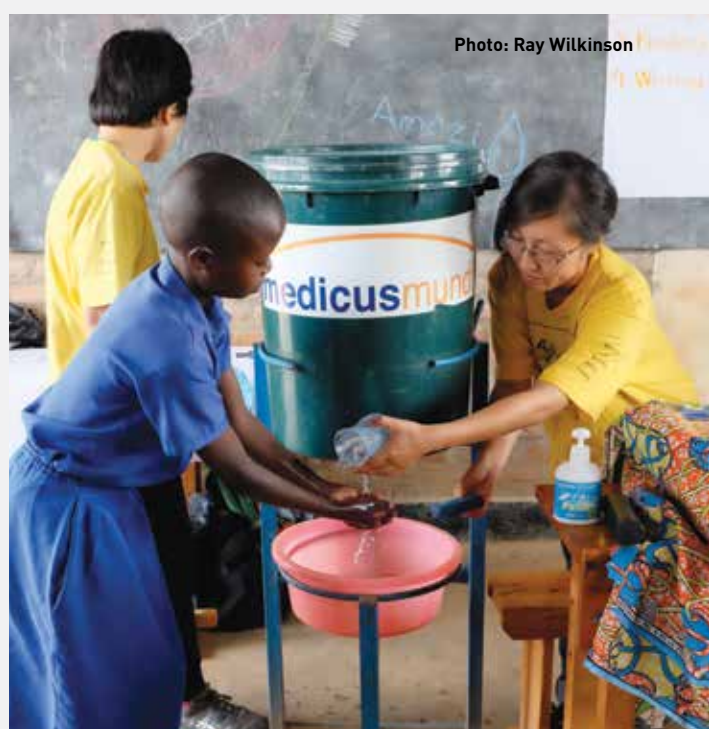
"With JICA volunteers, we improved our teaching methodology in nursery classes and have built our teachers' capacity in Music and Art, especially in ORIGAMI," says Mr. SINAMENYE Charles, the legal representative of Umuco Mwiza School.

Starting with a small number of staff and 50 pupils in nursery 3, today the school has 10 active staff and 3 classrooms in nursery. This has been possible due to the immeasurable support of volunteers sent by JICA.

Every 2 years, the school receives a JICA Volunteer. Through that long-time friendship, the children and Umuco Mwiza School have communicated and built friendship with children and schools in Japan, and share many memories with them. The school founder Marie Louise has organized several memorable events with JICA's support to further cooperation and friendship between Rwanda and Japan, such as the peace exhibition in commemoration of atomic bombing victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, held in Kigali in collaboration with JICA volunteers in 2014.

Number of Volunteers since 1987

Area	Numbers
Planning and Administration	67
Public program	12
Agriculture	22
Mining and Manufacturing	18
Energy	1
Sightseeing	2
Education	67
Health	27
Social Welfare	9
Others	7
Total	232



MESSAGES FROM THE FIRST JOCVS IN 2005

Ms. Mariko HONMA



I congratulate JICA Rwanda's 10th anniversary. I can't believe it has been 10 years since I arrived in Rwanda as one of the first volunteers.

I did not expect to be in Rwanda as a first volunteer. All I knew about Rwanda at the time was a scene of TV showing a number of refugees walking. There was little information on Kigali and I imagined that the people were scary. I still remember I was nervous to walk around the town at the beginning of my stay; I took a bus without knowing where it was going and would worry whether it would drop me off at my destination.

I was always worried about my activity during the days in Rwanda. Although I was supposed to help school construction unit in Ministry of as an architect, I didn't understand the language and didn't know what to do. However, I always had a strong wish to be of help to the people. The worry had never

disappeared but my Rwandan friends gave me relief from it. My neighbors told me how to go shopping at Kimironko market, near the place where I lived, and how to cook Rwandan dishes. I loved the people and their hospitality.

They didn't express any sorrow of the sad history, but just work as hard as possible. Even though it is not surprising, I found through the volunteer work that we don't have any differences between Japanese and Rwandans: we all get up in the morning, work, have a meal, enjoy chatting and seek to improve our lives in every way. When I left Rwanda, Kigali was so energetic that it was growing at a phenomenal speed.

My two years as a volunteer left me great memories; I fell in love with Rwanda.

It is far from Japan, but it is my country in Africa and I strongly wish the country's everlasting peace. I miss the kindness of the people in Rwanda. I feel I'm lucky to be a big fan of Rwanda since 10 years before. Thank you.

Ms. Yuko HORI



Congratulations on the 10th anniversary, JICA RWANDA OFFICE.

I worked at "La Maison des Jeunes de Kimisagara" as "Animatrice," in 2005-2007. I remember the day Uwamahoro (peaceful person) introduced me to people as "Inshuti yanyje" (my friend). She was a member of a women's "Amasaro" group at the center. She was my best friend and she had given me a very charming Rwandese name "Masoyinyana", beautiful eyes.

It was not always fun and easy. There were lots of difficulties and I sometimes felt like I would not make it, but the invaluable support of JOCV colleagues, the JICA staff including the volunteer coordinator, my family and friends in Japan, and especially the people in Rwanda saw me through.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to send a message to celebrate the 10th anniversary. I pray for further success and development of JOCV and JICA RWANDA OFFICE. I also hope to come back to beautiful Rwanda someday.

MESSAGES FROM FORMER JICA CHIEF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Iwao TATSUMI

On my arrival at Kigali, a lady from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed me. With this auspicious beginning I thought that things might go well. But the first difficulty confronted me was to get an office building. We were late comers to Rwanda and few buildings remained vacant. Concerning the work, every one worked diligently. By this I was confident that nothing could thwart a peaceful development of Rwanda.

Mr. Hiroshi MURAKAMI

When I was working in Rwanda, JOCVs organized "Japanese Festival". I performed Karate to break a brick with my hand and failed. My broken arm is still bent and reminds me of the good old days in Rwanda. Rwanda is a country where we recognize the importance of peace and put effort in development and ownership. I wish it for sustainable development from bottom of my heart.

Mr. Hiroyuki KABAYOSHI

I met a former JICA trainee working as a guide at the Virunga National Park when we went for a gorilla trekking tour. He has contributed tremendously in developing his town- Kinigi, through ecotourism. He convinced me that a mindset change of an individual and a continuous effort will improve the society.

Therefore the Japanese should learn from and bring their inspiration back to bring influence and bring change in the society of Japan. 10 years of human-centered cooperation between Rwanda and Japan, has grown the seeds of sustainable society in both countries. We are about to witness them bloom.



Photo: Takeshi Kuno



Photo: Takeshi Kuno



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura



STAFF CORNER

First Rwandan JICA employee



Marie Paule Bamage Ingabire is one of the first employees of JICA Rwanda Office. When JICA re-opened its office in Rwanda in 2005, she was working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a state protocol officer. Her first meeting with JICA was when she was assigned to receive the JICA representative Mr. Tatsumi and accompany him to meet different government officials including the President of the Republic H.E Paul Kagame.

In February 2006, JICA hired Marie Paule as the training program officer but she was also in charge of some administrative affairs of JICA Rwanda including helping with VISA for JICA representatives.

She remembers their first office. "The office was small, we were only 6 people; 3 Rwandese and 3 Japanese," she says.

Marie Paule recalls that JICA then focused on human resource development and rural development for consolidation of peace. An example of cooperation at that time was providing trainings in IT to graduates from the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST). Those who were trained would come back and occupy decision-making positions due to the quality of skills they received from Japan.

While the cooperation expanded and new programs and projects were introduced, Japan has been renowned to match the Rwandan needs with the Japanese expertise. "What I liked in my experience working with JICA is the professionalism in administration. Japanese are very organized," Marie Paule ended.

A fulfilling near-decade working with JICA

Emmanuel Mutaruhana, one of JICA's oldest employees in Rwanda, is a security advisor who acknowledges that he could never wish for a better employer.



Emmanuel's journey with JICA started in 2006 when JICA hired his car. From that experience, JICA got to know his background in security and that's when Emmanuel's star began rising.

"When I started my job as a part-time consultant on security matters, Rwanda was coming out of a tense period, and as JICA was new, they needed to know which security measures needed to be taken," says Emmanuel.

Emmanuel adds that from then, he guided JICA staff to work closely with the police and provided traffic advices if necessary. His background in security was much needed. This job lasted 3 years after which he was offered a full-time job.

Since he started working for JICA, Emmanuel testifies that he has not met any crucial misconduct, at least in his line of work. He says "they are much disciplined and are very respectful to the staff."

For the past 9 years, Emmanuel has nothing but praise for JICA. He says that working with JICA has been the best decision he ever took. "They are hardworking people. Our employer likes to have good communication with us. They respect the importance of time and try to learn from mistakes," Emmanuel says.

Emmanuel's job allows him to spend more time with his family, and he was even able to monitor his children's studies and help with their homework. Emmanuel Mutaruhana confesses that he is stable, works with the best staff and is satisfied with the environment.

PICTORIAL



JICA Vice President Kato visits Volunteer activities in Water and Sanitation



Coffee seminar - Coffee expert Kawashima and JOCV Mika Owada offer coffee tasting



JICA Vice President Kato visits TCT watching the activities by students



Regional Joint Coordination Committee Meeting of JICA Trade Facilitation Project



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura

TCT student during industrial attachment



PICROPP project completion- Showing the achievements to PS of MINAGRI



Inauguration of water stand in Kirehe District by ambassador Ogawa and MININFRA State Minister



JICA President Tanaka visit to kLab watching young innovator



Peace exhibition organized by JOCV with Mrs Marie Louise Kambenga



JICA staff photo at JICA Rwanda 10th anniversary event



Musha substation launching by Ministers in MININFRA with ambassador Ogawa



Photo: Kenshiro Imamura

Woman supported by PICROPP project show off her yield



JICA President Tanaka visit to Gisozi genocide memorial site



Photo: Ray Wilkinson

WATSAN Volunteer teaching primary students about hygiene



JICA Rwanda National staff together with JICA president during his visit to Rwanda



JICA Partnership Program with Tohoku Fukushi University and Mulindi-Japan One Love.



Inauguration of Rusumo International Bridge by President Tanaka



Visit of JICA President Tanaka at His Excellency President Kagame Office



Japan International Cooperation Agency
Immeuble EBENEZER Boulevard de l'Umuganda, Kacyiru
Kigali, Rwanda
P.O. Box 6878 Kacyiru, Kigali-Rwanda
Tel: +250 (0) 788301731/32/23