

New Bridge to expand trade between the two countries

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COUNTRY
REPORT

Temporarily bridge to connect Rwanda and Tanzania at Rusumo border has reached Tanzania side early this January 2014. The real bridge will replace it by mid- February 2014.



Rusumo temporarily bridge reaching Tanzania side

The works of pushing out the new bridge that will replace the old bridge with 40years old and limited carrying capacity have started early this November 2013. The construction of new Rusumo Bridge aims at facilitating safe and steady traffic flow on the central corridor. It will reduce restrictions on passing vehicles and eliminate the traffic congestion caused by slow moving of large vehicles at the Rusumo border between Rwanda and Tanzania.

Since the commencement of works in March 2012 on both sites (Rwanda and Tanzania), the works have been progressing well. The works completed until January 2014 is measured at 74% .

The constructed bridge will have 80m length/span and 11.3m width. The bridge is made of steel girder beams with allowable carrying capacity of 19000tonnes. The bridge has two lanes of 3.75m each and 1.5m pedestrian walkway on each side of the lane. It will

increase the axle load restriction from the present 8 tons to 20 tons and the speed limit from the present 5 km to 30 km per hour.

The One Stop Border Post will provide facilities that are needed to cope with expected increase of traffic volumes in the coming years. It will also eliminate the present traffic congestion, greatly improve the efficiency of cargo transportation, clearing and handling, and eventually reduce transportation costs.

Since the construction started in March 2013, the project has employed more than 700 people. Engineering students are acquiring skills from the technologies used.

The construction activities of the Rusumo New Bridge and the One-Stop Border Facilities are set to be completed by November 2014 on a total cost of 38 million USD. •

When volunteering impacts lives



Ms. Murata teaching dance class to deaf students

Ubuzima Bwiza water cooperative shares best practice



Group photo taken after training

Peer learning boosts teachers knowledge



Teachers attending the three days seminar at St Aloys Rwamagana

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Disability is not Inability

ECOPD training graduates benefit from TVET Expo. They had opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.



“The aim of the project was not only to develop individual but also the society mindset towards inclusive society”; says Maho Harada, JICA Expert on Skills Training and Job Obtainment for Social Participation of Ex-Combatants and Other People with Disabilities (ECOPD Project).

Three cooperatives composed by people with disabilities have participated in TVET Expo organized by WDA to display their activities and achievements.

The Expo provided a good opportunity to show people what the project has been doing the last 3 years and that disability is not inability.

Mauridi Nyandwi, who started a cooperative repairing electronics with other 4 people, says the trade is an opportunity for them to be known. He commended JICA project for providing skills which enabled him to feed his family of 4 and rent

a house. He also appreciated the opportunity to participate in the EXPO which allowed them to advertise their work and meet potential customers.

Uwizera Denyse was born blind but is now a trainer of knitting at VTC Nyanza. She says that the project realized her life dream.

“After having the chance to learn knitting my dream was to teach it to other blind people but didn’t have the capacity to realize my dream. Thanks to ECOPD advocacy for people with disabilities I was employed by VTC Nyanza. The lady tells happily.

“The Expo will help people understand that blind persons can knit, as other people do because even when I explain to people, they fail to understand how we can do that. Our presence in this Expo tells itself the journey taken so far to make our country an inclusive society, we are proud of that.”

ECOPD Project will end in March 2014 and has provided skills to 1570 PWDs in 3 years. ●

WORD FROM E. RUKWAYA, Product Development Research at NAEB

Improved Coffee for Japan Market

Japan being the 4th coffee consuming country in the world, it is likely to import high quality coffee and Rwanda needs to maximize that opportunity.

Eric Rukwaya has participated in a 5 weeks training on “strengthening the export competitiveness of small and medium-sized coffee producers” in Japan. He gained knowledge that he is sharing with coffee producers back in his country.

Rwanda coffee producers and exporters have to understand and identify Japanese market needs, strategies for strengthening export competitiveness on Japanese Mar-

ket. “Japanese give much importance to packaging, ‘drink with their eyes’, they purchase frequently in small quantities and are high quality products demanding; they drink coffee that can meet safety, health and taste.” says Eric.

Thus Rwanda coffee stakeholders need to continue capacity building in international export logistics, improve marketing and branding strategies.

Also Rwanda coffee producers need consistency in the above mentioned areas to retain the Japanese customers and expand the market. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Life skills help demobilized soldiers adjust to civilian life

The New Times

14th Novem. 2013

Empowering People with disabilities for self-reliance and social participation

The New Times

03rd Decem. 2013

Connecting the countries and the Region

The New Times

05th Decem. 2013

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Reporting session of Ex-trainees in Agriculture was held to share lessons learnt during training

Science museum organized by JICA Volunteers at Kimisagara youth center to show primary students science subjects

JANUARY

Six Volunteers completed their 2 years mission and two new came

10 Experts are supporting EWSA to update the Electricity Development Plan including Geothermal Energy

Reporting session for ex-participants to JICA Training in Education Sector

Completion of EWSA Capacity Building Project for Efficient Power Supply

30 participants attend training in Japan

FEBRUARY

Workshop on Accessible and friendly airport for PWDs by ECOPD

Workshop on Accessible and Friendly Airport for Persons with Disabilities organized by ECOPD Project

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When volunteering impacts lives

Deaf Children discover their talents



Ms. Murata with her students performing in deaf dance show

Ms. Chizu Murata, a volunteer who worked at Centre de formation sourds muets in Huye District since January 2012 conducted various activities engaging children with deaf disability to discover their talents and enjoy life challenges of not being able to speak and hear.

Since her young age Ms. Chizu was interested in traditional

culture of Africa as well as art. Before coming to Rwanda as a JICA volunteer, Murata attended a Japanese festival for Deaf in 2008 where she got connected with children with deaf disability and felt moved to support them.

During her two year mission in Rwanda as a sport and art teacher and the school, she's done a number of activities.

The activities include introducing sports like kung-fu, jumping rope, badminton; starting a drumming project for deaf students in collaboration with National University of Rwanda Center of Arts and Drama. She also made video messages from various deaf schools and show to students. She managed to connect the Deaf community in Rwanda and Japan through photos, video or talking by Skype (with Fukui Deaf School, Higachi ichigao elementary school, Yamagata high school)

Mr. Shirubute Prudence, Director of the Center commended a lot the work done by Ms. Chizu. "She was kind, lovable, active and energetic. Students, teachers and even the people around all loved her." He recalls.

Ms. Chizu was not only talented which brought diversity of leisure to our students but also was sensitive to their needs. She managed to get different aids to the students, created a cooperative of knitting for the graduates with a machine that came from connection with friends from Japan.

The Director affirmed that Ms. Chizu helped the students feel confident and left a very good environment to the school.

The school is recruiting another volunteer with the same talents because they realized how much it helped their school in community integration. ●

Ubuzima Bwiza water cooperative shares best practice

Ubuzima Bwiza cooperative from Rwamagana is one of the most performing in terms of successful operation and maintenance of water facilities.

The cooperative succeeded to operate continuously the system and make significant benefit. They have been able to maintain it when damaged and have a strong system of collecting money from water tariff.

A study tour was organized to learn from the success of the cooperative. It gathered administrators, ac-

countants and technicians from water management cooperatives and companies from Ngoma, Kayonza and Kirehe districts.

The success story is a result of joint efforts by a technical cooperation project "PURASANI" completed in 2011 and the active role of its members. ●



Peer learning boosts teachers skills

From 3rd to 5th December 2013 at GS St Aloys Rwamagana, 110 participants attended School-based In-service Training (SBI) induction program organized by Rwanda Education Board (REB).

SBI Training Program is the appropriate answer to expand opportunity for teachers to learn, to maintain and to update their knowledge, teaching skill, and attitude. SBCT project aims to encourage teachers to cooperate and share their experience through

peer learning activities with planning; monitoring and feed-back system

According to Joseph Nzeyimana teacher at GS Kabuye, SBI changed the atmosphere of their school. Teachers have become very collaborative and freely share good practices without setting formal meetings. ●



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Revolution in Madagascar, a Rice-Growing Country

JICA experts face diverse challenges in improving cultivation

Experts from JICA are working with farmers in Madagascar, a rice-eating country, to realize a revolutionary advance in rice cultivation based on technological development and awareness-raising.

Located off the southeastern coast of Africa, Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world. It is known for its unique plants, such as the baobab, and animals, such as the aye-aye. But few know that most of the residents originated from Indonesia and are of Asian descent, a fact that seems to be supported by their consumption of rice as a staple. The per-capita annual consumption of rice is almost double that of Japan, reaching 120 kilograms, and 70 percent of the farmers in the country grow rice. It is also the home of the System of Rice Intensification (*1), which has spread throughout the world.

However, domestic production of rice is prone to fluctuations due to such climate effects as cyclones, and as a result, 10 percent of rice consumption relies on imports. The

government of Madagascar has aimed to increase production by 300 percent within 10 years of 2008. It also aims to become an exporter of rice and recommends SRI as a method of increasing rice yield, but the labor required for rice planting and difficult management of agricultural water involved in the method keeps farmers away. Only 3.5 percent have adopted the method.

To increase rice production in the densely populated central highlands area, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started the Project for Rice Productivity Improvement in Central Highland (PAPRIZ) in 2009. JICA has been working on seed propagation, improving the seed distribution system, creating a coaching system for rice production techniques and the development of an integrated technical package to improve yield.

Rice cultivation method jointly developed with farmers

Madagascar has a traditional rice

cultivation method that has followed in an unbroken line. In addition, there is SRI, recommended by the government. The priority agenda of the project is to develop an integrated technical package that puts together a variety of suggested technologies in a structured manner, based on the characteristics of each region. With that it aims not only to increase yield, but also to generate income for farmers.

The process of developing the technical package was based on the outcome of an experiment carried out in the paddy fields of farm houses, and it incorporates the opinions of the farmers who participated in the experiment. A decision is made on an appropriate rice cultivation method that matches the characteristics of the region. It focuses on helping farmers proactively think and implement cultivation.

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JICA President Tanaka Holds Talks with UNHCR Guterres

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka held talks with António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Dec. 3 at JICA headquarters in Tokyo.

Guterres expressed his appreciation to JICA for its continued cooperation with UNHCR. "In particular, partnership at the field level is not only beneficial for the local community, but is also extremely important to find durable solutions for the refugees," he said. He also emphasized JICA's important role in conflict areas and expressed his great interest

in the possibility of establishing joint projects. Tanaka responded that JICA is ready to expand its cooperation with UNHCR.

Showing his concern on the unstable situation in Mali, Guterres said, "While the current attention of the international community tends to focus on Syria and Afghanistan, it is very important to maintain support to Africa as a priority. This is the reason why I greatly value the role played by the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V)."●

Contact Us

JICA RWANDA News is a quarterly newsletter which focuses on JICA's international perspectives and its involvement in local economic development. This newsletter details the work of JICA in Rwanda.

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JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) is the world's largest bilateral aid agency providing various forms of assistance in over 150 countries around the world.