

JICA RWANDA News

JANUARY 2014 - MARCH 2014 • NUMBER 18 • KIGALI

Japan, Lead Donor of Water and Sanitation Sector

JICA has contributed to raise awareness of Operation and Maintenance on top of the Water and Sanitation Sector agenda.



Children fetching water on a hand pump in Kayonza District

Photo K.Imamura/JICA

Rwanda is targeting to achieve 100 % access to water and sanitation by 2017/2018 and is currently at 74.2%.

From November 2013, Japan has been honored to take the role of co-chair of the Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Sector Working Group. As co-chair, Japan is committed first, to realize more organized Sector coordination with an operational secretariat, second, to promote the effective monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the Sector, third, to strengthen the fund mobilization to achieve the sector goals.

The activities of Japan through JICA have been fruitful in this Sector. We have developed a number of water supply facilities and provided technical support for the operation and maintenance, as well as hygiene promotion activities on the ground.

Beyond those interventions, Japan's cooperation has been extended to the policy development and sector coordination to improve the

performance as a common objective for all sector stakeholders.

We contributed to raising the awareness for operation and maintenance of the rural water into top agenda of the sector, through a holistic study project on the issue and provided support in revising the Sector Strategic Plan in order to align it to the EDPRS II.

In addition to this, JICA has supported the harmonization of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene concepts, norms and standards to address the challenge of discrepancies in national statistics.

We consider the target of 100 % access to water as an opportunity which will lead the sector to new way of thinking, strategies and approaches that would guide interventions of stakeholders to achieve sector goals. •

PAGE 3
COUNTRY
REPORT

JICA Volunteer composed a hygiene song



Ms. Yoshiga explains and teaches the song to children

Message from new Chief Representative



Mr. Takahiro MORIYA

kLab helps youth to turn dreams into reality



Photo K.Imamura/JICA
Students attend one of kLab activities

Project News

JANUARY 2014 - MARCH 2014 ● NUMBER 18 ● KIGALI

Page 2

Women to broaden business

Twelve African women leading in the private sector exchanged their experience in Japan



Mrs. Rose Kabuye, Managing Director of StarTech LTD and Mrs. Immy Numutako, Chairperson of the Rwanda Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs attended a ten days women seminar in Japan draw important lessons from it and are looking forwards to adapt some in the Rwandan context.

Joining other 10 African business women leaders from 7 African countries, they met in Japan under the “Japan – Africa Business Women Exchange Program” from 27th January to 6th February 2014.

The seminar’s goal was to strengthen the networks between participants themselves and with the Japanese government and business women that might broaden business opportunities. Through lectures, visits, public seminar and discussions, they learnt a lot that they can share with other Rwandan business women to improve what they do.

According to Mrs. Immy, coordination of the gov-

ernment, civil society and the private sector is very key in promoting women’s business. In Japan, the government focuses on policy while the private sector does the implementation. For example there are institutions set up by the government to train and provide skills to women who want to start business but there are consultants to help them make good business plans until they are ready to start.

Mrs. Rose was also inspired by different aspects that are applicable in Rwandan Context. “Women entrepreneurs in Japan start with ideas to either help themselves or their community. Some ideas are small but at the end they grow into big businesses. This allows innovation, to solve the problem around you as well as not rushing into expanding the business but keeping the good quality to satisfy your clients and still manage the business yourself, always available to supervise what is being done.” She said.

Many times Rwandese women start business by imitation or driven by profit than quality. That mindset needs to be changed, the two women realized. ●

WORD FROM S. NAKAHARA, TVET ADVISOR ATTACHED TO WDA

TVET, a solution to labor market

“In Rwanda, TVET has so much potential because there is a strong political will of Rwandan government and the sector has many development partners.” said Mr. Shinichiro Nakahara who has visited more than 30 countries working with different missions on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system.

In African countries, TVET sector is not well developed; in fact few people can access higher education whereas TVET has the potential to meet market demand.

Challenges such as the mindset towards

TVET, limited resources, as well as a limited number of industries and companies to provide internships are some of the factors behind this issue.

According to Mr. Nakahara, there is a need to reinforce the national qualification framework which will demonstrate the capacity of TVET Graduates and display many success stories of TVET graduates which will change the mindset of people on TVET.

In addition to that companies should be encouraged to give a space for practice to TVET students. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Reborn Kyoto project boosting the TVET government strategy on skills development

The New Times

27th January 2014

Supporting sustainable water services

The New Times

22th March 2014

Upgraded power substations to increase electricity supply

The New Times

26th March 2014

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Workshop on Accessible and friendly airport for PWDs by ECOPE

Assessment on Disability Employment done by NCPD on JICA support

MARCH

Completion of Ex Combatants and Other People with Disabilities Project (ECOPE)

8th Joint Technical Committee meeting on Rusumo and OSBP project was held

Six participants attend 2 years Master’s program in Japan under JICA Training program

Completion of Electricity Grant Project implemented by EWSA

Completion of Grant Aid follow up project on extension of Water Scheme & Rehabilitation of water facilities

APRIL

Participants of Master’s program in Agriculture Sector will make reporting session to JICA

Demonstration of food processing project under JAAR will be presented by ex-participant to training in Japan

Country Report

JANUARY 2014 - MARCH 2014 ● NUMBER 18 ● KIGALI

Page 3

“Isuku igira isoko” song

JICA Volunteer composed a hygiene song



Water volunteers team teach pupils good handwashing practice

“Twirinde gukoresha amazi mabi

Kuko atera ubuzima bubi Njyewe nawe biratureba, biratureba

Ituka mita yume no mizu, biratureba”

This is the chorus of the song made by Ms. Yoshiga Yasuko, JICA volunteer in Ngoma District since April 2013.

The “Isuku Igira Isoko” song was composed as a way to create awareness on the importance of drinking and using clean water to villagers through music, a channel that is preferred by many Rwandan people.

“In Ngoma district, there are many broken water facilities. I thought that the most important thing is to make people

realize that they can do something to protect these facilities by themselves. And also, many people suffer from water borne diseases caused by dirty water. They need to think about what they can do to get clean and safe water. After realizing that many people here are always listening to music, I decided to make a song to give them my message” says Ms. Yoshiga.

The Japanese volunteer realized that people still need to be educated on the importance of drinking clean water. Kirira village where the video was shot has recently got new water stand constructed with JICA support but still many people are not using its water because they say they don’t have money to buy water.

Edgar Rudasingwa in charge of water in Ngoma District appreciated this song initiative saying it will help them to mobilize many people to drinking safe water and in an easy and short way to convey the message.

Ms. Yoshiga is one of eight JICA volunteers working in water and sanitation sector in the Eastern Province. The team is planning to spread the song in sensitizing people about drinking safe water.

The song can be found on YouTube: <http://youtube/hehJJxpXRJY>. ●

Message by Takahiro Moriya New Chief Representative

Rwanda is developing on the track of its own strategy. My highest pleasure to be Chief Representative in Rwanda is to join the partnership with the people of such a wonderful country.

The year 2014 is the 20th commemoration of the genocide for the Rwandan people, who remember the history in the past and think of their future. In 2015, ten years will have passed since JICA Rwanda reopened.

Through reviewing our activities in last ten years, our next contribution will be streamlined into such a better future thought by the Rwandan people.

Furthermore, I hope JICA’s Rwanda work will strengthen the relationship between the Rwandan and Japanese people. ●



kLab helps youth to turn dreams into reality

kLab (knowledge Lab) is a unique open technology hub in Kigali where students, fresh graduates, entrepreneurs and innovators come to work on their ideas/projects to turn them into viable business models.

Nearly 100 aspiring investors and entrepreneurs currently use the center. In two years, some 11-15 startup companies have been launched.

One idea to emerge is the development of a cheap, mobile solar kiosk which

its inventor Henri Nyakarundi hopes will allow even the remotest village to establish one-stop business centers connected with the outside world.

JICA provided contribution worth \$100,000 for establishment of the center in collaboration with Private Sector Federation (PSF). ●



Photo K.Imamura/JICA

International News

JANUARY 2014 - MARCH 2014 ● NUMBER 18 ● KIGALI

Page 4

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka visits Uganda

JICA conducts different projects in Uganda

JICA President Akihiko Tanaka visited Uganda from Jan. 25 to 29, attending a groundbreaking ceremony for the New Nile Bridge with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and visiting the sites of other JICA projects in the country.

On Jan. 28, Tanaka participated in the New Nile Bridge groundbreaking ceremony. The project site is 80 kilometers east of Kampala, the capital of Uganda. The bridge is intended to eliminate a bottleneck in the Northern Corridor, an important transportation route for the country. JICA concluded the Japanese ODA loan agreement for the project in November 2010.

Because it is a highly valued national project for Uganda, approximately 1,000 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony, including President Museveni, Minister of Transportation and Works James Abraham Byandaala, Japanese Ambassador Junzo Fujita and representatives of the Japanese companies contracted to perform the construction work. President

Museveni expressed his gratitude for this project and other projects Japan has cooperated with.

Earlier in the week, on Jan. 26, Tanaka visited the Rice Research and Training Center, built under grant aid based on the initiative Coalition for African Rice Development, agreed on at the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. He also checked on the status of rice in Uganda and on the results of past JICA cooperation, observing the ongoing technical cooperation Promotion of Rice Development Project, visiting Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) activities on site and holding discussions with Ugandans involved in the project.

On Jan. 27, Tanaka visited the Pabo Sub-County Office in Amuru District. The office was one of the targets of the urgent development survey Project for Community Development for Promoting Return and Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), carried out based on the Reconstruction Assistance Programme in Northern Uganda, and it also is a

target of the ongoing technical cooperation Project for Capacity Development in Planning and Implementation of Community Development in Acholi Sub-Region. There, Tanaka confirmed the results of cooperation so far while exchanging opinions with Ugandan stakeholders.

Tanaka also visited Kulu Opal Primary School, one site of the ongoing, grant-based conflict-prevention and peace-building Project for Building Community for Promoting Return and Resettlement of IDPs in Acholi Sub-region, and while checking the progress of construction, listened to an explanation from the village leader of the water supply situation and other topics.

During his stay in Uganda, Tanaka also visited Bujagali Power Station and other related projects for infrastructure development, Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, where JOCV projects and grass-roots technical cooperation are underway, and other locations. ●

Japan supported a Communicable Disease Hospital in Afghanistan

Afghanistan's first real hospital specializing in the treatment of communicable diseases has been completed with assistance from JICA, and a memorial ceremony to mark its opening was held in the capital of Kabul on Jan. 18.

The Afghan-Japan Communicable Disease Hospital was completed in the Afghan capital of Kabul at the end of August 2013.

The hospital is used to actively fight the three major communicable diseases of tuberculosis, malaria and

HIV/AIDS. It has 80 beds and was built with a Japanese grant worth approximately 2.6 billion yen. In addition to the latest in examination facilities, it has a design that incorporates Japanese expertise. ●



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.

Editors: Mr. Tatsuki Noda, PR Manager and Mrs. Christine Rwampungu, PR Officer

JICA RWANDA
EBENEZER HOUSE,
Umuganda Boulevard, Kigali, Rwanda
Tel 0788301732/31/23/25
Website : www.jica.go.jp/

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.