

# JICA RWANDA News

APRIL 2014 - JUNE 2014 • NUMBER 19 • KIGALI

## Regional Meeting on Trade Facilitation held in Kigali

*JICA has committed to support regional integration for the smoother movement of goods and people as well as trade facilitation*



Group photo of the participants from EAC countries to RJCC held in Kigali

On 29th May 2014, a Regional Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting on Capacity Development for International Trade Facilitation was held upon the necessity of accelerating economic integration in the East African Region; with the support of JICA.

Held in Mille Collines Hotel, the Revenue authorities of the East African Region have gathered to extend their efforts and ensure compliance with the applicable laws to the cross-border movement of goods, to combat smuggling and to secure borders, whilst ensuring facilitation of legitimate trade.

In his opening remarks, the Commissioner General of RRA Richard Tushabe mentioned that JICA Customs projects together with the other EAC initiatives if implemented successfully, will lead to increase in trade volume in and out of the EAC region and also play a crucial role in attracting investment in the region. This in turn will help to promote fair and sustainable

economic growth in the region.

Mr. Hideharu Tanaka from the Ministry of Finance of Japan also said “Japan Customs will continue to support the capacity development for customs administration because knowledge and skills are absolutely necessary as an engine of functions at the borders”.

Revenues Authorities from the 5 EAC countries as well as other border agencies are the main stakeholders that attended the meeting. South Soudan joined as an observer.

Under the framework of the TICAD V, the Japanese government and JICA have committed to support trade facilitation for African countries through introducing OSBP. The OSBP facilities at the Rusumo border are under construction by the Japan’s grant aid, and its operationalization will be supported by JICA’s technical cooperation. •

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### JICA W-SAT Volunteers share experience



JICA W-SAT volunteers demonstrate how they repair hand pump

### SHEP Training for African countries held in Japan



Participants to SHEP Training in field visit

### Science teaching in Rwanda needs improvement



Jean Claude Nzeyimana graduating in Japan

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## Value added handcrafts

*From JICA Training to AfDB meeting exhibition, Gloria's business has grown to a remarkable level.*



Ms. Gloria Kamanzi Uwizera is the founder of Glo Creations and its CEO.

Glo Creations is a textile design and hand printing business. They create patterns on textile, and make fashionable clothing and home decor items since 2008.

Ms. Gloria was selected by the Private sector Federation handcraft chamber to exhibit her products during the last AfDB annual meeting held in Kigali from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014.

"They were amazed with the uniqueness of our handcrafts produced locally. I did much of networking with the AfDB participants," says the artisan with a smile.

The Glo Creations founder was among the first participants to the initial One Village One Product (OVOP) training which aims at nurturing business ideas through capacity building and value addition. The training organized by JICA in Japan in 2009 where she managed to be con-

nected to a potential buyer in Tokyo, who lately became his client for 3 years.

"With the buyer, we were able to learn the Japanese market especially on textile, learn their taste and requirements of purchase." She says.

As a person who has experience in the handcraft business, her wish is that there would be more trade training for the handcraft industry, in order to prepare the artisans for international markets, update them with trends and competitiveness that are going on globally.

### OVOP Program way forward

Following a request from MINICOM, JICA will dispatch an expert from September 2014 to support the Ministry and its related agencies to strengthen SME development support scheme.

The current OVOP Program has been integrated to Hanga Umurimo which is the government flagship program towards development of a critical mass of innovative and viable SMEs for off-farm job creation.●

### WORDS FROM MR. K. OHASHI, JICA EXPERT IN ENERGY

## Electricity & Geothermal plan progress

July 2013, the project for preparation of electricity development plan for sustainable geothermal energy development was signed between Rwanda and Japan.

In January 2014, works of data collection existing on geothermal sites was being exploited and the power system development planning started.

Currently a team of 14 experts for geothermal and electricity development studies is in Rwanda to share the progress report with stakeholders and to obtain supplemental data. Geothermal experts are to analyze the data from potential sites

and to have a workshop on a power demand forecast. Particularly gravity survey to identify geothermal potential resource in Bugarama prospective area is being conducted by project experts. The interim results of the survey are expected to be reported in October 2014.

A capacity building through on the job training will be held to EWSA engineers to equip them with necessary knowledge to handle the works.

The master plan of electricity is expected to be completed by March 2015.●

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

*New Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Border Post Construction Works at 87.4% Complete*

**Umuseke.rw**

16<sup>th</sup> April 2014

*Kenya: T.C.T performs well in robot making contest*

**Umuseke.rw**

20<sup>th</sup> May 2014

*What Africa needs to realize its potential*  
(JICA launched the book "Africa 2050" in AfDB Annual Meeting)

**The New Times**

04<sup>th</sup> June 2014

## CALENDAR

### JUNE

Minister of Infrastructure and Japanese Ambassador in Rwanda visit Rusumo bridge construction

Four volunteers are leaving Rwanda after 2 years mission

Mr. Izuru Kimura, Director of JICA Africa Division come to Rwanda to discuss future projects

### JULY

Seven new volunteers are coming to work in Rwanda making the total number of 32

JICA Alumni Association will hold a general assembly and launch their website

### AUGUST

JICA Volunteers will make "exhibition on atomic bombing and restoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" in Kigali

SBCT Project induction training for a new batch will be held

# Country Report

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## Hand pump repair

### JICA W-SAT Volunteers share experience



*Volunteers share their experience and repair a hand pump in Gishari*

During a regional workshop held from May 26th – 30th 2014, 19 JICA Volunteers working in Water and Sanitation sector (W-SAT) came together to share their experience and learn from each other. Apart from 10 of them who currently work in Rwanda, there were from Uganda, one from Ethiopia, two from Senegal, two from Cameroon and three from Burkina Faso.

After information sharing, they

had opportunity to visit Murama sector in Kayonza District to see how their fellow volunteer Ms. Kurokawa was raising awareness of the community to take care of their hygiene situation with community health workers. They performed drama and songs to promote the awareness of community members.

Another site in Gishari sector in Rwamagana District was visited by the group and they studied

the mechanism of hand pump.

Mr. Chikara Yamamoto from Cameroon said the meeting was fruitful and he learnt a lot from JICA Volunteers in Rwanda.

“I was impressed by Ms. Kurokawa’s work. How she managed to mobilize the community to be involved in hygiene promotion is a good example to adapt in my country. Also I appreciated how the volunteers here work with villagers in hand pump repairing. That means even after the volunteers leave the country they can still manage to do it by themselves” he said.

Mr. Taku Saito who works in Ngoma District also said the experience sharing enriched his action plan for the coming 8 months to work in Rwanda.

“I’ve been teaching about hygiene at schools such as hand washing after toilet but I learnt from my colleague in Senegal that it’s necessary to include cleaning toilets in schools if I want to maximize the hygiene and avoid diseases such as diarrhea and other infections”, he said.

JICA W-SAT volunteers have been dispatched to Rwanda since 2010, to work with local communities to improve access to the clean water and to promote the awareness on hygiene and sanitation.●

## SHEP Training for African countries held in Japan

African countries put emphasis on shifting agriculture from subsistence to commercial based and set market oriented agriculture as important agenda in their policies.

To tackle this challenge, JICA launched Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project "SHEP" to make farmers be aware of importance of “Grow strategically to Sell”. The approach helps farmers to think what to do by themselves and increase their income as a result.

In this regard, 19 people from 9 African countries participated in SHEP training in Japan and learnt through lectures, field visits extension system and marketing/ distribution system in Japan and figure out the methods of the SHEP approach for small scale farmers which brought results in Kenya.●



## Science teaching in Rwanda needs improvement

Mr. Jean Claude Nzeyimana completed his Master’s degree at Hiroshima University of Japan in ‘Enhancing the Quality of Primary and Secondary Education in Rwanda’. One of the many things he learnt is “the inquiry approach”. In teaching science, a teacher prepares a key question and the students will analyze, explore and search the solutions by themselves.

“In Rwandan primary education, we have ‘learner centered approach’ but it is

not well specified how to put into practice” Nzeyimana says.

As an inspector, Nzeyimana makes personal visits to teachers and try to advise them to improve their teaching methods by including the enquiry approach which involves students and motivates them to like sciences.●



# International News

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## Seeking business opportunities amid miraculous economic growth

*Achieving Reconstruction after the Tragedy 20 Years Ago*

In the past 20 years, Rwanda achieved growth called an “African Miracle” with a sustained average GDP growth of 8 percent per year over 10 years. With the World Bank report “Doing Business 2014” ranking Rwanda second for the ease of doing business in Africa, it has been drawing attention as an investment destination.

JICA hosted an open seminar entitled “20 years from the genocide - Rwanda today in reconstruction - thinking about the concept of assistance and business potential under its ‘miraculous’ economic growth” on April 4 in Tokyo.

At a panel discussion moderated by former chief representative of the JICA Rwanda office Hiroyuki Kobayashi, Yoshiaki Kawashima, CEO from Mi Cafeto Co., Ltd., Hidekazu Tanaka, CEO of Rexvirt Communications Inc. and Atsushi Ikeda, director, Trade and Economic Cooperation Department of the Japan External Trade Organization appeared as panelists to discuss business opportunities in Rwanda.

Tanaka of Rexvirt Communications, which has jointly developed software with a Rwandan IT company since 2011, talked about the ease of doing business. “Geographical distance does not matter when there is a good communication infrastructure. We can check what they do in Rwanda on a real-time basis while in Japan. Rwandan people are diligent and it’s good for software development.”

Kawashima of Mi Cafeto, known as “a coffee hunter” for going around coffee farms across the globe, participated in a basic information collection survey by JICA on Rwandan coffee in 2013. Going forward, he plans to provide training on coffee cultivating skills such as pruning, harvesting to Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers dispatched to Rwanda. Based on his experience, Kawashima said, “The Rwan-

dan people are aspirational and when they learn something, they put it in practice straight away. However, because of a habit from colonial times, they consider coffee farms as places to work but not as businesses, so whether we can change the coffee producers’ minds is the key.” He also added, “Rwandan people like chai (tea) and don’t have a custom of drinking coffee. Unless they drink coffee themselves, they cannot make tasty coffee,” and he said it is necessary to promote the domestic coffee market.

Atsushi Ikeda, director, Trade and Economic Cooperation Department of the Japan External Trade Organization, is in charge of export marketing for African-made goods and is providing support to business matching between Japan and Rwanda. Giving the example of Ruise B Co., Ltd., in Shizuoka, Japan, an importer and seller of Rwandan baskets, he talked about an importance of matching the Japanese market’s “needs” and Rwandan “seeds.” In the venture’s early days, there were problems such as products not being delivered on time, or even if they were delivered on time, coming in the wrong size or with the wrong design.

However, through efforts including hosting a workshop on site or creating a detailed manual, they were able to import and sell the goods.

Although the seminar exceeded four hours, active discussion continued to the end, and the participants continued their individual questions to Ambassador Charles Murigande and other presenters even after the seminar. Participants had comments like, “The economic growth is far more than I imagined, and I felt the potential of Rwanda as a hub of Africa” and “It was surprising to know that Rwandan people have a similar spirit to the Japanese. I see the potential for human resource development” and indicated that the seminar was successful in sending a message of the great potential of Rwanda.

### Ongoing assistance to Rwanda

To provide assistance to Rwanda, JICA has dispatched an expert to the Ministry of Youth and ICT and has continued to give policy-making advice toward its national ICT strategy since 2001, as well as invited administrative officials to Japan and supported them in obtaining master’s degrees in the information technology field.

JICA will also continue to focus on infrastructure development such as transportation, electric power and water supply that form the basis for economic growth in Rwanda, and on agricultural promotion, as well on as human resource development that supports sustainable growth in the country.●



Abstract from JICA Website News

### 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.