

JICA RWANDA News

JULY 2014 – SEPTEMBER 2014 • NUMBER 20 • KIGALI

A new scholarship programme to train Rwandan Youth in Japan

JICA with Embassy of Japan organized the *African Business Education (ABE) Initiative 1st batch sendoff ceremony*



The participants of ABE Initiative and high ranking guest

At the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama in 2013, the Japanese Government stated its policy of strengthening support for the on-going dynamic growth of Africa with stronger public-private partnerships.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo ABE announced the African Business Education Initiative for Youth”, so called “ABE Initiative” a strategic five-year plan providing 1,000 youths in Africa with opportunities to study at Japanese universities as well as experience internships at Japanese enterprises to foster human resource development for Africa's sustainable and sound industrial development.

Since 1977, Rwandans have benefited from trainings in Japan, within the frame of cooperation between Rwanda and Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Trainings were meant to build capacities in different fields of development identified by the government.

From this year, the ABE Initiative is launched in Rwanda. Ten Rwandans from public and private sectors have been selected as a first batch from ICT sector and the Geothermal Development. Four other Rwandans also starts studying in Japan under separate support by JICA and the Japanese government.

We believe that the knowledge and internship experiences acquired 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.

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Rwanda & Japan Peace Exhibition



JICA Volunteers organized “Rwanda & Japan Peace Exhibition” on atomic bombing and restoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” in Kigali



JICA volunteer explained Rwandan people the atomic bombing story during the exhibition at Amahoro Stadium

Grant Agreement between JICA and the Republic of Rwanda



A modern irrigation scheme worth 15.3 mUSD grant will be developed over 300ha and benefit around 1100 households in Ngoma District.

Project News

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W-SAT Volunteers and WASAC address boreholes maintenance in the North

From 22th to 26th September 2014, three JICA volunteers Mr. SAITO Taku, Ms. NISHIMURA Midori and Ms. OIKAWA Chika conducted an assessment of boreholes constructed by the WASH project in Burera, Musanze and Rubavu districts.

The purpose of the intervention was to provide a technical status as well as water quality of the boreholes, giving out recommendations for the maintenance and more importantly improve the skills of technicians in maintenance and repair of the India Mark II hand pumps.



JICA Volunteers assessing boreholes in Burera

Water Security Action Team (W-SAT) of JICA volunteers working in Rwanda are experienced in repairing hand pumps of Afridev type and India Mark II type in the Eastern Province.

They are supporting communities in solving technical problems of the boreholes, in strengthening the management of water committees.

With that expertise, they were requested by WASAC to support in maintenance of 29 boreholes constructed in 2010-2011 with the UNICEF funded WASH project.

At the end of the intervention, JICA volunteers conducted one day workshop for 16 people including 8 WASAC and project engineers and 8 technicians from local operators in charge of the operation and maintenance of those boreholes.

The technicians learned how to dismantle the India Mark II pump, identify the problem and repair it before re-installing the pump. They are now confident they could repair some boreholes that are broken down.

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Rwanda to mediate EAC-Japan business initiatives

The New times

11th July 2014

Rwf 6 billion Rusumo bridge open to traffic

The New times

29th August 2014

What does Japan and Rwanda have in common

The East African

Rwanda to day

29th August 2014

Rwandan youth benefit from new Japan scholarship program

The New times

4th September 2014

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

JICA signed a grant agreement (G/A) with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda

Fourteen ABE Initiative participants Send-off

OCTOBER

Two JICA Volunteers will come for 2 years mission

JICA Alumni Association JAAR will hold the culture exchange Rwanda -Japan

NOVEMBER

Policy Dialogue between the Governments of Rwanda and Japan

Construction of Rusumo International Bridge and OSBP facilities to be completed

The **WATSAN** Secretariat has a Coordinator

WATER AND SANITATION WORKING GROUP

The WATSAN Sector Working Group (SWG) co-chaired by JICA has acquired a Coordinator to support in daily sector activities. Mr. GATERA Jean d'Amour has started the job on September 1, 2014.

He has strong experience in coordination of Government programs for having worked for the office of the Prime Minister for 5 years.

In the first month of appointment, he facilitated the negotiations and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the WATSAN sector coordinated support, a tool where Government of Rwanda and its partners commit to jointly and sustainably support the Sector Working Group secretariat activities.

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Peace exhibition

JICA Volunteers organized “Rwanda & Japan Peace Exhibition” on atomic bombings and restoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Kigali



JICA volunteer explained Rwanda people the atomic bombing story during the exhibition at Amahoro Stadium

Sixty-nine years have passed since the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan towards the end of the Second World War.

The story of what transpired in the two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 was shared at the gathering dubbed “Rwanda & Japan Peace exhibition” at Amahoro Stadium Cultural Hub tent. The five-day event, which started on August 6th, the day of bombing on Hiroshima, was majorly aimed at sharing past experiences of tragedy that befell both countries, effects and reconciliation.

The event organized by JICA Volunteers in conjunction with the Rwandan Ministry of Sports and Culture comprised of various activities, all aimed at sending a peace message to those who visited the exhibition and who were present at the concert and to the entire world.

This was the first time such an event was staged in Rwanda and was dedicated to the 20th commemoration for the genocide.

The event was graced by Takahiro Moriya, Chief Representative of JICA in Rwanda among other guests. More than 400 visitors came through five days.



The volunteers and Mani Martin & Kensho Band after the exhibition concert

Grant Agreement signed to develop Irrigation scheme in Ngoma



Minister Gatete (Minecofin) and Chief Representative Moriya (JICA) exchanging document of Grant Agreement

On September 2, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a grant agreement (G/A) with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to provide grant aid of up to a total of 1,549 million yen (15.3 mUSD) for assistance for the Project for Development of Irrigation Scheme in Ngoma District.

The project will improve the irrigation facilities in Rurenge and Remera Sectors in Ngoma District, which is part of Eastern Province in the Republic of Rwanda.

Although the target area of the project, Ngoma District, is blessed with a relatively high rainfall for Rwanda, which has many semi-arid regions, putting land into cultivation during the dry season is risky, so that stable agriculture is not possible through the entire year. Moreover, even in seasons with ample rainfall, irrigation is not effectively utilized, so the unit yield for such crops as paddy rice, corn, and vegetables is low.

By providing irrigation infrastructure, this project aims to develop 300 ha both in marshland and hillside by 2017 to be benefited by more than 1,100 direct households in the project area. In addition to the irrigation infrastructure, water users organization will be established, composed of former inhabitants of local communities, to carry out sustainable operation of the irrigation facilities, which is expected to stabilize the lives and livelihoods of residents. JICA will also implement technical cooperation to support improvement in the productivity of small-scale farmers, providing inclusive support to increase the agricultural productivity in Rwanda in terms of both equipment and human resource capacity.

JICA Participates in the U.S. African Women's Entrepreneurship Program as Part of Japan-U.S. Development Cooperation

The Japan International Cooperation Agency participated in the fifth annual AWEP International Visitor Leadership Program hosted by the United States Department of State, as a part of the ongoing Japan-U.S. development cooperation. The program was organized on the margins of the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit, which was held in Washington D.C. from August 4th to 6th.

Supporting African women entrepreneurs with US-Japan collaboration is referenced in the "Fact Sheet: U.S.-Japan Global and Regional Cooperation," which was issued when U.S. President Barack Obama visited Japan and met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan in April of this year. It is one way in which Japan and the United States are cooperating in the area of vocational development and capacity building of African female entrepreneurs.

Both Japan and the U.S. have been strengthening cooperation to support African women entrepreneurs as a key mechanism to foster trade, investment and development in Africa.

Workshop for '5S and Kaizen'

On August 5th, JICA organized a special "JICA seminar" for 29 African women business leaders who participated in African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP). The seminar commenced with a participatory workshop on "Kaizen," featuring Koichi Ieki (1) as a trainer. The moderator of the seminar, Yasushi Naito, executive advisor to the director general, Africa Department of JICA, opened the workshop by introducing Kaizen as a system of practical methods and mindset developed by Japanese industry to improve productivity and product/service quality through bottom-up continuous improvement activities at the workplace.

He indicated that Kaizen is one of the central approaches used by the Japanese Government to promote robust and sustainable economic development in Africa as announced at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). He noted that Japan's dissemination of Kaizen in Africa seeks to strengthen the basis of labor-intensive manufacturing industry throughout the continent.



Many African women entrepreneurs and other interested parties gather in the workshop

Ieki gave an introductory presentation on the concept and the importance of "5S (2)" which is the basis of all Kaizen methodologies. He then introduced the "self-grading evaluation table," which he invented through his experience training staff of SMEs in Jordan and Egypt, as a tool to promote 5S in workplaces.



Koichi Ieki, a trainer at the Kaizen Workshop, has worked with people in Jordan and Egypt from their point of view to tailor his advice to the locals, rather than simply imposing the Japanese way.

Maximizing the valuable opportunity of matching

The second part of the JICA seminar consisted of a panel discussion under the theme, "Strengthening Business Partnership between Japan and Africa." Rumiko Seya, director, JCCP M Co., Ltd. / President, Japan Center for Conflict Prevention, and Bongwiwe Kali, a South African female entrepreneur, took part as panelists. Following their discussion, Seya and Kali exchanged views with the AWEP participants.



The African women entrepreneurs who participated in the JICA seminar

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.