

JICA RWANDA News

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USD 9 million Grant Aid for water supply facilities

The Grant will be used to supply safe drinking water to 33,000 People of Ngoma, Gatsibo and Kayonza Districts. The project will be implemented by WASAC



JICA Chief Representative Moriya Takahiro with MINECOFIN Minister Claver Gatete after signing

On 5th March 2015, the agreement for the grant aid project amounting up to JPY 1,013,000,000 (about 9 million USD) was signed between the Government of Japan and the Government of Rwanda to support the water supply to 33,000 people. This is the third phase of the serial Project for Rural Water Supply in the Eastern Province which started in 2006.

The water supply coverage rate in the Eastern Province is 66.6 percent (2011), lower than the nationwide average of 74.2 percent. The main water sources in Rwanda are springs, lakes, marshes and rivers, but the poor quality of this water is one of the main causes of the spread of waterborne diseases. What is more, water sources are in places distant from residential areas, so fetching water hinders other activities of residents, preventing their better living conditions and slowing down the vitalization of economic activity in rural areas.

Through this project, the population with safe water access in the target region will increase

from 48,000 people (in 2012) to 81,000 (in 2020, three years after completion). Moreover, it is anticipated that the labor burden of fetching water will be lessened and waterborne diseases will be reduced. In addition to this project, JICA will carry out technical cooperation aimed at improving the capacity for operation and maintenance of water supply facilities in rural areas, contributing to the sustainable water supply in Rwanda through comprehensive assistance.

This phase targets Ngoma, Kayonza and Gatsibo Districts and will be used in activities such as constructing piped water supply systems and capacity building of technicians. In total, more than 131,000 people will have benefited from the entire project.

This project will be implemented by Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) for a period of two years. •

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14 New volunteers who arrived in January 2015

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New building of OSBP facilities at Rusumo Border

492 Graduates
from Tumba
College of
Technology



Graduates of Tumba College of Technology (TCT)

JICA Partnership Program launched *Computer Training Center for People with Disabilities*



Mulindi Japan One love project in collaboration with Tohoku Fukushi University (TFU) of Japan inaugurated a computer training center for people with disabilities on 4th March 2015. The facility and equipment were provided under JICA Partnership Program.

The 3-year project aim at providing ICT skills to people with disabilities and allows them start income generating projects, thus contributing to the society.

JICA's support to the project is basically financial (around 240,000 US\$) for constructing the classrooms, providing the project with computers and other ICT equipment as well as one mini-bus to facilitate the transportation for students with disabilities.

Hon. Gaston Rusiha, member of the Parliament representing a person with disabilities, who was the guest of honor at the event, commended the support provided by the Japanese University as well as JICA.
"Rwandan government has adopted the human

resources development encompassing with education and ICT skills as one of the strategic pillars in Rwanda Vision 2020. On the other hand, Rwanda wishes to be an ICT hub in EAC therefore people with disabilities need more support to be included in that process. Thanks to projects like the assistance from Japan, there is hope to achieve that."

Since 16th February, the first class started with 10 students. Later on, a middle and upper level class will start from July and August respectively. This project will continue till March 2017.

The JICA Partnership Program provides opportunity to Japanese NGOs and Japanese universities to utilize their accumulated knowledge and experiences in assistance activities for developing countries.

In this particular case, Tohoku Fukushi University, based in Sendai, focusing on the disabilities issues and social welfare; will provide income generation opportunities through computer trainings for persons with disabilities, and JICA's support made it possible for them to start the activities in Rwanda. ●

KAYONZA- RUSUMO ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Preparing for the re-start of Yen Loan

In the perspective of re-starting Yen Loan Program in Rwanda, and based on the official request of the Government of Rwanda, Japan has started considering to finance the 94 km Rusumo-Kayonza Road Improvement Project. The preparatory discussion is underway with AfDB that will focus on Kayonza-Kagitumba Road section.

The proposal Project will contribute to improving road transportation and trade facilitation along the central corridor part which connect to Kigali and to Northern corridor via Kagitumba.

The Project will also contribute positively to economic development of Kayonza-Rusumo area by facilitating local community transportation and stimulating their economic development.

Project loans, which account for the largest portion of ODA Loans, finance projects such as roads, power plants, irrigation, water supply and sewerage facilities. The loans are used for the procurement of facilities, equipment and services, or for conducting civil and other related works. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Learn ICT in KOBE for the development of mother country
Kobe Shimbun
18th February 2015

Abanyarwanda n'Abayapani basangiye imico y'ibihugu byombi
Igihe.com
20th February 2015

Japan extends Rwf5.8 billion grant for rural water supply
The New Times
6th March 2015

CALENDAR

APRIL

Commencement of Project for Strengthening Operation and Maintenance of rural water supply systems in Eastern Province

SBCT Project workshop, involving 10 District DEOs and SEOs, will be organized in Nyamata to review and improve SBI monitoring tools.

Three candidates in Education Sector are enrolling Master's program at Hiroshima University, Japan.

MAY

Regional JCC Meeting for Trade Facilitation Project in 5 EAC Countries is planned to take place in Kampala, Uganda

Dispatch of four new volunteers for community development and volleyball training to their host organizations

Coffee seminar by Mr. Kawashima in collaboration with JICA Volunteers and NAEB

50th Anniversary of JICA Volunteer Program 200th Volunteer arrived in Rwanda



14 New volunteers who arrived in January 2015

This year, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will celebrate the 50th anniversary since JICA's Volunteer Program was launched. The program is one of JICA's principal activities as part of its international cooperation carried out on behalf of the Japanese Government to provide technical assistance abroad at grassroots level.

Since 1965, more than 46,000 Japanese volunteers have worked in 88 countries in Afri-

ca, Middle East, Asia, Oceania, Central America and Latin America. JOCV is a unique program that allows participating volunteers to not only contribute to the development of partner countries but also gain valuable experiences in terms of international goodwill, mutual understanding and an expansion in their international perspectives.

In close coordination with the Government of Rwanda and

local authorities, JICA has dispatched Japanese dedicated volunteers in many parts of Rwanda since 1987. With the arrival of 14 new volunteers in January 2015, the accumulated number of JICA volunteers has surpassed 200. Currently around 40 volunteers are working mainly in the three fields countrywide.

In Rwanda JICA volunteers are supporting three fields:

In agriculture and rural development: volunteers have supported small cooperatives and business groups to improve their practices such as introducing new products, marketing skills which increase their income thus improve their living conditions.

In water and sanitation management and hygiene promotion: volunteers contributed to operation and maintenance of rural water supply facilities, set up good system of water management as well as promote behavior change towards hygiene practices in the community.

In human resource development: Volunteers work with Rwandan teachers and students to share their experience and knowledge. Science and mathematics teachers introduce more practical teaching methods, and more scientific experiments with local materials. At vocational schools, volunteers provide basic techniques and skills that are the foundation skills used to create or find income generating jobs. ●

Regional stakeholders review OSBP Regulations

A Regional stakeholders meeting was held in Kigali to review the draft regulations for the OSBP Regulations based on inputs from national consultations and received an overview of the Vehicle Load Control Regulations.

In 2007, the EAC and Partner states agreed that countries should harmonize their vehicle load control regimes and align them to those of COMESA and SADC.

This meeting was attended

by representatives of Ministries responsible for EAC affairs and those from institutions in charge of border operations in Partner States.

The Partner states agreed that they are going to review both documents and provide comments to be incorporated in the draft final regulations.

The EAC Secretariat would convene a regional stakeholder's workshop by May 2015 to review and validate the revised draft Regulations. ●

492 Graduates from Tumba College of Technology

Four hundred ninety two (492) students have completed their studies and the third graduation ceremony was held at IPRC North-Tumba College of Technology (TCT) on February 26th 2015.

The ceremony also included awarding the best students from different departments, namely Alternative Energy, Electronics and Telecommunication, and Information Technology departments.

JICA has worked with TCT

since 2007, provided support on the capacity development of teachers and administrative staff. In addition, TCT was supported with necessary equipment provision for hands on skill training.

JICA has also assisted the college in establishing good links with industry by giving Tumba students access to industrial attachments while ensuring that the college activities match the needs of the East African business sector. ●

Japanese Bicycles help Tanzanians commute to work and school

A gift of 500 used bicycles arrived in the Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania, from Ibaraki City, Osaka Prefecture, Japan, on Oct. 9, 2014.

The bicycles were sold to fund health services for the elderly, orphans and disabled people in the Siha District. All 500 sold for 80,000 Tanzanian shillings (roughly US\$45) each. A similar bicycle generally goes for 200,000 shillings (US\$112).

In Tanzania, which lacks good transportation facilities, bicycles have a high utility value and are used for commuting to work and school, as well as for farm work.

A boy whose father bought one of the bicycles had previously walked four hours per day round trip to and from his junior high school 8 kilometers away. He said having the bicycle allows him to concentrate in class and on his homework after school.

“I now can do my best. I am grate-

ful to my father and Japan,” said Godlisten Kileo.

Ibaraki City's ties to Tanzania developed when it conducted JICA-sponsored training of Tanzanian government officials from 2002 to 2013. The donation of the bicycles came about when two participants in the training, Rashid Kitambulo, executive director of the Siha District, and Aggrey Mwanri, a member of Parliament for the district, paid a courtesy visit to the mayor of Ibaraki City in 2013 and said their district would like to use the city's discarded bicycles to sell to fund the health services. The idea first arose as part of talks of a possible sister city relationship between Ibaraki City and the Siha District.

The JICA training program covered decentralization and regional development in Japan. As a method of fighting poverty, African countries had been implementing decentralization of government authority as recommended by European nations and the United States. Tanzania began decentralization in 1998,

but its local governments lacked the capacity to effectively take over the responsibilities being handed to them. In light of this, Tanzania and other African countries began studying the Japanese model of national development.

JICA responded to the needs of Tanzania by conducting several programs to support its decentralization and local government capacity building efforts. The training in Ibaraki City was one of those programs. ●



Godlisten Kileo says he can now concentrate on his studies thanks to the bicycle he received.

JICA Educational Efforts Helped Contain Ebola in Nigeria

A JICA project to strengthen health services for people living in poverty in Nigeria pivoted to help educate about Ebola just after the disease began spreading there in late July 2014.

The spread of Ebola was discovered in Nigeria just as JICA had begun the Project for Strengthening Pro-Poor Community Health Services in Lagos State. It was decided that the project would assist with the Ebola countermeasures of the Lagos State Ministry of Health, and it carried out an educational initiative involving pamphlets, posters and radio. Nigeria has

had fewer victims than other countries, with only 20 people infected and eight killed, and its crisis was declared resolved on Oct. 20.

The project produced 267,000 English pamphlets and 267,000 other pamphlets in local languages, as well as 6,688 posters for public elementary, middle and high schools and five days' worth of radio broadcasts. These efforts helped dispel dangerous local superstitions about the disease, such as that infection could be prevented by drinking large quantities of salt water. ●

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. Atsuki Sakamoto, 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.