

# JICA RWANDA News

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015 • NUMBER 24 • KIGALI

## JICA Vice President Kato visit Rwanda

*Vice President Kato Hiroshi met Rwanda Government Officials, visited various JICA-supported projects and commended Rwanda's high commitment*



*Vice President Kato (third from right) with ABE participants at kLab)*

JICA Vice President Hiroshi Kato was in Rwanda for 3-day visit. During his visit, Vice President Kato met Ambassador Claver Gatete, Minister of Economic Planning and Finance and discussed the ways to strengthen the tie between JICA and Rwanda. Mr. Kato briefly told the minister that JICA committed to support Rwanda in the areas where they put strong focus to achieve its VISION 2020 such as ICT and energy development.

“With the support of Japanese ICT expert and the Rwandan Private Sector Federation, seminars will be organized in Tokyo and Kobe to encourage Japanese private companies to invest in Rwanda's ICT industry in collaboration with k-Lab specifically. Kobe has many Rwandans who are pursuing their Master's degree under the ABE initiative, therefore they can create partnerships with those companies”, Mr. Kato said in his remarks.

Honorable Ambassador Gatete commended the assistance from JICA and the Japanese Government for their effectiveness and efficiency in the world. Ambassador also emphasized the efforts Rwanda is making to remove all barriers to trade facilitation

and welcomed Japanese business to operate in Rwanda which will ease even their penetration in the COMESA region.

Talking about MDGs, the Vice President also in charge of MDGs, said that Rwanda has shown a remarkable progress in the most of the MDGs goals. Among the impacts that can easily be felt is that poverty has drastically reduced, primary school enrollment has gone up, and gender parity has been better.

“We are honored to be part of Rwanda's efforts to achieve the progress in the various goals. Towards goals such as poverty reduction, the development of the agricultural sector has played a large role considering that a majority of the workforce is employed in the sector”. Mr. Kato said •

PAGE 3  
COUNTRY  
REPORT

**JICA Volunteer  
Mr. Sonoda  
conducts coffee  
free tasting in the  
Expo 2015**



*At NAEB stand in expo, different people taste coffee*

**Japan & Rwanda  
ICT to strengthen  
ties**



*Mission team from Japan shared the mission results to journalists*

**Farmers produce  
tomato ketchup**



*Cooperative members preparing to make tomato ketchup*

# Project News

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015 ● NUMBER 24 ● KIGALI

Page 2

## Second batch of ABE Participants 16 Rwandese are currently pursuing Masters in Japan



ABE Initiative Participants posing with JICA and Rwanda Government Officials

Last year, JICA launched the African Business Education Initiative for youth (ABE Initiative) as one of the core commitments at the 5<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in 2013. The initiative was introduced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as 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.

This year, six other Rwandans were selected joining other ten who were granted the same scholarship under the ABE initiative last year. In addition to these, other eighteen participants are currently following Master's program under the JICA Training program. All of them are expected to attain the knowledge and internship experiences 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.

Mr. Tomio Sakamoto, Chargé d'affaires at the

Embassy of Japan was the guest of Honor at the sendoff ceremony and he said that the expected outcome of the program is a network of potential contributors to the development of Rwanda industries who will also lead Japanese private sector to engage further in economic activities in Rwanda. "I entirely believe that you have the potential to contribute to the development of Rwanda in collaboration with Japanese private sector through internship experiences. In addition, you can strengthen the relationship between our two countries to promote further friendly relationship for the future." He said.

Currently ABE Initiative Program is receiving applications for 3<sup>rd</sup> Batch and the deadline for application is on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

This program aims at human resource development in both private and public sectors of Africa in order to cultivate a strong human network between Japan and Africa. It offers opportunities to young and eligible African women and men to study Master's courses in Japanese Universities and to experience internships at Japanese enterprises. ●

### JOINT BORDER COORDINATION AT RUSUMO BORDER

## Coordinating Committee established

The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of JICA Trade Facilitation Project is on-going. This includes a technical cooperation project component for operationalization of Rusumo One-Stop Border Post between Rwanda and Tanzania.

Three joint technical committee (JTC) meetings and cross-border meetings were held for the operationalization of the Rusumo OSBP in July, October, and November 2014 and three sets of training were conducted in January, February, and March 2015. A major achievement was to be agreed between Rwanda and Tanzania on a joint operational procedures manual

for the Rusumo OSBP.

The first Joint Border Coordination Committee Meeting was held at Rusumo border on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015. The main achievement of the meeting was the establishment of the Joint Border Coordination Committee (JBCC) which discussed immediately two main points: (1) Review and agree on the Terms of Reference for the Rusumo Joint Border Coordination Committee; and (2) the Finalization of the Work Plan for the Rusumo Joint Border Coordination Committee. The expected result is to get the Rusumo OSBP operationalized soon. ●

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

Rwanda development efforts very impressive - JICA Vice President Kato  
**The New Times**  
07<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015

Japan pledges \$60 million for Rusumo-Kayonza road upgrade  
**The New Times**  
16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015

Japan affirms support toward local ICT firms  
**The New Times**  
1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2015

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

JAAR reporting session for ICT to share the experience gained from Training in Japan

Fashion show organized by JICA Volunteer Ms. Yoshinaga will be held at VTC Rwabuye

### NOVEMBER

Respective sectors will held Joint Sector Review to look back what has been achieved in the last fiscal year

Detail Design on the Grant Aid Project for Improvement of Substations Phase II will be conducted

Mid-term review mission for TCT II project

Loan Agreement Negotiation Mission on Kayonza-Rusumo Road Improvement Project will be dispatched

### DECEMBER

SBCT Project will hold a second seminar for national SBI forum before the end of the project

JICA Rwanda Office will celebrate and present the achievements registered over the last 10 years

# Country Report

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015 ● NUMBER 24 ● KIGALI

Page 3

## People learn and enjoy different coffee taste JICA Volunteer conducts coffee free tasting in the Expo 2015



“This free tasting should be done as many times as possible because many Rwandans don’t even know how coffee tastes. It will also help coffee growers and exporters to know what to improve because they can recognize good tasting coffee that is liked on the international market”, One visitor said.

The farmers who brought their coffee were also satisfied by the activity and learnt many things from the exhibition. For example Muhondo coffee from the Northern Province sold coffee of Ref 100,000 amount in one day thanks to free tasting.

“NAEB statistics show that only 1% of Rwandan population drink coffee, why? Because many have little knowledge about it and it has been marketed as a product for exportation than consumption. That’s why I had an idea for free coffee tasting to increase local consumption of the Rwandan coffee”, says Sonoda Hiroaki a JICA volunteer attached to PSF in Huye District and supports coffee farmers’ cooperative in marketing their coffee.

JICA Volunteer Sonoda with the support of NAEB organized

coffee saloon in the international exhibition where free coffee tasting enabled visitors to taste different coffee types produced in Rwanda.

The coffee saloon proved that people are interested in knowing more about coffee and that Rwanda has big potential for domestic market. Estimated visitors were 3000 but the number doubled. Free tasting encouraged people to buy coffee even for their first trial. People learnt how to prepare coffee though getting the coffee drippers is still a challenge.

Since 2013, Japan through JICA is having growing interest in supporting coffee industry. One of the major inputs so far is dispatch of more than 5 JICA Volunteers to support smallholder coffee farmers and holding Rwanda coffee saloon in different cities of Japan in partnership with Embassy of Rwanda in Japan local government at sector level. ●



Visitors to coffee stand at the Expo 2015

## Japan & Rwanda ICT to strengthen ties

As part of its capacity building efforts, the PSF ICT chamber in partnership with JICA led a business delegation of 7 local ICT Companies on a business mission to Japan for Rwandan companies to exchange with their counterparts.

The purpose of the mission was to further cement the relationship that the two countries have developed. “Japan is an advanced economy in terms of technology development therefore Rwanda aspires to be technology hub of the continent therefore would benefit a lot

from that partnership.

The mission was also an effort to rally Japanese companies into the chamber’s BPO strategy of creating 1000 jobs between Japan and Rwanda.

The Initiative aims at outsourcing software development of such products such as mobile phone apps, web apps and the like from Japanese companies to Rwanda developers. The mission was composed of several seminars all aiming at promoting Rwanda as a business destination in Tokyo and Kobe cities of Japan. ●

## Farmers produce tomato ketchup

In its efforts of transferring acquired knowledge from various training in Japan, the ex-trainees association JAAR continues to build Rwandan small holders cooperatives capacity to improve their food processing methods.

In this regard, after learning how to make tomato jam, farmers’ cooperative learnt also how to process tomatoes into ketchup.

With the support of NAEB, the, Mugabushaka Norbert trained 10 farmers from

Karembure Marshland in Kicukiro District who at their turn gave the skills to other farmers.

According to MINAGRI reports on Post-harvest losses, 40-60 % is lost due to lack of transformation and post-harvest technologies. The project is designed to result in improved pre- and post-harvest technologies that have been proven to make important impacts on food security and economic development objectives. ●

# Updates

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015 ● NUMBER 24 ● KIGALI

Page 4

## Japanese teachers share experience with Rwandan teachers

Twelve Japanese, mainly school-teachers visited Rwanda for 10 days at the end of August.

The purpose was to observe the current situation of Rwanda and actual international cooperation activities so that they can share such experiences at their home schools for education of international understanding.

They visited different places in Rwanda, Umuco Mwiza School in Kigali and some projects supported by JICA. At the end of the visit they shared their impression on Rwanda, our education system as well as the country's development.

### Q: What is your impression about Rwanda?

**Tokita:** We couldn't believe the country we heard is the way we saw it. Rwandan history is different from other African countries history so it's always good to know each country's history and background to understand their progress and the price they paid to reach where they are.

### Q: What does Japan have in common with Rwanda?

**Murakami:** The country is clean

and organized and people are hard workers. We also have some geographic similarities as countries without many natural resources.

### Q: What did you appreciate at Umuco mwiza school vision?

**Takiwaki:** I like the art subject that helps to boost pupils' imagination. Also, many pupils we met were trying to deliver message of peace through drawing. This shows that they understand the message that the founder of the school, Marie Louise Kambenga is trying to spread.

### Q: Did you find any practices at the school that is familiar or different to yours? Any recommendations?

**Oguri:** Yes. First is the relationship between school and local community such as a parent- teachers association to provide good education. Also they put much focus on thinking skills, skills that provide knowledge. In Japan, teachers have many chances to learn through seminars. Some are compulsory and others optional. So they have more knowledge in sharing experience with each other. For example the teachers in Japan stay at school after class to prepare for next day's lessons. I would recommend

Rwandan teachers to create a network where they can share good methods and experience with their colleagues.

### Q: What did you learn about education system that you could apply back to Japan?

**Toriyabe:** Vocational School in Rwanda is very fruitful. Soon after school the students have technical skills that are applicable to the society. I liked the idea of handicraft shop made for deaf students and the products are of good quality. The production units are very motivating for graduates. In Japan there aren't many shops to display what students are able to produce.

### Q: What is the message you are taking back from Rwanda to Japan?

**Abe:** Rwanda is a beautiful country where I have ever been. I was amazed how strong people are despite of all the traumatic experience they underwent. Also it is a country that gives a different definition of richness which is not necessarily having things but rich in mind. Here there is still connection in families whereas in developed countries technology has replaced human interaction. ●

## SBCT Project held National SBI forum

On September 11th, 2015 at Hilltop Hotel, JICA / REB had organized the National School Based In Service Training (SBI) Forum. The participants were approximately 300 including Vice Mayors in charge of social affairs in all districts, District Education Officers, selected Sector Education Officers and selected Head teachers.

The forum aimed at building national momentum to promote SBI in education sector which will also help the dissemination of new curriculum. A major activity of the forum was presentation of posters with which the schools introduced their SBI activities and how SBI activities has been improving the methodology of teaching and learning in selected schools, the participants assessed the posters and awards were given to the best ones.

More info is on the site <https://www.facebook.com/RwandaSBCT>

## 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.