

# JICA RWANDA News

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015 • NUMBER 25 • KIGALI

## JICA CELEBRATED 10 YEARS IN RWANDA

*JICA shared with stakeholders in Rwanda the achievements in the past ten years and the way forward to strengthen the cooperation*



Group photo of high officials who attended JICA 10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary event at Umubano Hotel in December 2015

On 8th December 2015, JICA Rwanda Office invited its respective partners to celebrate the achievements registered since its reopening of the Kigali office in 2005.

The event included speeches, panel discussion and exhibition. In his remarks, the Chief Representative, Mr. Takahiro MORIYA appreciated the partners, the government of Rwanda and all the stakeholders for the continuous support, without which JICA couldn't operate effectively.

*"The 10th Anniversary does not mean a conclusion of JICA's operations in Rwanda, but a milestone for starting a new era. It is similar to that Rwanda was transformed from a post-conflict country to an emerging country. Furthermore, it is very important to learn lessons from the past";* mentioned Mr. Takahiro Moriya.

Through this practice, JICA will renew the commitment to work for the betterment of all the people in Rwanda.

The Guest of Honor, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Mr. Christian Rwakunda mentioned *"JICA has been a good partner for the Government in the crucial sectors of development*

*including water and sanitation, transport, ICT, which contributed to a great extent to achieving the MDGs. With the start of the SDGs era, no doubt that this partnership will continue"* emphasized Mr. Christian. The Government promised to continue to value this important partnership.

The panel discussion elaborated on the subject "Rwanda's Pathway to Knowledge-based economy and the role of development cooperation ". This highlighted first how the vision to be "knowledge-based economy" helped Rwanda's development in the past, secondly what have been and will be the key challenges and thirdly how different stakeholders including the government, private sector and development partners can work together to realize Rwanda's vision in the future.

In the exhibition, JICA experts and volunteers presented their project activities. Stakeholders, mainly government institutions, and various guests who attended the event commended the work done by JICA in Rwanda in the last ten years. ●

### INSIDE PAGES

#### Ngoma Irrigation scheme



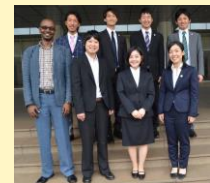
Construction site of the irrigation project

#### Non-Revenue Water Management Training



Mr. Innocent at the end of training in Japan

#### Seven new JICA volunteers arrived



#### Meet JICA Expert Takashi Shimizu



#### "Knowledge based economy" panel discussion



# Project News

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## Ngoma Irrigation scheme

*The grant project to improve crop productivity*



State Minister Mr. Tony and Senior Representative Murotani at Ngoma Irrigation site

In September 2014, a grant agreement was signed between Rwanda and Japan to provide 1,549 billion JPY (USD 13 million) grant project for development of Irrigation Scheme in Ngoma District. The objective of this project is to increase the productivity for paddy and hillside crops in Ruenge and Remera Sectors of Ngoma District.

The three years project on half way of the implementation period, mainly targets hillside irrigation for 265ha, includes pump up irrigation area of 100ha, and paddy field irrigation area of 35ha. The infrastructures include 1 dam, 3 regulation tanks, irrigation canals, pump facilities and hose pipes.

The project has soft component that focuses on strengthening of irrigation water users' organizations; training of farming technology (horticulture and rice) as well as support in operation & maintenance of irrigation facilities.

On 19<sup>th</sup> January, MINAGRI State Minister, Mr. Tony Nsanganira visited the construction site to learn the project progress by the invitation of the

Embassy of Japan. He commended this project which he hopes to be a model of other irrigation projects. He stressed that the uniqueness of this project is the use of renewable energy using solar panels.

JICA Senior Representative Mr. Ryutaro Murotani also urged Rwandan farmers and engineers to take advantage of the skills and technologies provided by Japanese experts and construction company so they can apply them in other similar projects.

While the construction works are still going on, training to rice farmers in Rwabishanga marshland has started. The farmers are eager to learn new technologies and hope to increase their yield which is currently 5 tons per hectare by the end of the training.

Kayitare Innocent, farmer in the area said that this irrigation project will reduce the impact of climate change, which affected their productivity.

"Last year, I harvested 400 kgs of maize while I had expected at least two tons. I hope that this will no longer happen because we will access water permanently" he said. ●

### NON REVENUE WATER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

## For sustainable water system

Mr. Innocent Gashugi, Water Operations & Maintenance Manager in WASAC, attended a one and half month training on non-revenue water management in Japan. The aim was to obtain and upgrade knowledge and technical skills on non-revenue water management focusing on leakage prevention work.

Nine participants from African countries were invited and expected to make action plans to be implemented when they are back in their countries.

The lessons learnt can be summarized through the following statements:

(i) Planning, setting realistic targets and priorities are very important. Consultative

approach and team work spirit are of paramount importance.

(ii) A strong leadership, committed and which gives trust to its staff creates confidence and motivation among staff.

(iii) Zero tolerance to corruption and transparency in managing company's resources ensure good results and good image of the institution.

Based on what he learned in Japan, with his colleagues in WASAC, Mr. Innocent worked to request more comprehensive support from JICA. WASAC and JICA are now preparing a new project to reduce non-revenue water. Mr. Innocent is among the project formulation team. ●

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

*Japan affirms support toward local ICT firms*

**The New Times**

01<sup>st</sup> Oct 2015

*More residents in E. Province get access to clean water under JICA*

**The New Times**

17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015

*Japan set to issue loans to Rwanda*

**The New Times**

10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

JICA 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event

The Project of Strengthening School-based Collaborative Teacher Training (SBCT) was completed

### JANUARY

Media tour to Ngoma Irrigation Project to learn on Japanese ODA

Pre-study Mission for Non-revenue water project formulation

JICA- NAEB Coffee exchange mission in Japan to improve coffee business

### FEBRUARY

Rusumo JTC and JBC Committee meetings will be organized and held respectively in Dar-es-Salaam and in Rusumo.

5th RJCC Meeting for The Trade Facilitation Project in EAC to be held in Nairobi-Kenya

Coffee mission led by Mr. Kawashima is visiting Rwanda coffee farmers

The Conceptual Model on Kinigi Geothermal prospect area will be presented to REG/EDCL by JICA Experts team



# Country Report

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## Seven new JICA volunteers arrived

**They live and work with the local people on daily basis**



The volunteers paid courtesy call to Mr. Theophile in charge of Asian countries in MINAFFET

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016, seven new volunteers arrived in Rwanda for their two years mission. Ms. Kawano Yuki, Mr. Nemoto Hikaru, Ms. Ozawa Tokino, Mr. Takeda Norihiro, Mr. Yoshiyasu Shingo, Mr. Yuji Kazuki, and Ms. Miura Maki. Below they share their expectations:

**Takeda Norihiro** will work as Water and Sanitation action team (RW-SAT) volunteer in Musha Sector of Rwamagana District. Apart from his assignment he is excited to make good friends in Rwanda

**Yoshiyasu Shingo** who is also RW-SAT volunteer will be based in Ngoma District. He expects to get experience in social work in developing countries through his work in Rwanda. "I believe that it will provide me a deep and wide perspective to see the world and be able to support the people in need."

**Nemoto Hikaru** will support cooperatives activities in Mwogo sector of Bugesera District. He expects to help cooperatives start

new business ideas for the members' profit. "I am also eager to learn and speak Kinyarwanda fluently to live and work in Rwanda in the future"

**Miura Maki** will assist deaf children in Fair Children/Youth Foundation in Nyange, Musanze District. "Volunteering has always been my dream since childhood. My mother was a volunteer in Nepal and my father worked in rural community development in Asia. I lived in India for 6 years and what I experienced there inspired me to assist others. I am here to assist, share my skills, but also to learn and grow. I hope that my activities will give a sustainable impact to the school, to the community, even after my mission."

**Kawano Yuki** is going to work in Rwamagana District as a community development volunteer in RW-SAT. "From my experience we feel comfortable when we connect with people. So I want to create a place where villagers can relax and be happy, such as sports team or children group.

**Ozawa Tokino** is community development volunteer going to work in Musanze District. "I want to broaden my horizons by living and creating a good relationship with the local people in Rwanda".

**Yuji Kazuki** will work with the Rwanda Karate Federation to train the National karate team. "My goal is to bring a Rwandan karate player to the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020". ●

## Meet JICA Expert Mr. Takashi SHIMIZU

**Advisor for Promotion of Advocacy & Coordination in Disability Affairs**

Mr. Takashi Shimizu arrived in Rwanda in March 2015 to work with the National Council of Persons with Disabilities. He will be Advisor for Promotion of Advocacy & Coordination in Disability Affairs for two years.

**Q: Tell us briefly about your background before coming to Rwanda?**

**T.S:** In Japan, I started my career as a social worker, taking care of elderly people and supporting Persons with Disabilities (PWD) to get a job. After the experience in Japan, I went to Malaysia as a JOCV and was involved in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program which promotes PWDs' social participation. Before coming to Rwanda, I worked at JICA HQ as a program officer of Human Development department, taking charge of managing projects in the field of human resource development (TVET) and social security including disability issues and public employment service.

**Q: What is your main goal and what do you wish to achieve by the end of your mission?**

**TS:** Now the Rwandan government is planning to establish a PWD registration system and distribute PWD cards nationwide. My main target is to design comprehensive social benefits for registered PWD which are approved by line Ministries and practically support PWD's social lives. 2 years may be too short to achieve the target but I do my best.

**Q: How do you find the current status of Rwanda for persons with disabilities?**

**TS:** The Rwandan government has made a lot of efforts to build an inclusive society, however there are still many challenges against PWD in terms of education, health care, employment, accessibility and so on. I believe that Rwanda is going to overcome them step by step and JICA can work together for a better future for all Rwandans. ●

# Updates

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## KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY

### PANEL DISCUSSION / 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF JICA RWANDA EVENT

On the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event on 8 December 2015, JICA Rwanda organized a panel discussion, “*Rwanda’s pathway to ‘knowledge-based’ economy and the role of development cooperation.*” Below is the excerpt.

#### Panelists:

- Mr. Francois Sekamondo, MINECOFIN
- Eng. Pascal Gatabazi, Principal of Tumba College of Technology (TCT)
- Mrs. Clarisse Iribagiza-Abakunda, Founder and CEO, HeHe Labs Ltd.
- Dr. Humphrey Ndwiga Richard, Principal Power Engineer, AfDB
- Mr. Ryutaro Murotani, Senior Representative, JICA (moderator)

*Q: How did your organization helped Rwanda’s transition to ‘knowledge-based economy’ in the past 10 years? How did JICA help it?*

#### Pascal Gatabazi

- Established in 2007, TCT has become a center of excellence of TVET in the region. By providing quality training and education to students, they have been equipped with practical skills that help them obtain jobs.
- JICA has helped TCT from the beginning. We have been emphasizing the ‘hands-on’ skills, which is practical and applicable to the needs in the job market.

#### Clarisse Iribagiza

- HeHe Labs Ltd. is helping young students/entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into practice and start their own businesses in the ICT sector.
- In the JICA training course in Kobe, I learned the ‘tankyu’ method (continuous search for solutions), which has become the basic idea in helping young entrepreneurs in my company.

#### Humphrey Ndwiga Richard

- AfDB has supported infrastructure development, mainly in transport, energy, and water.
- AfDB has been working closely with JICA. The two institutions now plans to co-finance the Rusumo-Kayonza road project in the Eastern Province.

*Q: What will be the biggest challenge for Rwanda to continue its pathway to the ‘knowledge-based economy’ in the coming 10 years?*

#### Francois Sekamondo

- The poverty rate is still very high in Rwanda. The government has to continue to promote pro-poor programs to tackle the poverty and inequality. As highlighted in the SDGs, we need to work for inclusive development so that no one will be left behind.

#### Pascal Gatabazi

- Access is the biggest challenge in TVET. Increasing the access, while not compromising quality and relevance of education, will be the challenge for TCT.

#### Clarisse Iribagiza

- For further development of the private sector, Rwanda needs to improve the regulatory framework as well as infrastructure. Better collaboration between government, academia, and industry is necessary to tackle this challenge.

#### Humphrey Ndwiga Richard

- People will expect more for infrastructure development. It will be a challenge to promptly response to these expectations, while not sacrificing the quality of infrastructure.

*Q: What did you learn from the panelists? What will be JICA’s role in the coming decade?*

#### Ryutaro Murotani

- In the coming decade, “leave no one behind” will be of our primary concern among the SDGs principles.
- Capacity development will be the key for development to be sustainable. Enhanced capacity will help the country not to compromise the quality of development, particularly in infrastructure, while aiming for the swiftness.
- JICA appreciates the partnership with the government and other stakeholders very much. We wish to continue to work together with various partners, including the private sector, and to help Rwanda’s inclusive development by being a catalyst between Rwanda and Japan. ●

## SBCT Project completed

In December 2015, The Project of Strengthening School-based Collaborative Teacher Training (SBCT) was completed after three years. This project promoted School-based In-Service Training (SBI), a unique approach to encourage the initiatives of teachers and promote ownership workshops in Rwandan schools. 867 Head Teachers, 844 Teachers, 22 District Education Officers, 299 Sector Education Officers and 27 School Based Mentors benefited from the trainings organized by the project and learned how to plan, implement and monitor SBI activities. More than 821 schools continue to be implementing SBI at school level.

The End-line Survey indicated that the schools with SBI have been improving their results in national exams and built a collaborative atmosphere in the schools. With the evidence of its effectiveness, SBI is now integrated in the training framework of the introduction of the Competence-Based Curriculum. SBI is no longer only for Lower Secondary level but also for Primary and Upper Secondary levels. Some schools have set “SBI day” to make sure that all the teachers can attend SBI activities on a certain day of the week/ month. There also will be monitoring forms to allow the Teacher Development and Management (TDM) Department to be informed on the challenges and try to find possible ways to provide additional support. ●

## 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.