

JICA RWANDA News

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RUSUMO OSBP INAUGURATED

One Stop Border Post at Rusumo border between Rwanda and Tanzania was inaugurated by Presidents of both countries



Since 2009, JICA has helped to develop the One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) concept and build complexes in several African countries, including most recently at the Rusumo Bridge. The OSBP concept promotes a coordinated and integrated approach to facilitating trade, the movement of people and improving security. The concept eliminates the need for travelers and goods to stop twice to undertake border crossing formalities. This is one of the targets of TICAD V (see page 4) for accelerating infrastructure and boosting economic growth through trade facilitation and transportation infrastructure for regional integration.

On 6th April, Rusumo OSBP was inaugurated by President of Rwanda Paul Kagame and the President of Tanzania John Pombe Magufuli together with other high-level officials from both countries as well as Japan and JICA representatives. The construction of Rusumo bridge and OSBP facilities were completed in 2015.

Both leaders urged Rwandans and Tanzanians to actively use the border for their business and visits to each other, encouraging them to build stronger relationships that are crucial for mutual benefits.

“We want trade to increase because that will be to benefit of both the people of Rwanda and the people of Tanzania,” President Kagame said.

In his speech, President John Pombe Magufuli appreciated the project and underlined the fact that the easier border crossing by OSBP with both Tanzanian and Rwandan customs and immigration officers at each side is a sign of unity between the two countries and he said “unity is strength”.

He emphasized the importance of the Central Corridor and committed to support all initiatives to ease business and facilitate trade using this corridor. He condemned corruption and mentioned that his Government will spare

no effort to fight against the corruption habits.

Both presidents expressed thanks to the Government of Japan for the grant provided for the construction of the bridge and OSBP facilities.

The government of Japan has expressed its target of expanding support for OSBP in Sub-Saharan Africa in its TICAV V Action plan and it has been actively pursuing this target for some border posts on the African continent. In the meantime, the EAC has been working towards the regional economic integration and provision of smooth border crossing as bottlenecked borders is very important.

Currently, JICA is supporting the project on Capacity Development for International Trade Facilitation in the East African Region Phase III for a five year period until 2017.

Moses Kalisa, the Rusumo Border Manager, Rwanda Immigration, confirmed that since the OSBP became operational, the work has become easy in different angles. “The relationship and collaboration on both countries’ borders have improved a lot by the fact of working side by side. Also, attending the training programs together increased the officers’ knowledge and gave us common understanding of laws and regulations of respective countries, which enable us to solve challenges easily and together”. Moses said.

The OSBP has increased movement of goods and people on Rusumo border. People who frequently use the border testify that it came at the right time to boost trade between both countries, facilitate regional integration as well as to increase the economic status of Rusumo residents. ●

Creating Innovation Ecosystem

Rwanda- Japan partnership in ICT



JICA VP Kato, Minister Dr Papias with other officials at FabLab

Searching for innovative solutions for Africa, Rwanda has been working hard to create its ecosystem for innovation. The determination of the country to be an innovation hub in Africa has attracted people from different parts of the world.

In order to support the GoR's strategic policy to enhance the country's economic development through ICT and its innovative use, JICA has been assisting the establishment of innovation ecosystems which include k-Lab (Knowledge/Kigali Lab) as well as FabLab (Fabrication/Fabulous Lab) where the enabling environments would create limitless opportunity of entrepreneurship, transformation of existing socio-economic sectors, and establishment of knowledge-based economy.

In this regard, JICA Vice President Hiroshi Kato, Kobe City Mayor Kizo Hisamoto and 12 Japanese ICT Businessmen came to Rwanda to explore investments opportunities and strategic partner-

ships on the occasion of WEF in May 2016.

In parallel, with the support of the government of Japan, almost 20 Rwandan students are studying ICT for Development in Japan, 10 of them are in Kobe, the seventh-largest city in Japan. Now the Kobe city government launches the new program to link innovators from Japan and from Africa, so they will meet in Kigali and Kobe. This program is expected to effectively link with the enabling environment of k-Lab and FabLab.

As a side event of the WEF meeting, a breakfast discussion session gathered key stakeholders in Rwanda's ICT, including young entrepreneurs, to discuss how Rwanda-Japan partnership have been instrumental in developing appropriate innovation ecosystem and how the similar initiative could accelerate and transform socio-economic development in Africa, and seek participants' feedback on the aspect of sustainability as well as the potential of scaling up to the other parts of Africa in the long run.

The discussion was fruitful and many recommendations came out of it. ●

AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS

JICA Volunteer teach through practice

Teaching through practice is one way to motivate students in agriculture and give them deep understanding on the theory they learn in class. JICA Volunteer Yuta Kato is using this approach to share his knowledge with famers and students in Gatsibo community.

Kato met with Nzeyimana Charles, a school graduate and started supporting rice farming in Gatsibo District. Together with other three volunteers, he conducted a workshop on rice and vegetable cultivation methods, characteristics of fertilizers and compost as well as measures to prevent crops from diseases.

"I benefited so much from Kato and work-

ing with him has improved my practical knowledge. That's why I was happy to connect him to my former school" says Charles.

EFA Nyabahanga is a school for farming education on secondary level. For students who will become agronomists, thus practicing their lessons is very important to their performance.

Kato started his mission in March 2015 and is proud of the work he is doing with his volunteers' colleagues in organizing these workshops monthly and promoting agriculture practice in the community they are dispatched to. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Kagame, Magufuli pledge stronger ties for development

The New Times
07th April 2016

Japanese investors jet in ahead of WEF to explore business opportunities

The New Times
7th May 2016

New hitech fabrication lab to boost skills, entrepreneurship

The New Times
16th May 2016

CALENDAR

JUNE

JICA attend FARA summit with other stakeholders in Agriculture

JICA Alumni Association of Rwanda hold General Assembly to vote new leaders

Six Volunteers will go back to Japan after 2 years working in Rwanda and two will arrive, making total of 39 volunteers

TCT organize innovation exhibition with the support of JICA.

JULY

Loan Agreement Signing Kayonza - Rusumo Road between JICA and MINECOFIN

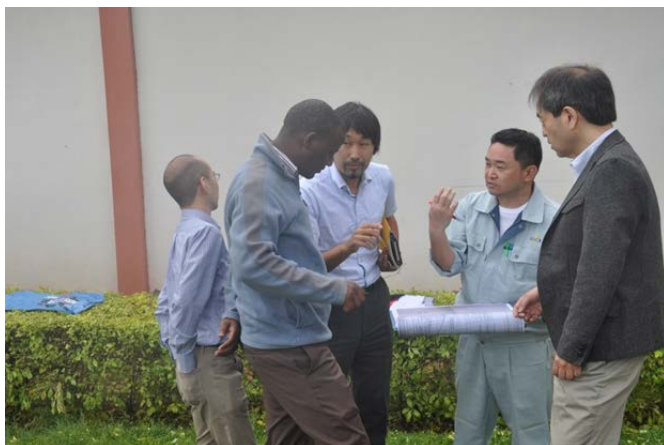
Sakura Company with JICA support introduces Maths software

AUGUST

Tokyo International Conference for Africa Development (TICAD) VI will be held in Nairobi- Kenya from 27th to 28th August 2016

Non-Revenue Water Project in Kigali city will start

Japanese company to protect Rwanda from lightning ABE student bridges TCT to Japanese company



The survey team sharing information with TCT staff

Five experts from OTOWA Electric Co. have visited TCT after a connection with TCT Lecturer who has undertaken a three months internship in the company. Raymond Ndayisaba is pursuing his master's degree in Japan sponsored by JICA and has connected TCT with the company with the aim of benefiting from their expertise and using it for getting protection from lightning which has harmed the college previously.

The first visit intended to see the cause of the damages caused by lightning and why TCT equipment has been affected. The experts have been sharing with TCT technicians the knowledge on lightning protection. They will also share measures to protect the institution and suggest the necessary equipment.

Muhamad Maniraguha, Lecturer of TCT who has been collaborat-

ing with the experts said that TCT benefited a lot from the visit. "Firstly, we will get information on necessary protection equipment to be installed here at TCT. We thought the system was protected but our facilities were harmed because we didn't have any standards. We also had equipment that could protect our facilities but we didn't know how to install them. Secondly on a long term partnership, we hope TCT graduates will get the know-how and skills in lightning protection and support disaster management in the country. Thirdly the survey results can serve the region for further research on how to prevent lightning damages", Muhamad said.

Shinji Inoue, Director and General Head of Global Operations in Otowa Electric Co. said that this is their first visit in Africa and they were interested in exploring lightning situations in Africa to be able to suggest surge protection devices adapted to the African market.

Since 2014, JICA launched the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for youth as one of the core commitments in TICAD V in Yokohama, Japan 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. ●

New Chief Representative for JICA Rwanda

Mr. Hiroyuki Takada has been assigned to JICA Rwanda Office as new Chief Representative succeeding to Mr. Moriya at the end of April 2016.

Before coming to Rwanda, Mr. Takada was working in Africa Department, JICA HQ as Director of Planning and TICAD process division. Moreover, he has experience working in Zambia as a volunteer and in Tanzania as JICA Tanzania Office staff. He has engaged in African development issues more than a quarter century in his

career. Mr. Takada says it will give him great pleasure to contribute to socio-economic development of Rwandan people and to bridge between Rwanda and Japan. In addition, TICAD will be held in August this year in Nairobi Kenya, first time in Africa. Mr. Takada has a dream that TICAD will be held in Rwanda someday in future. ●



New staff in JICA WATSAN sector

Jean d'Amour Rebero joined JICA Rwanda Office at the end of May 2016 as Water and Sanitation Program Coordinator.

He has got more than 10 years' experience working with development partners and international Non-Government Organizations intervening in Water and Sanitation sector.

His dream has been to work with the leading development partner in Water and Sanitation and finally his dream came true.

Mr. Rebero is excited to bring his contribution from the extensive knowledge gained from his past experience by providing technical support to the WATSAN sector working group secretariat and bring all stakeholders to be involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the activities. ●



TICAD VI to be held on the African Continent for first time

The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-VI) will be held from 27 to 28 August 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. TICAD-VI will be a milestone of the TICAD process, since it will be the first-ever TICAD Summit to be held on the African continent in its over 20 years of history. More importantly however, it underscores the spirit of partnership and ownership which underpinned the very principles of the formation of TICAD in 1993.

The main objectives of TICAD are: 1) to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and their partners; and 2) to mobilize support for African-owned development initiatives

Holding TICAD-VI in Africa clearly demonstrates growing African ownership in the TICAD process and has been attracting much attention from African states and all TICAD partners, such as the international organizations, as well as civil society and the private sector. The highest-level representations from African states and TICAD partners are expected at TICAD-VI.

TICAD-VI will also take place at an opportune moment, as the year 2016

is the first year of the implementations of the global and regional development agendas, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan. Being fully in line with these development agendas, TICAD-VI plans to discuss some thematic issues that Africa has been facing since the last TICAD-V in Yokohama, Japan in 2013.

Furthermore, taking into consideration of the growing role that the private sector plays in promoting socio-economic development, TICAD-VI plans to feature the private sector from Africa and Japan.

African countries have sustained high growth rates for a decade, even weathering the global financial crisis of 2008 in impressive fashion. However, Africa still faces various economic challenges; accelerate the pace of poverty reduction, narrow income gaps, create decent jobs, especially for youth, build infrastructure, and promote regional integration.

And more recently, overcoming reliance on commodity price booms for their growth has emerged as another urgent challenge for many African countries. The way to address these

deep-seated development challenges can be summarized in two phrases; promoting transformation and strengthening resilience.

Coming at a time when aid fatigue had become apparent, the launch of TICAD was catalytic for refocusing international attention on Africa's development needs. In the course of the past 20 years, TICAD has evolved into a major global and open and multilateral forum for mobilizing and sustaining international support for Africa's development under the principles of African "ownership" and international "partnership".

In Rwanda, under TICAD V framework, 26 Rwandan students benefited from ABE initiative masters scholarship in Japan, encouraging the partnership in the private sector. Newly-constructed Rusumo Bridge and OSBP facilities will enhance regional integration. Rwanda also benefits from the initiatives to double rice production, to promote market-oriented agriculture for smallholders, and to improve access to safe water and sanitation for 10 million people in Africa. ●

Coffee industry provides opportunities for people with disabilities

Thanks to the support of JICA Expert Mr. Takashi Shimizu, students with disabilities are benefiting from On-the-Job Training in Huye Mountain Coffee.

For one week, 15 students from Butare Center for Deaf and Dumb started their training that gives them a working experience before their graduation from the Center. The students are supported by JICA volunteer Ms. Ayaka Takahashi in training course through the sign language.

The lack of connection is leading many people with disabilities (PWDs) to poverty. This On-the-Job Training

is expected to change the current situation. The Rwandan coffee receives a world recognized reputation and is a major pillar of local economy in many districts. Huye Mountain Coffee is visited by many tourists, so bridging the coffee industry with the disability sector will have a win-win impact on both sides, because the international buyers are paying more attention to inclusive business.

Mr. Takashi Shimizu, JICA Expert is supporting the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) in Rwanda and his dream is to support the improvement of PWDs' social lives. ●

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.