

JICA RWANDA News

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SDGs Centre Launch

The Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa will serve as an important focal point for advocacy and coordination. This institution is a tool to help Africans achieve results.



President Kagame in a group photo with other officials at the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa in Kigali

The Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGC/A) was launched in Kigali on 27th January 2017. Speaking at the event, President Kagame said that the Centre does not only serve as an important focal point for advocacy and coordination but, like the SDGs themselves; it is a tool for achieving results.

The event funded by JICA, was graced with the presence of more than 300 participants including 24 delegates from African countries, international organizations and private companies, academics, researchers and experts drawn from various sectors. The launch was held on the margins of the SDGs conference that took place under the theme, 'Expediting the Implementation of Africa's 2030 Agenda'.

Echoed by SDGC/A Co-Chair Mr. Aliko Dangote and Director General of the Centre Dr. Belay Begashaw, President Kagame and JICA Vice President Dr. Takao Toda; called on the private sector, civil society and academia for their role in the Centre's mission by accelerating progress towards the SDGs through engaging in research, policy and technical work among others.

President Paul Kagame has called on African countries to take advantage of the SDGs framework to bridge the gap between the current challenges and their mission to advance by doing the right things in the right way.

Dr. Takao Toda, JICA Vice-President, appreciated the innovations by young Rwandans in the area of mobile money transactions and the stock management of bracelets. He advocated for

investment in young people's education and the transformation of challenges into opportunities in order to forge ahead and keep hope alive. "Wisdom is key. It transforms challenges and risks into opportunities, like Rwanda has done. The strategic development of talents is an imperative to move from problems to solutions", he further reiterated.



Dr. Takao Toda, JICA V/President

Dr. Belay Begashaw, the Director-General of the SDGC/A emphasized the importance of accelerating the implementation of SDGs by 2030.

"A lot of support is required. Africa, now recognized as a force, needs to establish its own capacity to support its citizens. The Centre provides a local and African solution. Africans are looking to Africa to find solutions to their problems. It is therefore important that we pool and increase our knowledge", he stated.

With headquarters in Kigali, the SDGC/A is an autonomous international organization that provides technical support, and expertise as input to national governments, private sector, civil society, and academic institutions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs agenda across Africa and JICA will be a partner of it. ●

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ICT Masters Course graduates from Japan share their experience



Providing information concerning PWDs JICA's support for inclusive society



JICA Expert Shimizu at the launch of Resource Map

One of major challenge found in the disability support sector was lack of information-sharing. Due to insufficient communication, outputs of stakeholders' effort had not been effectively shared to all stakeholders. A better coordination among stakeholders was required for the sector to advocate for the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in an efficient manner.

To resolve the problem, National Commission of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) with the support of JICA Expert Takashi Shimizu and local ICT technicians, developed Resource Map, an online portal to help people easily access information concerning PWD in Rwan-

da. (<http://resourcemap.rw>).

The system will help anyone in need of any information about PWD to access it more easily, partner organizations will register for the help wish to render, and also PWD will be able to access the website and identify any organizations or people they can approach for help as well as service providers would easily locate them.

Besides the resource map, Shimizu conducted a survey on Children with disabilities (CWD) out of school and advocacy activities in the community implemented by local PWD. In terms of findings, his survey revealed detailed information of six hundred and thirty seven (637) CWD out of school in Ngoma, Rulindo and Gisagara districts.

According to the result, poverty, severe impairments, teachers not equipped on how to support CWD and lack of disability friendly facilities including toilets were identified as the most leading reasons why CWD are out of school. In an effort to resolve some of the challenges faced by CWD, a model toilet which is accessible and affordable (costs only 25000frw) was constructed at Home de la Vierge des Pauvres (HVP) Gatagara in Gikondo to serve as an example for all the schools and communities.●

IMPROVING LEARNING MATHEMATICS FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

SIIQS project starts in January 2017

With the evidence that the schools with School Based In-service Training (SBI) have been improving their results in national exams and built a collaborative atmosphere in the schools, a new Project to Support Institutionalizing and Improving Quality of SBI (SIIQS) Activity was launched this January 2017.

The SBI was predicted to reinforce the information and knowledge sharing among teachers in schools and the sharing improved classroom teaching and learning which resulted in the higher academic performance of students.

The three year project will target to train more than 50, 000 Mathematics and sciences primary and secondary teachers which is expected to improve students

learning process in classroom so they become encouraged to perform better.

The new project will enhance competence based curriculum (CBC) lesson in classroom, through development of clear example of model lesson and practicing in SBI activities and also enhancing problem solving capacities at school, sector, district and national level.

It is expected that at the end of the project, teachers and learners behaviors would have been improved. This will be achieved through continuous training, advice and guidance by JICA experts and provision of necessary materials and equipment such as office equipment. SIIQS is a nationwide project that will be implemented by Rwanda Education Board (REB).●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

New online portal to ease service delivery for PLWDs

The New Times
9th February 2017

Education a challenge among children with disabilities- report

The New Times
10th February 2017

Why power importation delay won't affect national targets

The New Times
21st February 2017

CALENDAR

MARCH

Policy Dialogue between the Government of Japan and Government of Rwanda to discuss future collaboration

Regional Launching workshop of the 2nd Edition of the OSBP sourcebook

Preparatory Survey Mission to formulate future project on coffee

Grant Agreement signing for new Grant Aid Irrigation Project

Three Volunteers will complete their missions and three others will arrive making a total of 29 JICA Volunteers

APRIL

Sign language training for 46 primary teachers in Musanze by JICA volunteer Ms. Miura

MAY

Science workshop to be held in G.S Busanza organized by JICA volunteers in Education

Transform Africa Summit will be held in Kigali. As a partner in ICT Sector, JICA will organize side event workshop

Learning by practice, VTC Kayonza experience JICA Volunteer Inoue introduce internship program



Ms. Inoue with her students

Ms. Inoue Norie is volunteering as a trainer in front desk & customer care and housekeeping course at Kayonza Vocational and Training Center since March 2016. She is enjoying her work and pleased with the outcome of her work.

She has introduced various activities to make students love what they learn in class practically such as creating PowerPoint documents with photos, one day training and internships in hotels.

"By making these documents I want to make sure the students have clear image of the hotel industry before they attend the internship program. With this prac-

tice they can build their confidence later on." states Norie.

Ms. Norie arranged internship for 2 students in Lemigo, 2 students in City Blue and 3 students in Grand Legacy Hotels of Kigali. *"With this experience I learnt that "attitude and discipline" are more important than knowledge or language";* says Norie.

Students also affirm that the internship program helps them expand their views and gain practical skills. Ntarindwa Gonzague has done his internship in Lemigo Hotel from November 2016 to January 2017. He emphasized that Norie's teaching method is so practical that it makes them like what they learn and adapt easily to the hotel environment.

"In my two months internship, I gained much confidence and customer care skills for receiving a client. I also practiced good housekeeping manners learned in class. I feel my capacity has been increased in different ways and can't wait to give good services to my customers when I finish my studies"; confirmed Gonzague.●



Meet new JICA Rwanda office staffs

Ms. Mori Eiko has joined JICA Rwanda Office in January 2017 as Coordinator of Volunteer Program.

Before coming to Rwanda, she has been Physical Education teacher in Japan for ten years. But also she has been a JICA Volunteer in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

"One thing I liked about Africans that made me wish to live with them is that they are friendly and easy to live with, they live a stress-free life" says Ms. Mori.

As a volunteer coordinator she urges the volunteers to communicate easily and frequently with local people

because they have different culture background therefore they need to express themselves and listen to the people around them as much as possible.

Ms. Mori likes sports so much especially soccer. In her term in Rwanda, she wishes to have a team she can join and exercise and enjoy life, smile with people around her. ●



Mr. Nagase Tomonori is Senior Representative of JICA Rwanda Office. He first joined JICA as a volunteer in Jamaica in 1995. Then in 2001, he occupied several positions in JICA headquarters and worked in JICA Vietnam office.

"I like working in a country office because you can work directly with local people, live in the reality of those countries and can be a witness of their progress." Nagase says.

Mr. Nagase believes that the experience he got from countries such as Vietnam and Laos can contribute to

his work in Rwanda.

The new Senior Representative says that he is happy to be working in Rwanda, a country which is safe and fast developing with a great vision for development. He hopes that in his term he can contribute to that progress and foster more collaboration in JICA Office.●



ICT Master's Course graduates from Japan share their experience

Raymond Ndayayisaba and Rene Kabalisa completed their master's in Information Systems at Kobe Institute of Computing in Japan; on JICA Training Program scholarship. They arrived in Rwanda in September 2016. Below they share their experience.

Q: Briefly tell us your experience in Japan in terms of knowledge, skills and learning environment?

Raymond Ndayayisaba: In Japan, I gained a lot of knowledge from school (based on solving social issues through ICT) and I also joined Japanese company (OTOWA) for industrial attachment. This company increased my awareness skills on lightning and thunder protection. Recently Otowa installed protection devices at Tumba College of Technology campus where I work and I am sure we will no longer face the accidents from the lightning. Apart from school and company experiences, I gained many friends from Japan and I experienced different Japanese cultures including J food, punctuality, time management

etc.

Rene Kabalisa: I learned a lot in Japan. I got my masters, learned ICT for development, how to solve social issues using ICT, Japanese culture, I can also fluently speak Japanese language, learned the way of living of Japanese people. I learned how to face some natural disasters and how to protect yourself and the environment in case they occur.

Q: What was your thesis about and why did you choose it?

Raymond Ndayayisaba: My Thesis was Wireless Sensor Network for tea farm monitoring in Rwanda. My objective was to design an ICT based project that can assist farmers and provide real-time data on their crops which can help them to boost their production. Currently, I am working on similar ICT for development projects in my college.

Rene Kabalisa: My thesis was on e-Government. The reason I chose it, is because I went to Japan when Rwanda was in the process of changing the constitution, where it was hard for people to express their ideas correctly,

using traditional ways of giving opinions which is oral, by writing papers and send to the parliament or with local leaders, through radios, etc.

Q: Now that you are back in your respective jobs, how is the knowledge you got relevant to the current context?

Raymond Ndayayisaba: Obtaining knowledge helped me to improve teaching methodology by focusing on social problem solving, and adding values to the students' final year projects.

My idea is to create a system that would allow citizen to express their opinions online.

Rene Kabalisa: I am putting into practice what I have learned in Japan. I am involved in many projects inviting Japanese companies to open businesses in Rwanda. I am also involved in the Kigali-Kobe business relationship. Besides, I welcome Japanese to homestay in my house, to keep learning about Japan, the people and their culture. ●

Improving Mathematics Education in Primary

The results of the Primary Leaving National Examinations have shown that for the last years the scores in Mathematics have been lower than in other subjects in Kimironko Sector schools.

Through Think about Education Rwanda (TER) is a nonprofit organization from Japan which has been assisting Umuco Mwiza School of Kimironko in various ways. Based on partnership with TER, JICA will support the project for improving mathematical knowledge and skills of primary school teachers in Kimironko Sector.

240 teachers are expected to benefit from this support which will consist in training 5 core trainers in Japan.

They will be trained in various mathematics teachings skills, strategy and methodology.

After returning to Rwanda, the trainees will develop teaching materials to improve their teaching skills and develop practical forms to use for lessons plans. A workshop will be held at Umuco Mwiza School where the core teachers will do demonstrations lessons, followed by discussion sessions on the lesson.

Knowledge and experience sharing will continue through School Based In-Service Training (SBI) method where teachers learn from each other in their respective schools and improve regularly. The project started in November 2016 and will end in February 2019. ●

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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