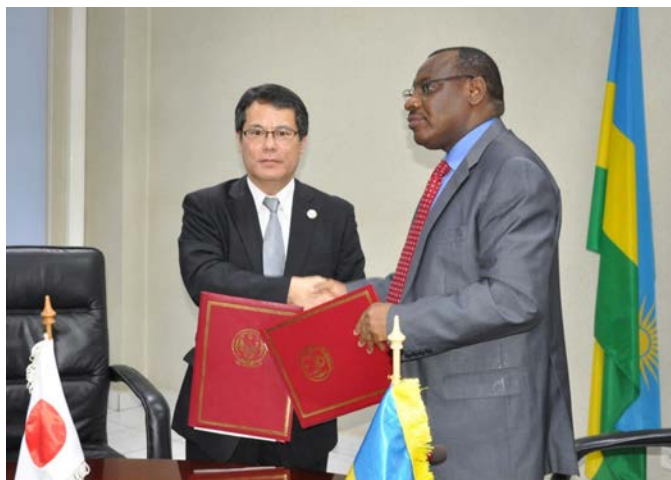


JICA RWANDA News

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Rwf16bn to support Irrigation

Project for Rehabilitation of Irrigation Facilities in Rwamagana District



JICA Chief Representative shakes hands with MINECOFIN Minister after signing

In the past three years Rwanda has been experiencing prolonged droughts and unpredictable rains, leading to loss of farmers' crops and food scarcity in some areas, specifically in the eastern parts.

It is responding to the above situation that JICA committed to improve agriculture productivity and to increase income of farmers in Rwamagana District through funding approximately 16 billion Rwandan francs (to 2,077,000,000 Japanese Yen) to Rwanda government for irrigation scheme project. The amount will focus on repairment of the existing irrigation facilities leading to the ceaseless and stable water provision in marsh land. This grant is also in line with the EDPRS2 and Rwanda's efforts to develop agriculture sector which is one of the main drivers of its economic development and poverty reduction.

The main components of the project include

- Repairment of four water reservoirs (Reservoirs Capacity; 2.2 million m³)
- Rehabilitation of irrigation canals and related facilities (Main; 30km)
- Recovery of the roads (15km).

As a result of the whole project, it will help farmers utilize agricultural water to be accumulated at four dams in the Eastern Province more efficiently and promote intensive agriculture.

In addition, it will enable farmers to raise two crops a year, broaden the farmlands to cultivate paddy rice by 40 percent and increase the amount of harvested crops by 30 percent in 2023 comparing to the case in 2015.

The Government has prioritized irrigation as key to reducing the dependency on rainfed agriculture

Through this project, 100,000 hectares will be irrigated u of which 65,000 hectares is marshland and 35,000 hectares is hillside. Crops targeted are rice, vegetables and fruits, among others, especially during the dry season.

This project will be implemented within two years and half since 2018 when construction starts in collaboration with Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB).

JICA is going to start new technical cooperation project with entitled "Water Management and Capacity Building" this year. Under this project, the capacity of irrigation scheme management by Irrigation Waters Users Organizations (IWUOs) will be enhanced by analyzing current situation of water management as training IWUOs. Through these works, JICA continues to cooperate to achieve Rwandan irrigation development.



Projections photos of Rwamagana sites to irrigate

INSIDE PAGES

Coffee Project Launch



Coffee Hunter Kawashima visits to coffee farmers in Mibirizi

Sign language Training for teachers



Teachers learning sign language

First graduates of ABE Initiative back from Japan



JAAR Assembly group photo

JICA Volunteer Yano supports teachers to train themselves



Teachers train themselves on the new curriculum

Meet the staff Mr. Okuyama



Coffee Project Launched

Coffee Upgrade & Promotion in Rwanda



Coffee Hunter Kawashima checking the quality of coffee beans

Coffee is Rwanda's premier export crop and is an important source of foreign currency: it has dominated agricultural exports with 24% average contribution over the last decade. However, some critical issues are constraining Rwandan coffee sector from progressing further and achieving its true potential. For example, more than 355,000 farmers in coffee production are engaged in smallholding farming with limited investment to improve coffee production, productivity and quality. Furthermore, low applicability of the current coffee quality standard also leads to instability of quality coffee export in this landlocked country.

JICA has partnered with National Agricultural Export Development Board of Rwanda (NAEB) to improve the coffee value chain, and launched a project Coffee Upgrade & Promotion in Rwanda, CUP Rwanda officially named Project for Strengthening Coffee Value Chain in Rwanda; which aims at improving competitiveness of Rwandan coffee in both domestic and global markets.

The Project will work with its pilot cooperatives to establish good practices in high quality coffee production as well as sustainable coffee washing station management. Improvement in the applicability of the quality standard in the actual businesses will be also undertaken by the Project. This will lead to improvement in the product credibility among the buyers which will further positive effects on export volumes and price.

"Rwanda receives a great number of tourists every year. If the industries which have direct contact with the tourists such as hotels and restaurant can sell good coffee, the tourists will buy more coffee to take it home and distribute it. I believe that this is one of the ways to overcome the challenges of export logistics", Mr. Kawashima, Chairman of the JICA Advisory Board of Coffee Cooperation, commented during the project kick-off meeting.

The Project will develop a platform (Coffee Platform) among all the Rwandan coffee stakeholders. As Mr. Kawashima mentioned, these stakeholders consist of not only direct value chain actors such as producers, processors, exporters and logistics but also the industries including hotel, restaurant, tourism, and retailing. The Coffee Platform will be designed and formed to promote Rwandan coffee's marketability while collectively addressing bottlenecks in the coffee value chain. ●

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

Sign language Training for teachers

Miura Maki, a JICA Volunteer together with the teachers of the Deaf Children School (DCS), organized and trained 30 teachers from Kagano Primary School and Groupe Scolaire de Nyange on Sign Language. These two schools are involved in Inclusive Education Project, where they accept deaf students and educate them with the hearing students.

During the 4 days, the teachers were trained on: Tips for Teaching Deaf Children, Sign Language Alphabets, Greetings, Introductions & Everyday Words, People, Maths & Numbers, Dates & Time, Science, Plants & Animals, Feelings, Social Studies and Useful Words.

By the end of the workshop, the participants (local school teachers) were able to greet each other, make small conversations, and talk about feelings by using sign language exclusively. It gave them confidence, as they now know that they are able to learn sign language and that they can communicate with their deaf students, which would help the schools to achieve a better inclusive education system.

After the workshop, the participants determined to keep on learning new signs, and the DCS is considering hosting more sign language workshops in the future. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Transform Africa Summit: experts mull bridging skills gap in ICT

The New Times
11th May 2017

Leverage youth efforts in innovation, say experts

The New Times
12th May 2017

Japan donates Rwf1.2bn towards relief of Burundian refugees

The New Times
26th May 2017

CALENDAR

JULY

SDG Center with JICA's support organized a Conference on "Mobilizing African Intellectuals towards quality tertiary education" in Kigali

Inauguration Ceremony for grant aid project Rural Water Supply Phase III. The facilities will supply water to 33,000 people in Kayonza, Ngoma and Gatsibo Districts

AUGUST

ABE Initiative fourth Batch will dispatch thirteen participants to Masters Course in Japan

SEPTEMBER

CUP Rwanda Project will participate in World Specialty Coffee Conference and Exhibition 2017 in Japan

Arrival of four new volunteers making a total of 21 volunteers working in Rwanda

Loan agreement signing for reconstruction of Ngoma- Ramiro road Project

First graduates of ABE Initiative back from Japan Graduates share experience in JAAR Assembly



Group photo of JAAR members with Ambassador Takayuki Miyashita

On 11th June, JICA Alumni Association of Rwanda (JAAR) gathering all beneficiaries of JICA Training Program held a general assembly to welcome the first graduates of Africa Business Education (ABE) Initiative Program. Three participants among 8 graduates of the program; Amiri Mugarura, Charles Mutabazi and Jimmy Kayumba briefly shared their almost 3 years' experience in Japan. Mr. Amiri and Mr. Charles graduated from Information and Technology in Kobe Institute of Computing and Mr. Jimmy finished his master course in agriculture and science from Kyushu University.

Armed with their Masters Degrees and internship experience from Japanese companies, the graduates affirm that they learnt many things in Japan being the culture, attitude, skills and knowledge that will improve their performance back in their working areas.

"Japanese companies strive for efficiency and emphasize quality, coming up with very good products." He did his

internship that I observed in Japan," says Amiri, who earned a Masters Information and Technology in Kobe Institute of Computing and underwent an internship at Ottawa Electric Company in Tokyo.

The JAAR Assembly which was attended by the ambassador Takayuki Miyashita for the first time is a platform for ex-trainees to share the knowledge, strengthen their network and analyze how best their support will benefit the Rwandan Community and expand quality services efficiently and effectively in a manner that contributes to the poverty reduction in Rwanda.

In his remarks, Chief Representative of JICA Rwanda Office Mr. Takada Hiroyuki encouraged such initiatives, as they disseminate skills and knowledge from a small circle of people to a large number group, thus filling gaps of capacity building. He also commended the presence of Japanese private sector as another step of strengthening the business ties between the two countries.

Since 2014, Rwanda has got 39 successful candidates in four last batches which is a milestone in 1000 seats allocated to all African countries. *"Though four batches are over, seeing the importance of this program in empowering young Africans, and considering the outcome of discussions we have had in TICAT VI that held in Nairobi last year, the Government of Japan decided to keep ABE Initiative program as a continuous program"* concluded Mr. Takada. ●

JICA Volunteer Yano supports teachers to train themselves



Mr. Yano Masayoshi, JICA Volunteer as a Science teacher together with his counterpart Hategekimana Jean Bosco at Teacher Training Center (TTC) in Muhanga organized a 3- days seminar for teachers to train themselves on the new curriculum introduced this year 2017 according to competency based education. The aim of this curriculum is to adapt competency based education to achieve Vision 2020.

The seminar was attended 33 science tutors from 16 TTCs.

"We researched TTC's situations and found that their understandings of this curriculum are different depending on the each TTC. We realized that training is necessary to expand common understanding about new curriculum to all TTCs. Therefore we decided to plan this activity to solve this situation" said Mr. Yano.

The seminar's activities included discussions on teaching skills that can be used in knowledge contents to allow students learn better such as field trips, experiments, drawings, presentations, group discussions, storytelling, etc, depending on the subject and lesson.

It was good opportunity for share ideas among tutors and harmonize their understanding on the new curriculum. Model lesson conducted by TTC Muhanga tutors was good example to think deeply about new curriculum and participants were satisfied with the seminar's outcome. *"Thank you Yano for this activity you've done"* One participant commented at the end of seminar.



Transform Africa Summit 2017



Transform Africa Summit was held in Rwanda from 10th May to 12th and attended by African government leaders and representatives, private sector players, development partners and representatives of organizations in the ICT field.

This year's summit's focus was on 'smart cities' with an aim to ensure African capitals embrace technology to effectively deliver services.

The conference also hosted about 10 side events including one organized by JICA & MYICT. JICA Rwanda Office hosted a side event entitled "Building the Innovation ecosystem for the sustainable development and growth in Africa". Discussion leaders included the Minister of Youth and

ICT, Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré (Executive Director Smart Africa), Ms. Janet Longmore (CEO, Digital Opportunity Trust, and JICA Vice President, Dr. Takao Toda.

The side event aimed at discussing on how African countries can maximally utilize ICT's contribution on Africa's further growth particularly by referring to JICA and the Government of Rwanda (GoR) partnership in the sector and also discussed on the existing bottlenecks against necessary digitization in the region and potential solutions to overcome them.

During the discussion leaders shared their experiences and cited Rwanda's case as an example to build a sustainable ICT innovation ecosystem.

"It is important that we support Rwanda's innovative ecosystem to help create a conducive business environment that will help attract more investors into the country", JICA Vice President in charge of Human Security and Global Health, Mr. Takao Toda said.

Ms. Janet Longmore, said they believe young people are the early adopters of technology, appealing exactly to what they want to do in their lives, which is to use technology to drive social change, and create jobs for others.

Dr. Hamadoun Touré, said having the right partners is always an assurance that every component of the economic development can be sustainably achieved. Touré pointed out that increasing investment in capacity building, in particular content and software development will accelerate the growth of Africa's ICT innovation ecosystem.

JICA has pledged more support to Rwanda's ICT sector as the country moves toward a digital economy. ●



Meet the staff: Mr. Okuyama Takashi



Mr. Takashi Okuyama has been working with JICA for now 7 years. Before coming to Rwanda as Economic Infrastructure Program Manager he worked in countries such as in JICA Tanzania, JICA Uganda and JICA Zambia.

He also has experience in working with as NGO staff in Cambodia and Civil Servant in a Local

Government Office in Japan.

His main goal in mission in Rwanda is work hard so that more good projects for the infrastructure sector would be formulated for a prosperous Rwanda.

He says that he enjoy to be working in the country of 1000 hills because Rwanda is comfortable with no difficult problems thanks to kind cooperation from the government and office staff.

When asked what he likes most in Rwanda he said "*Well I like Rwanda's scenery in and around Kigali. It is like Japan's countryside*".

Mr. Okuyama is currently managing the projects including improvements of Kayonza- Rusumo and Nyanza- Ramiro roads as well as Substations and Distribution Network.

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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