

# JICA RWANDA News

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## 33,000 people access clean water Inauguration of water facilities constructed in Eastern Province with JICA support



Japanese MPs, State Minister, Ambassador and WASAC Deputy CEO at the inaugurated tap

In the support provided to the Government of Rwanda to increase the access to safe water supply under the Project of Rural Water Supply (Phase III), Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) and JICA held the inauguration ceremony of water facilities constructed in Remera Sector of Gatsibo District on 20th July 2017. The ceremony was attended by the Minister of State in charge of Water and Energy Mrs. Judith Kamayirese, Ambassador of Japan in Rwanda Hon. Takayuki Miyashita, and Japanese Members of Parliament, Mr. Asahiko Mihara and Mr. Daishiro Yamagiwa and other officials.

The project provided Grant Aid amounting up to JPY 1,013,000,000 (approx. 9 million US dollars) to construct water facilities in Rukira Sector of Ngoma District, Murama Sector of Kayonza District, and Remera Sector of Gatsibo District.

This project consisted of construction of 4 piped water supply system and capacity building in operations and maintenance for the districts and private operators for better management of the systems.

State Minister Mrs Judith Kamayirese appreciated the cooperation of the both governments in increasing access to safe water and attaining the target of 100% access by 2020. It is expected that 33,000 people will access safe drinking water thanks to this project that started in 2016.

The Vice Mayor in charge of economic affairs in Ngoma District Manzi Theogene also mentioned the importance of this project in improving Remera Sector people's lives. "Water in this sector was a big problem because one jerrican costs 200 frw and some people couldn't afford that. We hope that with this project completed water borne diseases will be reduced and children can focus more on their studies than spending time in fetching water" he added.

In his speech, Hon. Asahiro Mihara said that it's a pleasure for them to visit Rwanda and watch the tremendous socio-economic development the country has registered in various areas. "Japan pledges to continue the support to your country to improve people's lives."

In their speeches all the guests mentioned that the facilities should be well maintained by the beneficiaries, the districts, private operators, and communities, to make them sustainable in the future.

This is the third phase of the serial Project of Rural Water Supply in the Eastern Province. The First phase completed in March 2008, allowed 43,000 people to have the access to safe water in the districts of Ngoma, Kayonza and Rwamagana. The Second phase completed in July 2013, allowed 55,000 people to have the access to clean water in the districts of Ngoma and Kirehe.

In total, more than 131,000 people are benefiting from the entire project and it has contributed to increase water access rate in the Eastern Province from 57.7% in 2006 to 80.6% in 2014 according to EICV4.

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# Project News

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## ICT capacity development project launched

*More opportunity for youth to start ICT businesses*



Youth will be the beneficiaries of this project

Kobe City, where is the sixth largest city in Japan, and Kobe Institute of Computing (KIC) with the Rwanda Private Sector Federation ICT Chamber launched a new project aiming to open up more opportunities for Rwandan youth who already had studied basic skills in ICT and wants to launch ICT businesses under support of JICA. The launching was held on 28th September 2017.

This project is one of the results of partnership between Kobe and Rwanda. In 2016, Kobe City had signed Joint Declaration of Partnership with Kigali City in terms of encouraging collaboration and exchanges of business, academic, public sectors. The partnership framework will contribute the prosperity of both cities and countries starting from this project. Moreover, KIC has received the largest number of Rwandan students at its master course, through the

Africa Business Education Initiative for youth (also known as the ABE Initiative) under JICA. They currently accepted 23 out of 39 students to their course.

“The ICT Human Resource Development Project” is a two year project which will provide quality training in areas such as the problem solving method (called “Tankyu Practice”) and IoT to 45 young people for six months. The training is expected to increase their employability and development of competency on starting up their own business. Some of the trainers of the project are graduate students of KIC, who finished the master course under ABE initiative and are back to Rwanda. They are very appropriate trainers for the project as they have high level practical skills obtained in Japan and also they are familiar with the actual situation and demand of Rwandan ICT industry.

Also, the project gives opportunities to connect the trainees with potential business partners from Japan and those already operating in Rwanda. It is expect this project will work hand in hand with other projects JICA implements and will generate a synergy to have bigger and long-lasting impacts on Rwanda’s ICT human resources and the ICT sector in general.

### SUPPORTING RWANDA AS AN INNOVATION POWERHOUSE OF AFRICA

## New ICT Project signed to start

On July 26th 2017, JICA signed a Record of Discussions with Ministry of ICT for the ICT Innovation Ecosystem Strengthening Project.

The project will provide technical support to make the innovation ecosystem in Rwanda systematically enhanced to supplement the realization of Smart Rwanda Master Plan. It is planned to achieve the target by enhancing the organic linkage among the relevant authorities with a diverse range of newly participating members from Rwanda and other countries, such as ICT companies, investors and educational institutions. More precisely, the major activities are; (1) the promotion of creative ICT applications in the ICT and

other sectors primarily through private enterprise; (2) the improvement of the policy framework for starting businesses and promoting innovation in the ICT field; (3) strengthening relationships between Rwanda and Japanese companies pertaining to ICT; and (4) strengthening the ability to communicate about creative ICT applications within and outside of Rwanda. It will start by the end of the year 2017 for three years.

In the ICT field, JICA had dispatched advisors for support with ICT policies, established incubation spaces (K-lab and FabLab) and strengthened partnerships with Japanese companies.●

## JICA IN THE MEDIA

Rwanda, JICA sign deal to improve coffee value chain

**The New Times**

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

New water facilities to serve 33,000 people in Eastern Province

**The New Times**

20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

How Japan, Rwanda partnership is boosting youth entrepreneurship

**The New Times**

20<sup>th</sup> August 2017

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

Launching of ICT capacity Development Project with KIC

Umuco Mwiza School under Think About Education in Rwanda NGO organized Japanese sport festival ‘undokai’

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

Coffee Mission led by Coffee Expert Kawashima launch Mibiziri Coffee farm

### NOVEMBER

JAAR will conduct a community activity of planting trees in Gahanga sector for the 7th time

JAAR will conduct workshop on agricultural mechanization and post-harvest program

Launching for reconstruction of Kayonza Rusumo road Project with AfDB

### DECEMBER

ICT Ecosystem Strengthening Project Kick-off

# JICA Volunteers stories

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## JICA Volunteers support Coffee sector

### Nishigaki tells the life in a coffee washing station



Nishigaki at the coffee washing station

April through June 2017, I experienced the first coffee harvest season in Kayonza District in Eastern Province. This is one of the only two seasons I can experience during my two-year assignment. Foreseeing rooms for an improvement in the next season, I worked with seasonal workers of women villagers at the nearest Coffee Washing Station in the district office where I work in. I would share how life looks like during the season.

Workers' day starts early, at seven in the morning. They put washed and water contained heavy beans into tubs and carry them on their heads to a roofed table for hand sorting.

They carry out the first hand sorting while beans are wet and colored so that it is easier to sort by the quality. Later, the beans are dried on a table called African bed and they are mixed by hands many times in a day in order to dry large quantity of beans evenly (and beans underneath feel cool and nice at my hands).

If sunshine is too strong or it rains, workers cover the beans with a plastic sheet and tie it together with the bed by strings so it will not be blown away by the wind. This process is also taken place repeatedly in a day. They spend most of the day hand sorting under the strong sunshine with lunch break for 90 minutes from noon. They go home walking for 20-30 minutes to take lunch prepared by their families and they breastfeed their babies. Surprisingly, most of workers are back to work on time and they work till 5 pm. During the season, cherries don't wait for being harvested.

It is also a limited opportunity for villagers to gain a good amount of money income through the year, thus they work without days off. About 90 workers hired during the busy term are cut to 40 at the end of the season.

Therefore, they work hard for being selected and for getting some bonus based on their performances. On the contrary, as it approaches the end of the season, they work less hard intending to extend working days.

There is a night shift for male workers. Cherries collected from neighboring villages during the day are washed and sorted through the night. Thus, there is a simple accommodation to rest. The wage is 1,000RWF for the day shift and 1,500RWF for the night shift. This coffee washing station bought cherries by 270RWF/kg from farmers and bought about 250,000kg through the season.

Honestly, I feel their hard work should be rewarded more as the coffee industry growing in Rwanda. I will start by what I can do; I am at least going to suggest the manager some alternative ideas for what I felt to be improved while I worked in the coffee washing station with the workers, wishing I can be of a little help to improve the work environment. ●

## TCT presents project achievements



As the Project for strengthening the capacity of Tumba College of Technology (TCT) Phase II is approaching the end, TCT presented the project achievements to the keys stakeholders.

This 4-year project is a second phase and aimed to transform TCT into a model Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution that provide the Rwandan Government with effective approaches for improving TVET sector.

The main achievements are these:

- Good practices such as the production unit management and operation guidelines is formulated and implemented by TCT in its regular activities;
- Good practices are shared with Workforce Development Agency (WDA);
  - Employment rate after two years of graduation is more than 75% and;
  - Employers satisfaction rate of TCT graduates over one year of employment is more than 85%.

Continuous capacity development system for the provision of practical technical education, improving the mechanism of school management as well as sharing the good practices with other TVET institutions are the key outputs of this project to achieve the main goal.

The Joint Coordinating Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September agreed an extension of 8 months to complete all project activities.

JICA has been supporting TCT since 2007 and the first phase focused on provision of training equipment, dispatch of Japanese experts to train the teaching and administrative staff and a series of training for capacity building. Also the TCT was equipped with:

- Fully fledged laboratories and workshops
- Internal Fiber backbone
- Solar energy park
- Biomass lab with modern testing tools
- Liaisons Training centers
- Students' career support center.

# Regional News

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## Young Rwandan talents study in Japan

### 13 Rwandese selected to attend master's course under ABE



JICA has provided the scholarship program to youth to attend Master's course and internship opportunity under Africa Business for Education (ABE) Initiative Program. The send-off ceremony for fourth batch was held in late August and attended by the Ambassador of Japan in Rwanda Miyashita Takayuki, the Director of High Education Council Dr. Emmanuel Muvunyi, before the selected young talents fly to Japan to join other ABE students from across Africa.

Dr. Muvunyi told the participants of the program that the country expects a lot from them. "You are the ambassadors of Rwanda. Go, learn, and come back to contribute to the development of your country as Japan is developed." He mentioned. He also appreciated the existing cooperation

between Japan and Rwanda especially in education sector.

The JICA Alumni Association of Rwanda (JAAR) President also commended the students to come back with a big package to share with those who didn't get the same chance. Christa Munezero, ABE first batch graduate also shared her experience in Japan and assured her colleagues that the life in Japan is exciting and full of discoveries and skills. "Go, learn and work hard to become the best engineers the country can have and let it be proud of you". She commended.

Hugo Kamanayo who spoke on behalf of all the prospected students said they don't take this opportunity for granted and promised that they would maximize it. "We know that Japan is developed country and has the best education system especially in technology so we will learn and acquire enough that will contribute to our country".

JICA Chief Representative also congratulated the successful students and urged them to become good ambassadors who will attract many Japanese companies to invest and do business

in Rwanda.

These thirteen students are added to other 26 Rwandans who were granted the same scholarship in the previous three batches. The graduates from first batch have recently graduated and returned to Rwanda.

ABE initiative is one of the core commitments in Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD V) held in Yokohama in 2013 and was introduced 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 plan has been extended beyond 5 years in TICAD VI in 2016.

Through the ABE Initiative, the interest from Japanese private sector to Rwanda is growing rapidly. The fifth batch of ABE Initiative Program 2018 enrollment was opened from beginning of September and closed on 13th October 2017. ●

## Distance education and teacher's training in Africa

The fifth meeting of Distance education and teacher's training in Africa (DETA) was held from 21st to 25th August 2017 in Kigali.

The initiative was launched first in 2013 in Kenya during African Deans of Education Forum with the purpose to facilitate dialogue on critical issues in teachers' education among the leadership of African faculties of Education.

JICA as a long partner in education sector in different African countries participated in this conference and shared its approach in supporting teachers' capacity development. Shuhei Saikawa, Education program formulation advisor in JICA Rwanda Office presented on 'Ensuring quality education for development'. The discussion turned around issues that need to be considered such as

involving the local government through districts' performance contracts and development plans.

Also JICA experts with the counterpart from Rwanda Education Board (REB) shared the experience of implementation of competence-based curriculum in Rwanda, the case of Mathematics. This is a part of the achievement of the Project to Support Institutionalizing and Improving Quality of SBI (SIIQS) started from January 2017.

The 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.

## 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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