

JICA RWANDA News

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Japanese sports festival undo-kai

Inauguration of Umuco Mwiza School playground



Children running at the relay race on Undokai

“I wish to see one of the children taking part in the next Tokyo Olympic Games,” says Mrs. Towari Marie Louise cheering on the children at the Japanese style sports festival known as “Undo-kai” at Umuco Mwiza School. The festival was held on 9th October 2017 at the school’s new playground in Kimironko.

Mrs. Towari Marie Louise, who is the founder of an organization Think about Education in Rwanda (TER) in Japan, cherished her longtime dream of bringing Undo-kai in Rwanda. She has believed the event can get the children to be more interested in exercise, can teach them about teamwork, as well as give them a sense of responsibility and solidarity through team competition. She shared this dream to Mr. Yuki Okamoto, a renowned Japanese foreign policy expert and Special Advisor for JICA president, when he visited the school in March, 2017. Deeply impressed by her vision, the school’s music and arts activities, and homey and peaceful atmosphere, Mr. Okamoto took action to realize her dream. He immediately proposed personal contribution of 5,000 USD to start up the preparation of playground. He also put a great effort to find the contribution from NTT Docomo, the largest telecommunications Company in Japan, with the amount of 23,000USD to finish the whole work. Thus, the playground was developed by the goodwill from Japan.

The inauguration and the very first Undo-kai in Rwanda was held on the Japanese Sports Day commemorating the support from Japan. In October 1964, Tokyo

Olympic Games was held in Japan. Since then, every 2nd Monday of October was designated as sports day to commemorate Tokyo Olympic Games. Moreover, 2nd Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic will be held in July-September 2020.

The day was marked by a competition between classes in different sports such as relay race, treasure hunting splint, long rope jumping, dancing and so on. The ambassador of Japan to Rwanda Takayuki Miyashita, JICA Chief Representative Hiroyuki Takada and other Japanese attended and supported this event. The ambassador commended this initiative, “I hope the inaugurated playground will help children develop their skills and confidence in competition.”

The Kimironko sector representatives who were also present at the event appreciated the sport festival initiative and construction of new playground in addition to the support provided by JICA and TER to Umuco Mwiza School in improving primary mathematic education and promised that they will work hand in hand to achieve it.

Under the JICA Partnership Program, TER started the “Project for Improving Mathematics Education in Primary Schools in Kimironko Sector” in November 2016. This 2.5years project supports Umuco Mwiza School as a pilot school to improve mathematics education through introduction of the continuous process of Japanese teacher’s capacity development. The project will share the good practices and experiences with other primary schools in Kimironko sector, thereby 240 teachers are expected to benefit from this support. •

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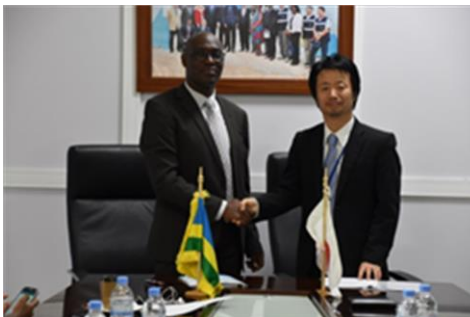


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Project for Water Supply Master Plan for Kigali City



WASAC CEO and JICA Senior Representative after signing

Kigali on 5th December 2017, WASAC CEO and JICA Senior Representative signed a Record of Discussion for the Technical Cooperation Project for Water Supply Master Plan for City of Kigali. After the request from the Government of Rwanda to develop a Water Supply Master Plan for the City of Kigali, JICA held series of discussions with the counterpart to agree on the project implementation including the detailed plan. Both sides concluded their discussions by signing the Record of Discussions.

The Project will produce Water Supply Master Plan which consists of the Master Scenario and the Investment Plan. It will be also conducted feasibility study of prioritized projects from the long list of necessary projects proposed in the Investment Plan. This Water Supply Master Plan for City of Kigali will be combined with the National Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan which will be supported by the African Development Bank.

The project of Water Supply Master Plan is within the framework of cooperation between JICA and the Government of Rwanda through WASAC in urban area. JICA also supports water supply in Kigali through "Project for Strengthening Non-Revenue Water Control in Kigali City Water Network", a 3-years project which started in August 2016. It will enable the enhancement of WASAC's capacity to conduct non-revenue water reduction measures as planned for Kigali city. ●

COFFEE UPGRADE & PROMOTION PROJECT (CUP RWANDA)

First JCC discusses project progress

CUP Rwanda (Coffee Upgrade and promotion) project held its 1st Joint Coordination Committee in mid-November 2017. Following the launch early this year, the 1st JCC provided a good opportunity to share progress made within a few months of implementation. Around 20 stakeholders including Mr. Suzuki Kazuya, Deputy Director General in charge of Agriculture sector from JICA HQs and Mrs. Urujeni Sandrine Deputy CEO of NAEB as well as Coffee expert Mr. Jose Kawashima among others attended the meeting.

One of the highlight of the meeting was the feedback session of visit to Hawaii study tour for learning advanced activities of Kona Coffee in Hawaii. Kona Coffee is one of high-end coffee in international market and it has similarities with Rwandan coffee in terms of field scale, historical background and geographical conditions. Thus the site was selected to inspire Rwandan coffee sector by inviting three representatives from NAEB and CEPAR (Coffee Processing and Export Association) to the visit. They shared the labor productivity of Kona coffee farmers as the lessons learnt from the visit. One person is able to harvest 250 Kg per day and two to

three staffs run a coffee washing station; on the other hand, a station is operated by more than a hundred people in Rwanda. The productivity of farm is also very high, 20 Kg per tree compared to 3 to 5 kg in Rwandan case. Most importantly Kona coffee has boosted coffee tourism. They register more than a million tourists per a year.

Given the smallholding nature of coffee farm in Rwanda, increasing productivity and diversification of income generation activities from coffee such as coffee tour experiences would be the right way to go, by learning from Kona coffee's experience which used to be in the same situation as Rwanda 40 years ago. It requires more efforts and dedication from coffee farmers and other stakeholders on value chain. JCC members also discussed ongoing matters such as conservation of an indigenous coffee variety called Bourbon Mibirizi and establishing a coffee stakeholder platform for information sharing along the value chain as well as how the project could contribute to the quality and marketing of Rwandan coffee. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Sustainable Development Goals Center, JICA sign cooperation deal

The New Times

25th October 2017

Stakeholders chart ways to accelerate broadband rollout

The New Times

17th November 2017

New coffee plantations to benefit about 6,000 farmers, says NAEB

The New Times

29th December 2017

CALENDAR

JANUARY

Arrival of six new volunteers to Rwanda making a total of 22 volunteers in Rwanda

National District Continuous Committee Forum by SIIQS project

FEBRUARY

Official launching ceremony of Rusumo-Kayonza Road Improvement Project

Reporting session of ABE 1st Batch graduates under JAAR

Karate Ambassador's Cup organized by EoJ

MARCH

Four candidates from Education sector accepted for Masters' course will leave Rwanda to Japan

JICA & MINAGRI organize 'Improved rice seeds working week 2' under CARD initiative

SDGC/A Conference on strengthening African Health systems

Arrival of eight new volunteers to Rwanda making a total of 28 volunteers in Rwanda

JICA Volunteers stories

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School Club Festival attracts a crowd

JICA Volunteer teaches hygiene through entertainment



In September, JICA Volunteer Takeda Norihiro organized a school club festival to teach hygiene to the community and offer to students the opportunity to show achievements in their respective clubs.

Primary and secondary schools students, some people in Musha sector were present the festival and school clubs namely hygiene, sport, dance and drama as well as JICA Volunteers participated in different performances. The total number of participants was exceeding 400.

“I believe that the process preparing and performing for this event improved students’ curiosity and

confidence. It also became an opportunity for the community to be a little bit entertained and have simply fun” said Norihiro.

Norihiro who was joined by his fellow volunteers in preparation said that one of the lessons he learnt out of this is the importance of involving all community levels such as health centers and sectors leadership to reach out a bigger number of people.

Students from the clubs expressed how they enjoyed participating in the festival. “It was exciting to perform in front of a lot of people,” one student of hygiene club, Rusisiro primary school said. “I got nervous but I could enjoy my performance”, another student of karate club, Rusisiro primary school mentioned. “I hope we can have this event regularly from next year too,” Tuseme club student also said.

The festival was successfully held and enhanced the connection of people within the community. Through songs, poems and drama, villagers’

mindset on the importance of hygiene has improved and they started to take actions. The festival gave an opportunity to students to perform so that they can raise their confidence and creativity as well as mobilizing the community in a creative way.

Takeda Norihiro has spent two years in Rwamagana District as a volunteer. “I successfully created hygiene club in the primary school and organized this event for people in the community which turned to be a big achievement for me. I believe the community’s awareness for hygiene has been raised steadily in the last two years through the activities I organized”.



MEET JICA RWANDA OFFICE NEW STAFFS



Mr. Hishida Osamu joined JICA Volunteer Coordination Program at JICA Rwanda in August, 2017. Since 1999, he had worked as a Volunteer Coordinator at Poland, Jordan and Solomon Islands.

Previously he had been in different African countries such as Tanzania, Kenya & Ghana as a researcher in the Genetics

field. He said that finding a job in Rwanda was good news to him because he didn’t get the chance to come back to Africa despite of his past study in Africa. “So I am very happy that JICA gave me this opportunity to come back to Africa,” Hishida said.

Mr. Hishida wishes that at the end of his mission in Rwanda, he will have contributed to making JICA volunteers to be grassroots ambassador, and make good relations with Rwanda for lifetime. ●



Mr. Furukawa Masayuki is the Program Manager in charge of ICT and coffee projects. He had worked for Japanese ICT Company before joining JICA where he had a chance to join JICA volunteers program as ICT lecturer in Vocational Training Institute in Sri Lanka from 2007 to 2009.

After his experience as a JICA volunteer, he worked in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam as a brunch business development director in the previous company.

“This is my first country to work and stay in African continent”, Furukawa said.

“Rwanda has successfully established its position as ‘the ICT enabled nation’ in Africa. I would like to contribute further to strengthen the position and development of Rwanda through the experience I got from Asia and Japan”. Mr. Furukawa added.

“Rwanda is clean, good climate and safe. I am enjoying atmosphere, food, life and work. I cannot wait welcoming my wife and kids to Rwanda, hopefully from next May. I would like my kids to experience cultural exchange with Rwandan kids,” Mr. Furukawa said smiling. ●

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JICA Ex-Trainees share their experience on mechanization and post-harvest handling

JICA Alumni Association of Rwanda (JAAR) held a workshop on promotion of agriculture mechanization and post-harvest handling, storage and agro-processing technology. JAAR is committed to sensitize agriculture mechanization as one of the means to enhance productivity of human labor in farming and off-farm activities that need to be promoted and strengthened to foster the government target of increasing agriculture productivity through it.

It is in this regard that JAAR organized this workshop to provide innovative technical assistance in agriculture mechanization and post-harvest handling, storage and agro-processing technology to Rwandan farmers. The workshop aims to train 50 farmers from across the country and JAAR provides the trainings as the implementation body of Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) to promote mechanization. JAAR members have skills and knowledge from the long term master's program and short term trainings offered by JICA.

JAAR has already signed an agreement with RAB to contribute on

mechanization and post-harvest program with skills and knowledge acquired from Japan.

The workshop had a fruitful discussion and JAAR in collaboration with RAB committed to conduct the mechanization campaign to farmers as well as avail the machines on market so that farmers who need them can easily access and buy them.

The provided training by JICA has contributed with tremendous effect in Agricultural Mechanization and post-harvest by:

- Upgrading technical level of different Public and Private employees
- Upgrading local artisan's skills and knowledge on farm machinery making
- Upgrading Farm machinery operator skills and knowledge

Ambassador of Japan in Rwanda Miyashita Takayuki, JICA Chief Representative Takada Hiroyuki and Head of Department, Irrigation and Mechanization in RAB Nzeyimana Innocent who attended the workshop all commended

the efforts done by JAAR in sharing the knowledge they got from Japan.

JAAR members in agriculture sector also train farmers on the use of different agricultural machinery like threshers, winnowers, use of tractors and other power units, maintaining of different agricultural machinery throughout the country. Also they are involved in teaching in higher learning institutions. One of them trained around 200 undergraduate students in 5 years on Design, Development and Performance Evaluation of various low cost agricultural machinery using locally available materials in our country. ●



Forum to discuss internet governance was held

The Rwanda Internet Governance Forum was held on 16th Nov 2017. The Forum was organised under the theme, "Broadband as a Utility," and brought internet society players, including service providers, regulators, and government officials together. JICA was one of the sponsors of this event as one of the major ICT for development stakeholders in Rwanda. It was an opportunity to introduce the new "ICT Innovation Ecosystem Strengthening Project" to ICT related stakeholders in Rwanda broadly.

Participants said broadband has reached a stage where it is looked at as a utility, given its increasingly unique application in business and employment, civil engagement as well as social interaction.

The chief advisor of the JICA project, Mr. Yamanaka Atsushi made a key note and stated the importance which would be vital for realisation of a knowledge-driven economy only if reliability and affordability were considered.

Ghislain Nkeramugaba, the CEO of Rwanda Information and Communication Technology Association (RICTA), the organiser of the forum, said the idea to hold this forum was to create more awareness and enhance partnerships. "The forum has been facilitating the creation of solutions and has strengthened partnerships among stakeholders. Broadband is critical and this is why we placed focus on it," he noted. ●

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.