

JICA RWANDA News

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Transform Africa Summit 2018

*Japan Pavilion strengthened partnership
With Japan and Africa*

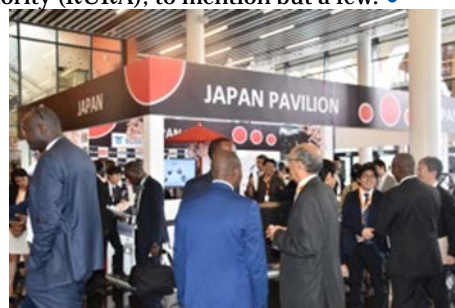


*H.E. Paul Kagame shaking hands with the Japanese delegation led by
The Japanese Vice Minister Mr. Masahiko Tominaga (right).*

Transform Africa Summit 2018 (TAS 2018) was held from 8th to 9th of May at Kigali Convention Center under a theme of “ACCELERATING AFRICA’S SINGLE DIGITAL MARKET”. It was indeed broader and smarter as Dr. Toure, Executive Director of Smart Africa, said. TAS is targeting for not only Rwandans but also the whole African continent since this summit brought together innovators and ICT experts from all over the continent and beyond. TAS 2018 attracted more than 4,300 people across the continent successfully.

This year’s summit was characterized by significant Japanese contribution. A Japanese delegation headed by the Vice Minister of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Mr. Masahiko Tominaga, hosted the “Japan Pavilion” in which 24 Japanese companies/organizations showcased their cutting edge technologies. The largest number of Japanese participant in the past TAS, more than 100 in total, was in the summit this year. The Japan Pavilion exhibitors were honored by His Excellency Paul Kagame’s visit to the pavilion where he was explained the contribution of Japan through JICA to the development of ICT sector and the collaboration between the Japanese private companies and the ICT chamber. The Senior Vice President of JICA, Mr. Hiroshi Kato, also graced the summit. He shared JICA’s expertise during the panel discussion “the Innova-

tion for Digital Health” and stressed the importance of nurturing several layers of ecosystems toward the achievement of SDGs. TAS 2018 also catalyzed a number of cooperation and partnership agreements signed between both Governments and private sector. Among those, the Memorandum of cooperation to exchange the technology expertise was signed between The Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications (MITEC) and the Government of Japan through the MIC. Also, the agreement for cooperation and training of space engineers across the continent was signed among University of Tokyo, Smart Africa and The Government of Rwanda through the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), to mention but a few. ●



INSIDE PAGES

Regional Integration:
Ngoma-Ramiro Road



Signing ceremony

Water Supply: 5
Years Strategic Plan



*JICA Expert training
WASAC staff members*

The 250 Startup
Initiative

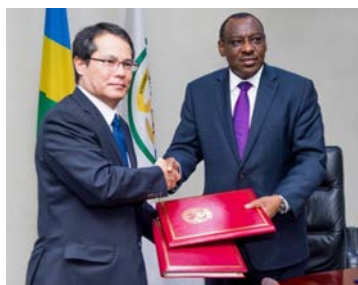


Training for Startup 250

Meet JICA
Rwanda Office
New Staffs



JICA's New Contribution for Regional Integration: *The Transnational Ngoma-Ramiro Road*



The Minister of Economic Planning and JICA Chief Representative after signing

A 7.67 billion yen (around 68 million USD) loan agreement has been signed between Mr. Hiroyuki Takada, Chief Representative of JICA Rwanda Office and Honorable Amb. Claver Gatete, the then Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, on 22nd March 2018. The agreement will secure funds destined to pave and upgrade The National Road Six. This road is of regional importance since it goes from the Tanzanian boarder to the D.R. Congo passing by the Burundian boarder.

Speaking to the media after the signing,

Amb. Claver Gatete stated: "This support is of immense value as it will contribute to easing cross border trade especially given the fact that it would connect the central corridor to the northern corridor."

Mr. Takada said "Regional integration in Africa is one of the priority areas of Japan. The efficiency on the border post such as time required for clearing vehicles or goods has been drastically reduced."

The road is expected to function as a bypass and main road for transport of goods from Dar Es Salaam Port to Kigali, supplementing the congested National Road 4. Since the new Bugesera International Airport under construction is located in the area, this project has an enormous synergy effect on further economic development in Rwanda. The construction by the project will be completed in February 2020. ●

JICA-WASAC Partnership for Sustainable Water



A JICA expert conducting a training for WASAC STAFF.

Sustainable water supply is the foundation of people's better life and country's growth. Non-Revenue Water (NRW) makes up one of the challenge to achieve it. NRW is the water that has been produced but not billed to the customer due to water leakage, metering inaccuracies, errors in data management and etc.. Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) Ltd. has put its maximum effort to attain sustainability, and started "Project for Strengthening Non-Revenue Water Control in Kigali City Water Network" with JICA from 2016. As the key activity in the technical co-operation project, WASAC developed "five years strategic plan for non-revenue water reduction". The plan was officially approved by the board of WASAC in April 2018. At the

same time, the dissemination and necessary training to WASAC staffs are underway.

NRW reduction is a collective effort from the top management to the branch staffs cutting across whole the organization. The measures for NRW prevention and reduction have variety. Therefore, the project conducts trainings to the various layers in WASAC in various ways. Especially, it focuses on, as is common in JICA's support, hands-on skills. The expert team for the project consists of the professionals experienced in overseas and Japanese water supply operations and projects as consultant, local and central government, and water utility. Their considerable experience enables the hands-on trainings.

NRW rate in Kigali was 41 % at the time the project started. Currently, WASAC aims to reduce it to 25% by 2022. The project will contribute WASAC attaining the goal and their journey is still on the way. ●

JICA IN THE MEDIA

Taarifa:
A Dozen Japanese Tech Firms to Attend Transform Africa Summit. 5th May 2018

The New Times:
Rwanda, Japan Sign Deal to Share Technology Expertise. 9th May 2018

The New Times:
African countries have the resources to finance their development – JICA chief 21st May 2018

CALENDAR

JULY

JICA Rwanda office will be participating in National Agriculture Show through its sponsored projects and Japanese companies

Official welcome to New Volunteers

Inauguration ceremony for Ngoma 22 irrigation scheme.

AUGUST

JICA sponsored Integrated Polytechnic Regional Center of Tumba (IPRC)'s 10 year anniversary.

ABE initiative 6th batch sendoff ceremony

National Barista Championship by CUP project

Cup of Excellence supported by CUP project

SEPTEMBER

Joint Coordination Committee for ICT Innovation Ecosystem Project

Pitching for Success: The Official Launch of 250 Startups Initiative at Transform Africa Summit



Winners of Startup250 companies after the pitching session at TAS2018

Rwanda's ICT sector industrial association, PSF ICT Chamber, has taken a leading role in realization of the country's ICT led development with JICA's support through GoR from its beginning. The partnership among GoR, ICT chamber and JICA entered new chapter last year when

the new "ICT Innovation Ecosystem Strengthening Project" has started. The project aims to enhance the previous support in ICT sector to create conducive and innovation emerging ecosystem in Rwanda through capacity development, business promotion between two countries, and promoting Rwanda as ICT hub in Africa.

"Startup 250" is the strategic initiative of ICT chamber to achieve its to help create 100 technology companies with valuation exceeding US\$ 50 million by 2025. Acquiring full support from the project, the initiative is planned to create an appropriate and effective mechanism to foster technology start-ups with an initial result of creating at least 250 technology start-ups. Some of the start-ups are expected to grow at the value of exceeding 50 million USD in the fostering environment which ICT partners are developing.

The initiative was kicked off at the occasion of Transform Africa Summit 2018 by the pitching event to select first 5 tech start-ups which would undergo specialized incubation support to grow into next level of competent and competitive companies. Total 10 start-ups are under the support from Startup 250 from June, 2018. ●



MEET JICA RWANDA OFFICE NEW STAFF



Mr. Virgile KWIZERA joined JICA Rwanda Office in March 2018; he serves as the Water and Sanitation program officer.

He served as a Program Officer in Water Sanitation and Hygiene in with Solidarités International in Central Africa Republic. He had previously worked in West Africa Water Sanitation and Hygiene Program in USAID (Burkina Faso) as an intern.

For Virgile, JICA is a better way to serve. He said "I wanted an opportunity to serve using learned skills

to develop my country. JICA was an open gate as I get an exposure to projects that match my professional field and which are vital to my country."

With regards to what impressed him at JICA, with a smile on his face, Virgile said "The Japanese are highly professional and the environment is really conducive." ●



Mr. Furukawa NORIHIDE started working at JICA Rwanda Office in April 2018. He had previously worked as a JICA project formulation advisor in Education Sector in Malawi. Holding the same position for JICA Rwanda, Furukawa, who is an anthropologist, believes that his love for people and interest in different cultures will serve to help JICA conceptualize what the agency can do in education.

He commended Rwanda's efforts in development "The government has a strong political will to move

things forward. There is a genuine interest in growth in Rwanda. I look forward to being part of that collective effort to develop Rwanda." He enjoys being in the country already but finds the weather tricky since it has unexpected ups and downs. "Sometimes, it is warm and all of sudden it turns to become cold" he said. ●



Mr. Aimable UWIMANA had previously worked as a Public Relations officer at the Parliament of Rwanda before joining JICA in April 2018. For him, the new job offered new horizons "Since I had worked in a public institution, I felt that a shift to an international cooperation agency would be a vital move." He stated.

He is fascinated by Japan's journey to development. He said "From my history class, I still remember that Japan emerged due to a hard working leader-

ship. Japan is one of the world's most technologically advanced countries. Working with people from that country, is a plus." Apart from that he believes that facilitating a development agency in his home country is rendering a better service to his nation. ●

A New Page in Rwanda's Agri-Business: *JICA exhibited its contribution through innovative activities*



Hon. Dr. Geraldine Mukeshimana and H.E. Takayuki MIYASHITA (left) at a Gentian flower stand.

The contribution of JICA to the 13th National Agriculture Show (AGRISHOW) reveals itself to be a turning point in Rwanda's business in Agriculture Sector. Entitled "Invest in innovations and Agribusiness to Transform Agriculture", this year's edition has known a significant contribution of JICA's projects, NGOs and Japanese Companies. The Japanese private partners of

JICA present at the exhibition were Rwanda Nuts, Bloom Hills Rwanda and Organic Solutions Rwanda, working on macadamia nuts, flowers and organic solution products respectively. While Gentian flowers bring their contribution to Rwandan economy through exports, macadamia nuts production brings a different coloring to exports and local consumption.

JICA's innovative approach aims to lead successful agri-business by enhancing market-oriented mindset and skills among small-holders, and improve value chain. JICA's projects present to the exhibition include SMAP (Smallholder Market Oriented Agriculture Project) which enhance market oriented agriculture with Rwanda Agriculture Board, and CUP Rwanda (Coffee Upgrade and Promotion Project) which works at improving whole coffee value chain with the Na-

tional Agriculture Export Development Board. The JICA Alumni Association of Rwandan (JAAR), a platform NGO for ex-trainees who had trainings or studied in Japan under JICA also significantly contributed to the exhibition. At their stand, they explained the function of their threshing machine designed to speed up the harvest process replacing traditional manual bats.

JICA booths were honored by the visit of the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Dr. Geraldine MUKESHIMANA and Japanese Ambassador to Rwanda H.E. Takayuki MIYASHITA. She showed high expectation to JAAR's machines and inquired of the marketability of various products, a question to which one of the farmers responded "We study the market demand and grow according to the needs. Thus spared of any losses of our production". ●

Volunteers' Corner:

Misaki's Story: When Foreign Becomes Familiar



Misaki making soap with local entrepreneurship club students.

Slight changes of the climate are telling me that two months have already passed since I arrived in Rwanda. Having grown up in relatively countryside, I instantly felt in love with many similarities Rwamagana has with my hometown; closeness and kindness of people, locally-grown fresh vegetables and fruits, and relaxedness of the whole town. I

now see why this town fits me better than the busy capital.

I love how each day starts and ends with small conversations with locals and daily explorations to different places to find something new. The People, to whom I always say hi, teach me not only the language but many things about the culture, histories and people of Rwanda. I am very grateful for such encounters I have had so far.

With regards to my employment status, I started my voluntary service as English teach for adult Rwandans at a small community center. I also visit schools to work with hygiene clubs. Education and children are something I have always been passionate about. I strongly believe that all fields of development are essentially connected and what I just started indirectly will expand my future work in water and sanitation sector. ●

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.