

JICA RWANDA News

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After The Inauguration Of 17.6 Bn. Francs Substation, A New One Will Be Started.



Officials at the newly inaugurated substation

Kigali Special Economic Zone (Gasabo District) is now equipped with a new \$ 20 million (Rwf17.6 billion) power substation. It was constructed under the financial assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Hon. Germaine KAMAYIRESE, Minister of State in charge of Energy, Water and Sanitation in Ministry of Infrastructure, His Excellency Mr. Takayuki MIYASHITA, Ambassador of Japan to Rwanda, and Mr. Hiroyuki TAKADA, Chief Representative of JICA Rwanda, attended the completion ceremony. Also the Parliamentary Delegation of the House of Councilors of Japan visiting Rwanda attended the event.

The event also marked the completion of the Grant Aid Project for Improvement of Substations and Distribution Network Phase II. Apart from the new 110/15 kilo-volts substation, its accomplishments comprise two switching stations as well as 110 kilo-volts transmission lines and 15 kilo-volts distribution lines at Mulindi and Kabuga. It will play a pivotal role in stabilizing power and reducing electricity losses in Kigali City and neighboring areas.

During the completion ceremony of phase two, Hon. Kamayirese noted that on 20th September 2018, The Government of Rwanda and JICA signed a \$23.653 million (Rwf20 Billion), additional financing agreement for the phase III of the

same project. "This shows a commitment and continuous supports of the Government of Japan: Having stable power is a prerequisite for foreign direct investment".

As mentioned above on 20th September, H.E. Mr. Takayuki MIYASHITA, Ambassador of Japan to Rwanda, and Mr. Hiroyuki TAKADA, Chief Representative of JICA Rwanda office, signed the Exchange of Notes (E/N) and Grant Agreement (G/A) respectively with Hon. Dr. Uzziel NDAGIJIMANA, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Rwanda, to provide grant aid up to \$23.653 million (Rwf20 Billion), for the third phase of the said project.

This 3rd phase will strengthen the capacity to avoid the risk of a large-scale power outage by enabling a stable supply of power. It will also improve the electrification rate in Kigali, with expected positive impact not only on the economy but also on education, health and well-being of the population. The actual scope will include a new substation in Gasogi which will be equipped with a 110kV transmission line and 15kV distribution lines and upgrading and rehabilitation of proposed distribution systems for increasing the capacity of distribution system. •

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“Whether It Rains or Not We Will Harvest” Declares Minister Nsengimana As He launches A 300 Hectares Irrigation Scheme In Ngoma



The State Minister and the Ambassador of Japan (center)

A 300 hectares command irrigation scheme has been launched in Ngoma District. The scheme is expected to irrigate an area of 265 hectares of hillside and 35 hectares of marshland farming area. The beneficiaries are farmers of Rurenge and Remera Sectors in Ngoma District. Various people interviewed by the media, expressed their gratitude and strongly affirmed that the project is of a high value since it is a lasting response to the drought they face. “This is development in action and we are looking forward to benefit from it” stated Christine, one of the local farmers. State Minister in Charge of Agriculture, Dr.

Fulgence NSENGIYUMVA who was the guest of honor at the event, qualified it as being a very important achievement. “This is a very significant project since we are confident that whether it rains or not we will be able to harvest vegetables and fruits for internal consumption and exports.” He stated in an interview to the media.

Ambassador Takayuki MIYASHITA expressed his gladness to see the Ngoma scheme operating after more than one year’s wait, and asked to farmers to maintain the facility with care for its sustainability.

The Chief Representative of (JICA) Rwanda, Mr. Hiroyuki TAKADA expressed JICA’s continual support to Rwanda’s agriculture sector, which aligns the recently launched ‘Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA IV)’.

Through JICA, the government of Japan supported the construction of Ngoma22 irrigation scheme with a financial contribution of about \$15 million (about Rwf. 10 billion) as the Grant Aid scheme.●

The 5th Batch of ABE- Master’s Degree Programs & Internships In Japan

Three Rwandan participants from public and private sectors have been selected for the fifth batch, to attend Master’s degree programs and internships in Japan under the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative). The sendoff ceremony has taken place at Kigali Convention Centre, on August, 9th 2018. The participants are added to 39 who were granted the same scholarship under the ABE initiative in the previous four batches.

The Chief Representative of JICA Rwanda, Mr Hiroyuki TAKADA declared that “ABE initiative is one of the Japanese government’s economic cooperation modality to train African business persons and public officers, with the aim of offering great opportunities for talented Africans” he also reminded that this batch has known the most rigorous competition in the history of ABE Initiative in Rwanda.

The successful candidates expressed their joy and hopes to improving their services after their studies. Mr. James MUSHAYIJA, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, stated: “I will gain the skills and use them in our agriculture (in Rwanda). The

training course focuses on applying plant protection measures within the context of the environment and the population dynamics of pest species, for the development of agriculture.”. Mr. Oasis AGANO, who will be at Kobe institute of computing from private sector, expressed his hope in big data studies , a domain in which he said Japan is advanced and added that many Rwanda young engineers and communities will learn from his experience gotten once back”.●



ABE Alumnus explaining opportunities awaiting the new participants.

JICA IN THE MEDIA

The New Times:
Kagame Holds Talks With Japanese Investors (26th July 2018)

The New Times:
IPRC Tumba Celebrates 10th Year Anniversary and 10 Years’ Japan-Rwanda Cooperation (28th August 2018)

The New Times:
Rwf17.6 Billion Power Substation Inaugurated (28th September 2018)

Taarifa: *Japanese Firm Offers Tech-Facilitated Mathematics Education Tools In Rwanda (14th October 2018)*

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Official Welcome to New 6 Volunteers

Coffee Platform Launch

Exhibition for Youth Connect Africa Summit

NOVEMBER

Tree Planting Community Work with JICA alumni (JAAR)

Official Visit of Japanese Business Delegation to Kigali

Workshops For Water User Committees On hand Pump Repair And Management In Kayonza District

Press Tour for Coffee Pilot Firm.

DECEMBER

250 Startups Graduation Ceremony

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IPRC Tumba Celebrates 10th Anniversary



The Minister of Education and the Ambassador of Japan touring the exhibition

On the 23rd of August 2018, the JICA sponsored “Integrated Polytechnic Regional College Tumba” known as IPRC Tumba celebrated its tenth anniversary in Tumba Sector, Rulindo district. Various officials who attended the event included the Minister of Education Dr. Eugene MUTIMURA, His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan in Rwanda Mr. Takayuki MIYASHITA, and JICA’s Senior Representative, Mr. Tomonori NAGASE. The celebrations were a time to explore various achievements of IPRC Tumba. Today the College boasts of one of the highest levels of employability and student satisfaction in Rwanda. It also has become a center of various innovations in ICT,

robotics and renewable energy. Mr. NAGASE commended the college for meeting students’ satisfaction and employers’ expectations. “The employer satisfaction survey conducted in 2017 showed that 98% of the employing companies are satisfied with the performance of Tumba graduates. We should all be proud of this achievement,” he stated. He also thanked the JICA experts who implemented the project for more than a decade.

Speaking at the event, the Honorable Minister of Education Dr. Eugene MUTIMURA commended the continued progress IPRC Tumba had made. He also appreciated the strong bilateral ties between Rwanda and Japan which led to the support extended to IPRC Tumba over a decade ago and suggested its extension. “On behalf of the government of Rwanda, we are very excited for the partnership, for your support toward IPRC Tumba and education sector as a whole.” He stated.

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“On behalf of the government of Rwanda, we are very excited for the partnership, for your support toward IPRC Tumba and education sector as a whole.” He stated. IPRC Tumba has launched satellite centers in both in Kigali and Musanze with a mission to use ICT for innovation. Under the sponsorship of JICA, project which is aimed at supporting IPRC Tumba to become a center of excellence in technical education in Rwanda and the region had been established since its inauguration in 2008. The project has been very instrumental to achieving all the said new innovations through financial and technical support. ●



MEET JICA RWANDA OFFICE NEW STAFF



Mr. Koji NAKASHIMA started working with JICA Rwanda office in end-July 2018. He is a program advisor in charge of the sectors of water and sanitation, nutrition, public relations, security and procurement. He previously worked in various departments at JICA Headquarters including the Global Environment Department and Financial Cooperation Implementation Department since 2014. He was consecutively in charge

of managing Grant aid projects in the water sector implemented in West Africa (Senegal, Guinea, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, and Benin) and some parts of Asia and urban water supply projects in Asia and the Pacific.

With a master’s degree in environmental engineering and expertise in water and sanitation he has driven the concept of sustainable development in all the projects and hopes to achieve it through his service in Rwanda.

With regards to his impressions of Rwanda, he said that “Compared to other African countries I visited, Rwanda, is very organized and clean”. Before adding “Despite the dry season and high altitude, I was also captivated to find some flowers that uniquely grow in Japan during the rainy season.” ●



Mr. Eric IYAREMYE joined JICA Rwanda in September 2018 as the new Programme officer in Charge of Aid coordination. Prior to Joining JICA, he had served as Research Assistant at H2O venture Partners and recently Rwanda country Manager for Grow Movement- A UK based charity that connect SMEs in Africa to experienced business professionals Across the world for

coaching and mentorship via technology.

His encounter with JICA has been a new page his professional journey “Aid coordination position gives me more access to information from across all sectors which raise my awareness”. He is fascinated by the country’s economic progress and that way, finds it encouraging to analyzing and reporting Rwanda’s news about macroeconomics and budget or the related. Since this is his first time to work for a bilateral organization and so he looks forward to learning from experienced team members and hopefully contribute to the organization’s mission as well. ●

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Barista Championship: Rwandan Coffee Prepared With a World Champion Skill



The Barista Champion Aiden MILLER serving a brewed coffee to the Judges.

A new era has come for Rwanda coffee consumption. This is an affirmation from the Rwanda Golden Barista Champion, the world barista champion in 2011, and a coffee value chain expert. These are declarations at the end of Golden barista championship 2018. The winner of the championship Mr. Aiden MILLER, a coffee shop owner and professional barista, expressed hopes for the future of their profession in Rwanda. He also stated that coffee making skills, they learned as a key to the transformation of the industry.

“Rwandans still don’t understand types of coffee and can be confused. It is our job as baristas to welcome them and teach them about the process and let them understand that there is something more.”

Under the invitation and sponsorship of Japan International Cooperation Agency, Mr. Alejandro MENDEZ from El Salvador, a 2011 world barista champion referred the competition and had given a two days training to reinforce baristas’ skills. He confirmed the bright side of the future of coffee consumption in Rwanda “I think in a couple of years Rwanda is going to be really good in terms of baristas, coffee shops and professionals in the industry which is really good”.

Mr. Naohiro MATSUI, a chief advisor of CUP Rwanda Project who works closely with coffee farmers in the frame of JICA’s technical cooperation stated

“Coffee is not a very popular drink in Rwanda and we are doing our best to increase its popularity and consumption for the sake of higher quality of Rwandan Coffee. Massive coffee consumption in the country would be a kind of market backup for us.”

The barista championship was organized by the National Agricultural Export Development Board in partnership with Sustainable Harvest and JICA. It was aimed at promoting Rwanda coffee consumption through barista competition culture in coffee industry which is relatively new in Rwanda. ●



Solange UWINEZA, one of the Barista contestants preparing an espresso.

A Sip on KOTEMUKAMA’S Coffee Led to a Prize at Agri-Show

KOTEMUKAMA (*Koperative Terimbere Muhinzi wa Kawa Macuba*) a Coffee Promotion Cooperative’s contribution to the 13th Edition of Agriculture Show went beyond routinely exhibition by being rewarded as the best exhibitor in the category of farmers’ cooperative. This JICA sponsored cooperative demonstrated a distinction in its exhibition style by providing coffee to visitors to their stand throughout the whole exhibition period (from 26th June to the 3rd July 2018). That way, apart from exploring different coffee products and buying packaged coffee, visitors had an opportunity of tasting hot coffee instantly made by KOTEMUKAMA’S cooperative members who cultivate the coffee. The idea of preparing several kind of Rwandan coffee for visitors to taste the uniqueness of Rwanda coffee had a target. Though it was aimed at encouraging local con-

sumption (since Rwandans are not known as a coffee consumer nation), it also intended to trigger interest of coffee specialized importers. During the exhibition, a Ugandan coffee importing firm manifested its interest in KOTEMUKAMA’S coffee and decided to visit their coffee washing station in Nyamasheke district for further business dealings.

KOTEMUKAMA cooperative is one of two cooperatives supported by CUP Rwanda project (Coffee upgrade and Promotion project) implemented through National Agriculture Export Development Board. ●



People sipping coffee at KOTEMUKAMA’S stand

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.