

Date 16th July 2019

To whom it may concern,

JICA President Visit To Rwanda

From 17th to 21st July, Dr. Shinichi KITAOKA, the President of The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will be visiting Rwanda.

In January 2019, H.E Paul Kagame had a visit to Japan and met with JICA President Dr. KITAOKA where both discussed on the robust development and the achievements of Rwanda. Also during their meeting, both agreed to meet again in Rwanda and to have Dr. KITAOKA see with his own eyes the “Rwanda’s economic miracle” on the milestone year of 25th anniversary of the genocide. Also during his visit, he is expecting to meet with H.E. Paul Kagame to discuss on strengthening the ties of JICA’s cooperation to Rwanda.

It will be Dr. KITAOKA’s first visit to Rwanda as the President of JICA. In addition, it will be the fourth time for JICA President to visit since former JICA President Dr. Akihiko TANAKA visited Rwanda back in 2015, along with the visit of then President Madame Sadako OGATA back in 2008 and 2006. Dr. KITAOKA, during his visit will pay a tribute to the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis in the 25th memorial year for Rwanda. He will also visit milestone JICA’s cooperation project sites, such as k-Lab, Fab-Lab and Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Boarder Post (OSBP).

Since 2010, JICA has been working hand in hand with the Government of Rwanda in its effort to create conducive and innovation emerging ecosystem in Rwanda. JICA has contributed to found milestones of the sector such as ICT Chamber, k-Lab and Fab-Lab. After k-Lab was created in 2012, it has generated more than 250 startup companies. Now through the ICT Innovation Ecosystem Strengthening Project, JICA is supporting the “250 Startups” incubation program to come up with appropriate and workable model of incubating young startups. “250 Startups” is a strategic initiative of ICT chamber to achieve its goals to help create 100 technology companies with valuation exceeding US\$ 50 million by 2025.

Also during the visit of k-Lab, Dr. KITAOKA will meet with ABE (African Business Education) initiative graduates. The ABE initiative program offers opportunities for young African men and women to study masters’ courses in Japanese Universities as International Students. 41 Rwandans (including the current ABE students in Japan) have gone to Japan to pursue their masters’ degrees in various domain under this initiative since 2014. They have acquired Master’s degrees and most importantly embed in Japanese industry for internship that has helped them partner with Japanese companies for future collaboration.

Dr. KITAOKA will also visit Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Border Post (OSBP) Facilities at the border between Rwanda and Tanzania. Rusumo OSBP is one of the key transport infrastructure facilities of Rwanda, which was constructed under JICA’s grant aid back in 2014. JICA has assisted also on the capacity development of the border control management through its technical cooperation project. The two-lane Rusumo International Bridge has made a direct impact on the transport by increasing the axle load limit from 8 tons to 20 tons and speed limit from 5km/h to 30km/h. As a result, compared to 2014 by 2017, the residence time at Rusumo border decreased by 73%. On top, it is recently said that more than 90% of the products entering into Rwanda through land transportation is via the Rusumo border. It facilitates trade along the Central Corridor. The OSBP facilities has been helping ease the movement of people and cargos, and is key infrastructure for recently launched African Continent Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) .

About JICA

JICA, established in 1974, is one of the world's largest bilateral aid agency, operating in over 152 countries in the world including 49 countries in Africa, and has more than 100 overseas offices. JICA implements Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) through its various schemes of cooperation such as grant aid, technical cooperation, ODA loan, Japanese volunteers, Public-Private-Partnership among others. JICA re-opened its Rwandan office in 2005 sometime after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis.

Profile of JICA President Dr. KITAOKA

Dr. Shinichi KITAOKA is President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Before assuming the present post, he was President of the International University of Japan.

Dr. KITAOKA's career includes Professor of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) (2012-), Professor of Graduate Schools for Law and Politics, the University of Tokyo (1997-2004, 2006-2012), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (2004-2006), Professor of College of Law and Politics, Rikkyo University (1985-1997)

Dr. KITAOKA's specialty is modern Japanese politics and diplomacy. He obtained his B.A. (1971) and his Ph.D. (1976) both from the University of Tokyo. He is Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo.

He has numerous books and articles in Japanese and English including A Political History of Modern Japan: Foreign Relations and Domestic Politics (Tokyo: Yuhikaku, 2011), Political Dynamics of the United Nations: Where Does Japan Stand? (Tokyo: Chuokoron-Shinsha, 2007) and Japan as a Global Player (Tokyo: NTT Publishing, 2010)

He received many honors and awards including the Medal with Purple Ribbon for his academic achievements in 2011



Tentative Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Venue
18 th July 2019	14:00	Paying Tribute to the Victims of the Genocide Against the Tutsi in 1994	Kigali Genocide Memorial
	16:00	Visiting k-Lab and Fab-Lab and meeting ABE graduates	Telecom House
19 th July 2019	TBC	Meeting the President of Rwanda H.E. Paul Kagame	TBC
	TBC	Interview with Media	Radisson Blu Hotel
20 th July 2019	11:00	Visiting Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Board Post (OSBP)	Rusumo Boarder

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