

# JICA UGANDA

## NEWSLETTER (JAN-APR 2024)



### **NEW SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE: MR. YAMASHITA HIDESHI**

I'm Hideshi Yamashita, appointed as the Senior Representative of JICA Uganda Office on 21 March.

This is my second stay in Uganda. The first time (about 8 years ago), I was dispatched as a mission member, and I had such a good impression of Uganda including its climate and atmosphere. Since then, I desired to return and I'm glad this wish became reality.

Uganda is rich in resources and potential. I therefore pledge to do my best, so they are maximized.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Thank you!

### **KICK-OFF MEETING FOR THE KAMPALA METROPOLITAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The Project commenced on the 12th of February this year after fulfilling all the conditions for commencement including the renewal of the ESIA certificate. The kickoff meeting between the Contractor and the Employer (UETCL) together with the Consultant took place on 28th February 2024. JICA attended as an observer.

The Project completion is expected to be within 28 months and the objective is to improve electricity transmission in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area through construction and renovation of sub-stations like Mukono, Buloba, Mutundwe, Kawaala and Bujagali plus improvement of the associated transmission lines as well as provision of a Mobile substation.



## Closure of Promotion of Rice Development (PRiDe), Phase II (1st April 2019 – 31st March 2024):



PRiDe II sought to build capacity of research and development of appropriate rice production technologies for productivity improvement in areas under the jurisdiction of Abi, Buginyanya and Rwebitaba Zonal Agricultural Research Development Institutes (ZARDIs).

With the aim of strengthening research-extension linkages and complementing the traditional extension system, Musomesa Field School (MFS), a farmer-to-farmer extension approach, was a key

feature of PRiDe II. By the end of PRiDe II, more than 120 MFS had been established, over 2,400 Musomesas (Rice Instructors) had been trained, and over 23,000 farmers equipped with improved rice cultivation technologies. In addition, over 7 tons of pre-basic and basic seeds were multiplied during the project period.

### ECO-PRIDE

To consolidate the achievements of PRiDe II, JICA has undertaken to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) in the implementation of the follow-on Project on Sustainable Rice Farming Development (Eco-PRiDe). The project shall seek the development, promotion, and adoption of sustainable rice production technologies in the target areas.



**Mr. Hideo Okada: New Chief Advisor, Atari TCP**

### New Chief Advisor for the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) on Sustainable Utilization, Operation and Management of Irrigation Systems in Atari Basin Area (Atari TCP)

Mr. Hideo OKADA was dispatched to Uganda in February 2024 and effectively took on the role of Chief Advisor in later part of March 2024, replacing Dr. Kenichiro KOBAYASHI who served in the same position from April 2021 to 22 March 2024.

His role will be management and providing leadership to the technical team of the project, in addition to coordination with counterpart agencies; MAAIF and the District Local Governments of Kween and Bulambuli regarding irrigation management and rice development activities. His term will run until February 2025.

Atari TCP seeks to build local capacity for operation and management of irrigation systems, and promotion of improved rice cultivation technologies in Atari basin area.

## End of service term for Dr. Masahiko MURAKAMI, JICA/MAAIF Agriculture Planning Advisor (19th December 2019 – 28th February 2024)

During his service term, he initiated processes leading to the formulation of the Project on Sustainable Rice Farming Development (Eco-PRiDe), including contributing to discussions on JICA's long-term development cooperation in Uganda's rice industry. He has facilitated engagements for the formulation of the 2nd National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS II). His successor is expected to arrive in Uganda in July 2024.

JICA has since 2006 dispatched Technical Advisors to MAAIF to not only support with Agriculture sector policy making and implementation, but also coordinate and advise on development assistance from the Government of Japan to the Government of Uganda.

## Grant Agreement for the Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment at Regional Referral Hospitals

On 26 March 2024, Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, and Mr. Inoue Yoichi, JICA Uganda Chief Representative, officially inked the Grant Agreement for the Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment at Regional Referral Hospitals.

With a grant worth up to JPY 941 million (approx. USD 6.8 million), this initiative aims to bolster diagnostic and treatment capabilities, ultimately elevating healthcare services at Soroti and Jinja RRHs for maximum benefit to the people in the region.



## Empowering Healthcare Heroes: JICA & Ministry of Health host workshop in Gulu RRH

In 2021, Gulu Regional Referral Hospital was granted a complex building which includes maternity ward, casualty unit and theatre, with medical equipment by Japan.

To enhance their practical knowledge on the use of this equipment, the hospital conducted a 3-day user training facilitated by a JICA trainee who underwent specialized equipment training in Japan.

The 17 trainees have demonstrated enthusiasm on proper utilisation and maintenance for the equipment.



## Training at Arua Regional Referral Hospital



19 trainees successfully completed a comprehensive Medical Equipment User Training.

Over 3 days, starting on March 11th, participants delved into essential knowledge and maintenance techniques for critical medical equipment donated under a JICA's Grant Aid Project.

Led by an ex-participant who underwent the JICA Co-creation p Program (KCCP) in Medical Equipments, the user training aimed to empower hospital staff with crucial skills and insights on the subject.

## International Women's Day football event in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement

In March, JICA Uganda and Bright Stars FC with support of UNHCR Uganda held a football event for refugee girls and hosts of Rwamwanja settlement in Kamwenge district, Western Uganda, to commemorate the International Women's Day, with the goal of enhancing peaceful co-existence between refugees and hosts, women empowerment and creating a platform for talent identification and development.

More than 70 refugee girls and hosts (aged between 16 and 19) partook in the football classes from Bright Stars FC. The event was crowned with donation of jerseys to Rwamwanja team from football club Chifure AS Elfen Saitama through WE League, a women's Empowerment Professional Football League in Japan.



**Ms. Ayano Yamada**

### New Refugee Advisor

I am Ms. Ayano Yamada, a technical advisor of the Office of the Prime Minister, Department of Refugees, as a successor of Mr. Shimawaki. My assignment is two years from February 2024.

I will focus on capacity enhancement of government entities on refugee management through promoting HDP Nexus linking JICA and other development partners. Before, I worked for the International Peace Cooperation HQs, the Cabinet Office of Japan and also for South Sudan, Kenya and Somalia to implement peace building projects.



## Commissioning of African Grey Parrots Conservation Centre at UWEC

On 27 March, JICA, Chubu University in Japan and Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC) commissioned an African Grey Parrots Conservation Centre, under their partnership.

Grey Parrots are worldwide endangered species due to poaching and habitat loss.

The Conservation Centre will therefore, foster environmental education to raise awareness on the importance of these popular creatures.

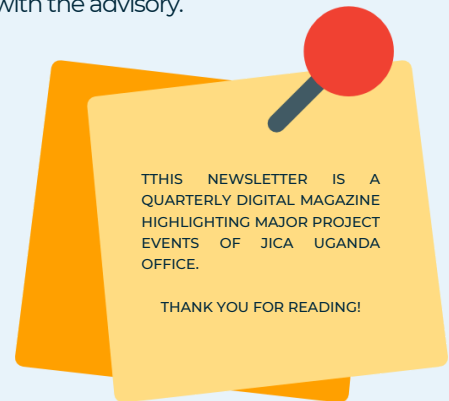
## The Entrepreneurship Support and Start-up Ecosystem Strengthening programme

The advisory with Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives commenced in March 2024. This two year technical assistance seeks to continuously improve the capacity of government to support Startup Ecosystem.

This will be established through crowding in the ecosystem support network players, both public and private, that will be the basis for strengthening the startup ecosystem.

Second output of the advisory is strengthening acceleration programs and the government support to promote ecosystem formation. The target startups are those at growth stage looking to scale up chains across sectors that include but not limited to agriculture, health, education, e.t.c. with the help of tech and innovation. Although access to finance is still a major issue in the ecosystem, the advisory will create linkages with foreign and local investors to boost the ecosystem.

Growth level startups should look out for activities and opportunities to engage with the advisory.



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