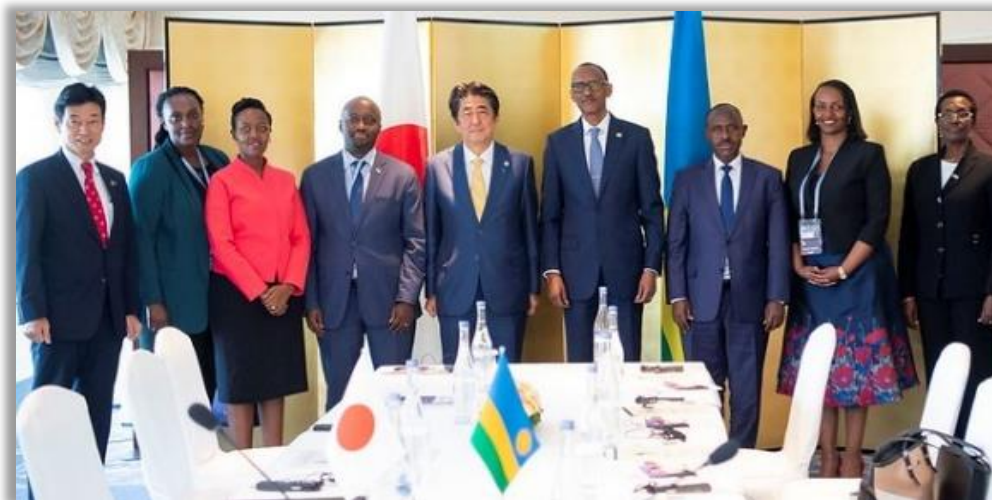


JICA RWANDA News

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THE PEAK OF TICAD7:

YOKOHAMA DECLARATION...



TICAD7 Bilateral Meeting between H.E. President Paul KAGAME with the H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo ABE and some Members of Rwandan Government

Themed “Advancing Africa’s Development through People, Technology and Innovation,” the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) was held in Yokohama from August 28 to 30. Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Shinzo ABE and the President of Egypt H.E. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi co-chaired the conference. Attendees included leaders from 53 African countries.

The President of Rwanda H.E. Paul Kagame, headed Rwandan delegation at the conference and respectively met the Prime Minister of Japan, and the President of JICA Dr. Shinichi KITAOKA. Their discussions were mainly about strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Shinichi KITAOKA, held discussions individually with representatives of African countries and international organizations during

TICAD7 about how JICA will cooperate with Africa in the aftermath of the conference.

On August 30, TICAD7 concluded with the adoption of the “Yokohama Declaration 2019”. As the implementing agency for Japan’s official development assistance, JICA will make every effort to put the Japanese Government’s commitment into practice, including but not limited to the following areas:

- (1) Develop human resources in a private sector: African Business Education (ABE) Initiative 3.0, Kaizen Initiative, supporting women business entrepreneurs
- (2) Promote innovation and investment: improving investment environment with the African Development Bank through Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa (EPSA4), promoting Japanese SMEs and SDGs businesses in Africa, and expanding Private Sector Investment Finance for African countries.

(3) Promote Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative improving hygiene and primary health care access, expanding health insurance, improving nutritional condition of children through the “Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA)”.

(4) Establish stable and reliable institutions and enhance governance: developing human resources in the judicial, policing, security sectors among others.

Under the invitation of JICA, four Rwandan Ministers and high government officials participated in the following events of the conference:

On August 27, JICA, in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD, held a high-level side event of TICAD to promote the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA).

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During the event, Dr. KITAOKA highlighted some cases of IFNA's achievement in Rwanda and Madagascar.

On August 29, JICA conducted a high-level panel titled "Global governance and Africa's development." The panelists included Hon. Ms. Soraya M. Hakuziyemye, Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda. They discussed how Africa and Asia can mutually learn from each other's development experiences, how to spur pri-

vate sector-led development, how to respond to the expectations of Africa's youth and women and how to create democratic governance that enables political stability.

On the same day, JICA, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized an event themed Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Africa Development. Hon. Ms. Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda participated in the first part of the panel while Mr. Alex Ntale, CEO,

Rwanda ICT Chamber, participated in its second part.

On August 30, under the theme of Africa/Japan Startups Pitch-Innovation & New Partnership for SDGs, JICA, co-sponsoring with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), invited 24 selected startup companies from Africa (including 1 from Rwanda) and Japan showcased their business models. ●

JICA President's Visit to Rwanda



Dr. Shinichi KITAOKA (3rd left) the JICA President with The Rt. Hon. Edouard NGIRENTE the Prime Minister of Rwanda (2nd left) together with H.E. Miyashita TAKAYUKI (1st left), the Ambassador of Japan To Rwanda and Mr. Ryuichi KATO the Director General of Africa Department, JICA (1st right), Hon. Mr. Olivier NDUHUNGIREHE, the State Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Charge of The East African Community (3rd right) and Mr. Shin MARUO, JICA Rwanda Chief Representative (2nd right)

From July 17th to 22nd Dr. Shinichi KITAOKA, The President of JICA visited Rwanda. He met the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Édouard NGIRENTE. The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude for the cooperation of JICA and his expectation for TICAD7. He further confirmed that two countries would deepen the relationship.

President KITAOKA who visited Kigali Genocide Memorial and laid a wreath to the mass grave of the victims of the Genocide stated, "What happened is beyond imagination. I am however inspired by the way Rwandans and the Government of Rwanda overcome bad history to promote good politics that Rwanda has become a dignified country. They share

this with Japanese people". Rwanda is called the "Miracle of Africa" for the reconstruction and marvelous development being made after the genocide.

Rwanda is promoting initiatives to utilize ICT and innovation for her development. Dr. KITAOKA also observed initiatives at open technology hubs such as k-Lab and fab-Lab, where JICA has contributed to its establishment and operation. "It is great that young people now have access to opportunities in the information technology. From them, there can be some billionaire in the future," he noted as he was visiting the two innovation facilities.

Dr. KITAOKA visited milestone cooperation projects that sponsored by the Gov-

ernment of Japan through JICA. Those include ICT Innovation Project's 250 Start-ups and Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Border Post (OSBP).

He also met graduates of African Business Education (ABE) Initiative who have become industry leaders in various domains using the skills learned in Japan. 43 Rwandans (including the current ABE students) have gone to Japan to pursue their masters' degrees in various domain under this initiative since 2014. Dr. Kitaoka also met with Japanese entrepreneurs operating their business in Rwanda to exchange ideas.

Dr. KITAOKA visited Rusumo border between Rwanda and Tanzania to observe the impact of JICA's cooperation for easing international trade. Through the construction of Rusumo International Bridge and the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) as well as rehabilitation of road between Rusumo and Kayonza, JICA is promoting improvement of the logistics network and economic development in the region and beyond which are important for AfCFTA.

JICA will continuously contribute for the development of Rwanda in partnership with public institutions, academia, private sector, development partners, NGOs, civil society and so forth. ●

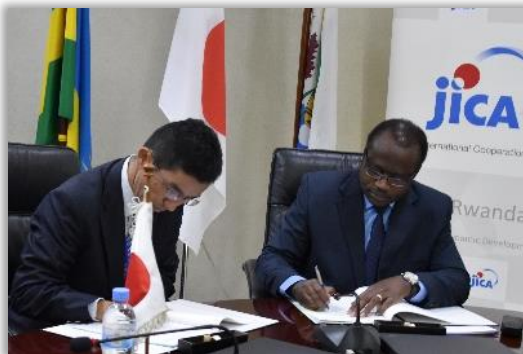
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Cooperation: End of Stunting Via Agriculture Transformation

On August 16, 2019, agreement on a 10 billion Yen loan (approx. 91 Million US Dollars) program has been signed between the Government of Republic of Rwanda and the Government of Japan to contribute for getting rid of stunting in Rwanda. The loan will support a three-year Program of Nutrition Improvement through Agriculture Transformation. The program is a budget support to the Government of Rwanda initiatives to address malnutrition.



Shin MARUO and Hon. Dr. Uziel NDAGIJIMANA during the signing

H.E. Mr. Takayuki MIYASHITA, the then Ambassador of Japan to Rwanda, signed the Exchange of Notes (E/N) with Hon. Dr. Uziel NDAGIJIMANA, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) of the Republic of Rwanda followed by signing of Loan Agreement (L/A) between Mr. Shin MARUO, Chief Representative of JICA Rwanda Office and the minister. The officials representing the institutions formalized the beginning of the program, which will last until 2021.

Speaking on the relevance of the project, after the signing ceremony, the Minister declared to the media "Japanese and Rwandan governments have now signed a loan agreement of around 90 million US Dollars that is 10 billion Japanese Yen. The fund will be used to enhance agriculture with

an aim of improving nutrition. It is a highly concessional loan with an interest rate of 0.01 percent and 40 years repayment period which is really a very low interest rate".

The program will mainly focusing in districts that are highly affected by the stunting and is expected to enhancing the Government efforts of fighting against stunting and eradicating undernutrition in children under 5 years. Additional to that, it will fill a food nutrient gap in each district and will identify and promote suitable nutritious crop for production.

This program will be executed by Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP) and Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) under the supervision of MINECOFIN. ●

Meet JICA Rwanda office New Staff

My name is Shinji SAISHO. I am a JICA Rwanda Office coordinator for Japan Overseas Corporation Volunteer (JOCV) Program, a position I started in July 2019. Before coming to Rwanda, I worked for JICA Volunteers pre-dispatch training center in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.

I also worked as a Volunteer Coordinator in Zambia from 2012 to 2015.

I am so happy to come back in Africa since the days in Zambia were very exciting.

Coming to Rwanda was a new adventure, in a different part of Africa

but my attributions are similar to those I had in Zambia. Currently we (JICA) have more than 40 volunteers in Rwanda. I will support them so that they can work on their activity safely and make good relationship with Rwandan people.



It is a privilege to serve in Rwanda, which is a safe and welcoming country. Rwandans are kind and hospitable; as a result, my wife and I feel comfortable and welcomed. Murakoze ! ●

CALENDAR

October

ICT Sector Project: 2nd Graduation Ceremony for the 250 Startups (04/10/2019)

Private Sector Partnership: RURA, JICA and OTOWA: launch the joint collaboration (09/10/2019)

ICT: Space Expert Dispatch (17/10/2019)

ICT: Launch Of the Innovation Center at Agahozo Shalom (17/10/2019)

November

WATSAN Sector: Regional executive forum on Urban Water Services in Sub-Saharan Africa (13-14/11/2019)

CUP: Coffee Study Tour to Colombia (15-24/11/2019)

CARD: workshop to launch its second phase. (19-22/11/2019)

JAAR: Tree Planting (30/11/2019)

December

JAAR: Post harvest threshers machine fabrication Workshop (18-20/12/2019)

JICA IN THE MEDIA

JICA President lauds K-Lab for supporting youth ambitions
Igihe

19th July 2019

TICAD7: Kagame Emphasizes Private Sector Role in Development
The New Times

28th July 2019

Rwanda Secures Rwf86bn to Transform Agriculture
The New Times

17th July 2019

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Food Security Dialogue: “This Initiative Led Africa to Double Rice Production” JICA Vice President, Mr. Yamada Hideya

The Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue (AFSLD19) convened in Kigali Rwanda in August 5-6, 2019. It is aimed at strengthening coordination of development partners and regional efforts to support countries to accelerate progress towards their collective food and nutrition security goals as envisioned in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

On the first day of the dialogue focused on the potential of science and how to leverage science policy and finance to adapt African agriculture to climate change. Issues around the utilization of Genetically Modified Organisms and ICT for agriculture transformation dominated the dialogue of the first day.

On the second day Mr. YAMADA Hideya, Vice President of JICA in charge Food Security and Nutrition shared on JICA's experience in boosting African food security, during the session on Leveraging



Vice President Mr. YAMADA Hideya

Partnerships. His intervention focused on the role of CARD (Coalition for African Rice Development) initiative in boosting rice production and productivity in sub-Saharan Africa. He exemplified how JICA together with other development partners supported 23 countries to formulate National Rice Development Strategies and to mobilize resources to implement them. “This initiative led Africa to double rice production from 14 million metric tons to 28 million metric ton in the last ten years,” Yamada mentioned.

The ongoing objective through the second phase of CARD is also to double the current production further up to 56 million metric tons by 2030. Mr. Yamada explained that the new CARD initiative would focus on “RICE”, which stands as Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness and Empowerment. Several Ministers showed interest to follow up discussion with JICA on rice development in their countries including DR Congo, South Sudan and Sierra Leone.

The dialogue is organized and coordinated through partnership of Africa Union (AU) and four multilateral agencies – The World Bank (WB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN (FAO), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Agriculture Development Fund (IFAD). ●

Future and the First Artificial Intelligence (AI) Training in Rwanda

On 6th August, Future Corporation has officially launched the first AI training program in Rwanda, with 6 selected trainees, including young talented students from University of Rwanda.

The launch was witnessed by Hon. Paula INGABIRE, Minister for ICT and Innovation and H.E. Takayuki MIYASHITA, the Ambassador of Japan to Rwanda, Mr. Shin MARUO, Chief Representative of JICA Rwanda and Dr. Santhi KUMARAN, Director, African Center of Excellence in Internet of Things, the University of Rwanda, and representatives from the private sector companies, young entrepreneurs and media.

One of the trainees, Ms. Olivia Rutayisire, a student at the University of Rwanda/African Center of Excellence in Data Science said that this AI training is going to help them in their studies, as they will get many skills from Japan that is very advanced in AI.

After several preparatory visits to Rwanda, Future Corporation, the leading ICT consulting company in Japan is currently engaging in a feasibility study titled, “Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Offshoring by AI Engineers Trained online”, under JICA's Private Sector Partnership Program.

The study aims to assess the potential of AI engineers in Rwanda, by leveraging the expertise of Future Corporation in the field of ICT and AI. Rwandan Ph.D. Students in Japan will provide this online training studying from Japan. The 6 trainees will gain the necessary skills required of AI engineers, by training providing fundamentals of machine learning.

The Minister of ICT and Innovation thanked Japan, through JICA for continuously seeking ways to contribute on building vision and ambition of Rwanda becoming an innovative hub in ICT across Africa. ●

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.