

Speech by H.E. Mr. Kazuya OGAWA, Ambassador of Japan, on the occasion of the completion ceremony of the project for Capacity Building for Efficient Power System Development in Rwanda, 31st JANUARY 2014

- Honorable Emma Francoise ISUMBINGABO, Minister of State in charge of Energy and Water,
- Mr. Ntare KARITANYI, Director General of EWSA,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Muraho, Bonjour, Good morning,

It is my great honour to attend today's completion ceremony of the project for "Capacity Building for Efficient Power System Development in Rwanda." I congratulate the project team of JICA and EWSA on the successful completion of the project.

The Government of Japan has been contributing to African development for a long time following the principles of Official Development Assistance (ODA), such as developing economic infrastructure, agriculture sector, legal system and human resources.

In June last year, the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD V which His Excellency President Paul Kagame attended was held in Yokohama, and during the course of the TICAD process, one of the important policy pillars of Japan's assistance to Africa was adopted, that is to say "Accelerating Infrastructure and Capacity Development".

We believe that capacity building as well as infrastructure development is one of the most important factors for economic growth, and the leadership in Rwanda emphasized this point in its EDPRS2 targeting “increase the domestic interconnectivity of the Rwandan economy through investments in hard and soft infrastructure”.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, Japan has established a long and cordial relationship with Rwanda. Japan supports Rwanda’s Vision 2020 which aims to transform Rwanda into a middle income country, through Japan’s grant aid and technical assistance in economic infrastructure development.

The project for Capacity Building for Efficient Power System Development in Rwanda started as a three-year-project in 2011 with a total amount of approximately 5 million US dollars. Under the overall goal which is “operation and maintenance activities for power facilities of EWSA are improved”, this project has performed a complementary role of the project for rehabilitation and re-construction of the old substations as well as to restore and expand distribution network.

It is impressive to see that the project carried out by introducing technological tools including Geographic Information System (GIS) Database as well as using the method of “on the job training” is completed successfully. Using technological tools by practically trained people was one of the key factors for success in Japanese institutions. I would like to emphasize that since human capital is the most important asset in organization, so, I am glad that the core-trainers and core-engineers were

trained through this project, and they can pass their skills and knowledge to others in EWSA. I believe that with Japan's sophisticated and reliable skills and techniques, this project will play an important role in the distribution of electricity in this country.

Finally, I would like again to commend on the work done by JICA and EWSA through the contribution by NIPPON KOEI and all concerned. We know that the restructuring of EWSA will be carried out sometime in near future. In spite of that, I sincerely hope that great results of this project will be maintained and even expanded, that is to say, transfer of skills and knowledge from the trained core staffs to other staffs will keep going on in EWSA and I am confident that you will make it with the commitment of MININFRA and EWSA.

Murakoze cyane, Merci beaucoup, I thank you.