

Press Release

(Embargo: 1pm, 5th March, 2015)

JAPAN TO EXTENDS A GRANT AID TO RWANDA AMOUNTING UP TO JPY 1,013,000,000 (APPROX. USD 9 MILLION) FOR THE PROJECT OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY (PHASE III)

Date of Signing: 5th March, 2015

Venue: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Rwanda

A Japanese Grant aid amounting up to JPY 1,013,000,000 (approx. 9 million US dollars) will be extended to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda.

The Exchange of Notes will be signed by **Hon. Claver GATETE**, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning and **H. E. Mr. Kazuya OGAWA**, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Rwanda on 5th March, 2015.

This Grant Aid Project, which will be implemented by the Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) with support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), targets three sectors in three districts in the Eastern Province, namely Rukira Sector of Ngoma District, Murama Sector of Kayonza District, and Remera Sector of Gatsibo District. The fund will be used in such activities as constructing piped water supply system and capacity building of operation staff and technicians. Upon the completion of the project, this will allow more than 33,000 people to have access to safe drinking water and allow women more time to engage in different income generating activities as well as providing more time for the children to study and improve hygiene.

This is the third phase of the serial Project of Rural Water Supply in the Eastern Province. For the First phase, which completed in March 2008, the grant up to JPY 551,000,000 (6.1 million USD*) was provided, and the fund was used to construct piped water supply systems and to construct or rehabilitate hand pumps in Ngoma, Kayonza and Rwamagana districts. For the Second phase, which completed in July 2013, the grant up to JPY 1,435,000,000 (16 million USD*) was provided, and the fund was used to construct, renovate and expand seven facilities of piped water supply systems at 11 sectors in Ngoma and Kirehe districts. The First Phase has about 43 thousand beneficiaries, the Second Phase

has about 55 thousand beneficiaries and the Third Phase will have about 33 thousand beneficiaries. In total, more than 131 thousand people will be benefiting from the entire project. This project has been contributed to improve the safe water access rate in the Eastern Province from 57.7% in 2006 to 66.6% in 2011. The third phase of the project will further increase the access to safe water in the Province.

This support is in line with EDPRS 2's target of 100 % access to safe and clean drinking water. Related to this rural water supply project, Japan is ready to start the technical cooperation project entitled "Strengthening Operation and Maintenance of Rural Water Supply Systems" through JICA. Also, Japan has supported the construction of two facilities of water supply under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP) for relatively smaller size of installation. In the last two years, the water supply facilities have been built in Gifumba, Muhanga District and in Migina and Nzovi villages, Nyanza district in the Southern Province. Furthermore, the Water Security Action Team, or W-SAT, which consists of members of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers has been actively engaged in such activities as water supply facility maintenance and hygiene promotion in the Eastern Province. As the lead development partner in the Water and Sanitation Sector, Japan will continue to support Rwanda to achieve its development targets.

It is the sincere hope of the Government and the people of Japan that this grant will contribute to improve the access to safe and clean drinking water in the targeted sectors of the Eastern Province, and will be used efficiently and effectively.

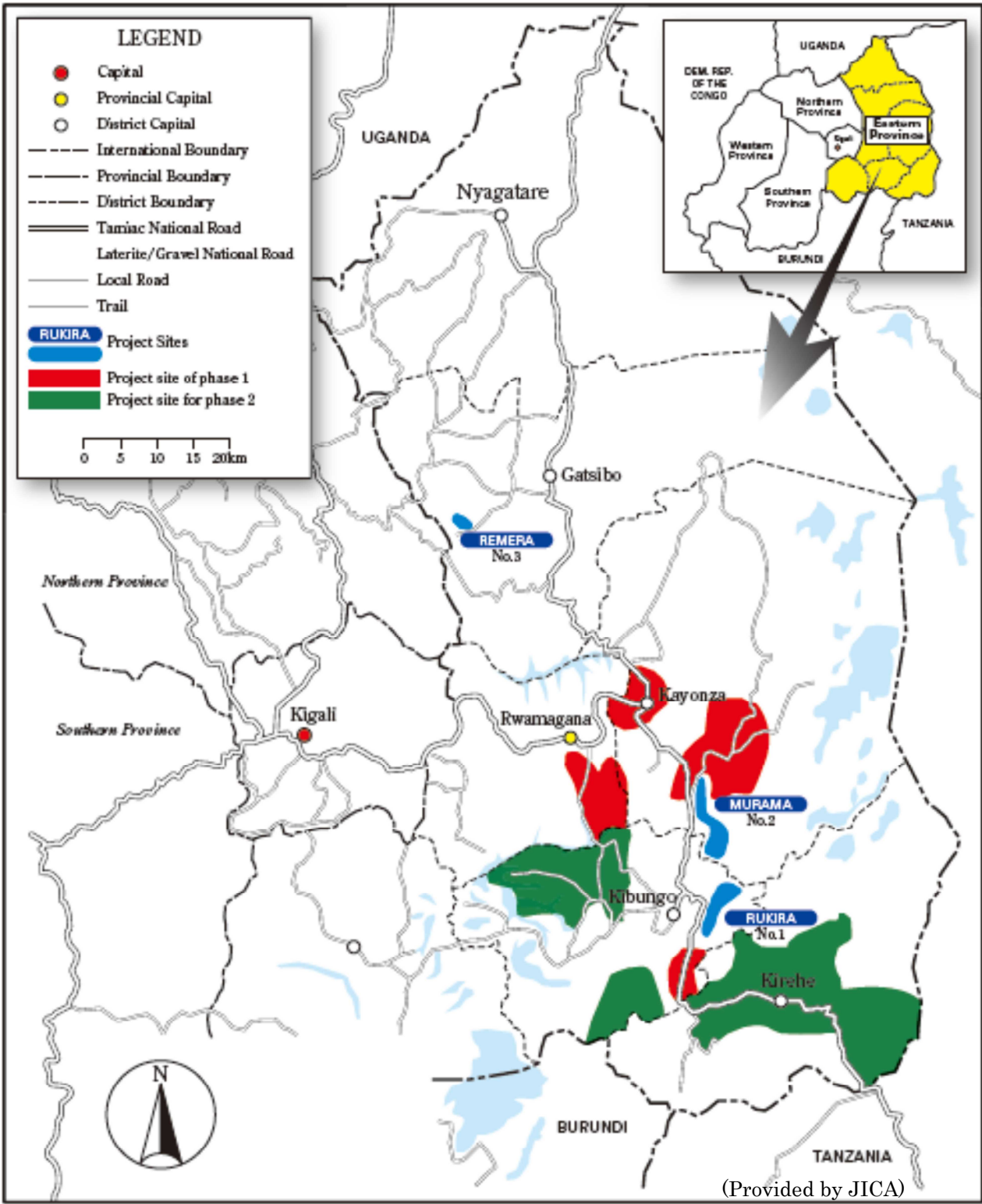
[Note: Exchange rates are based on the ones that have been pre-set before the signing of the Exchange of Notes for each project.]

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Three Phases of the Project for Rural Water Supply in the Eastern Province



Overall Estimated Schedule of the Project

Year		2015												2016												2017			
Month		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	
Approval of GoJ and Others																													
Detailed Design, PQ and Others																													
Construction	Rukira																												
	Murama																												
	Remera																												
Implementation of Soft Components																													