



EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TOKYO

Press Statement issued by the Embassy of the State of Eritrea to Japan concerning Higher Education Cooperation Agreement Signed by the Government of Japan and Government of Eritrea:

At no time in the history of Eritrea has it needed assistance in education than it does today. This is because of the rapid expansion of this sector in the past few years following the opening up of many tertiary institutions all over the country to cater for the rising demand for education and training of the youth.

Before 2003, the only institution of higher learning in Eritrea was the University of Asmara which was established in 1958 by Italian missionaries. But this could not absorb all the students from secondary schools and also satisfy the rising need for tertiary education in the country. In 2004 the country opened seven new institutes of higher learning in different areas. This almost instantly called for more assistance from cooperating partners to cope with the rapid expansion. It was against this background that the Japanese government, through JICA, came in to support this expansion.

Hence, the Government of Eritrea through the National Board for Higher Education and JICA have exchanged several missions to develop a framework for a Project of high priority which was underscored by the bilateral held between Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan and President Isaias, on the side line of 2008 TICAD V in Yokohama, to improve quality of Higher Education in Eritrea.

As a result, On the 8th of October 2012: JICA and National Board of Higher Education (NBHE) have successfully signed a comprehensive Agreement covering: objective, need, requirements, implementation mechanism etc of the above mentioned Project.

This Project will be implemented within the framework of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation signed by the Government of Japan and Government of Eritrea on 6th August 2005.

Under the program, the GoJ will assist in:

- (1) staff exchange, secondment of staff between Jomo Kenyata University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) for conducting lectures, experiments and practicals as well as reviewing current post-graduate curricula and developing new post-graduate curricula jointly.
- (2) provision of equipment and PHD program for lecturers will start in 2013, and
- (3) the triangular Project between Japan-Kenya- Eritrea which has a life span of three years initially targets MAINEFHI Eritrea Institute of Technology (MEIT) , HAMELMALO Agriculture College (HAC) and MASSAWA College of Marine Science and Technology (COMSAT).

This Agreement is in addition to the ongoing linkages established with eight universities in Japan, to benefit capacity buildings of the colleagues in Eritrea, in 2010.

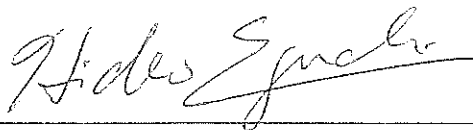
November 30, 2012

Attachment: above mentioned Agreement

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RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS
ON
PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY AND
CAPACITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ERITREA
AGREED UPON BETWEEN
NATIONAL BOARD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

Asmara, the 8th October, 2012



Mr. Hideo Eguchi
Chief Representative
JICA Kenya Office



Dr. Tadesse Mehari
Executive Director
National Board for Higher Education
The State of Eritrea



Based on the minutes of meetings on the Detailed Planning Survey on the Project for Improvement of Quality and Capacity of Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") signed on the 9th August 2012 between National Board for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as "NBHE") and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JICA"), JICA held a series of discussions with NBHE and relevant organizations to develop a detailed plan of the Project.

Both parties agreed the details of the Project and the main points discussed as described in the Appendix 1 and the Appendix 2 respectively.

Both parties also agreed that NBHE, the counterpart to JICA, will be responsible for the implementation of the Project in cooperation with JICA, coordinate with other relevant organizations and ensure that the self-reliant operation of the Project is sustained during and after the implementation period in order to contribute toward social and economic development of the State of Eritrea.

The Project will be implemented within the framework of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation signed on the 8th August 2005 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement").

Appendix 1: Project Description

Appendix 2: Main Points Discussed

Appendix 3: Minutes of Meetings on the Detailed Planning Survey

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Both parties confirmed that there is no change in the Project Description agreed on in the Minutes of Meetings on the concerning Detailed Planning Survey on the Project signed on the 9th August 2012 (Appendix 3).

The Record of Discussions may be amended by the minutes of meetings between JICA and NBHE. The minutes of meetings will be signed by authorized persons of each side who may be different from the signatories of the Record of Discussions.



MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED

1. It was noted that NBHE is willing to prioritize teaching staff exchanges more than other activities such as provision of equipment and PhD program for lecturers. Therefore the budget for teaching staff exchange must be secured and budget allocation for each activity will be considered accordingly. Staff exchanges include secondment of academic staff between Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) for conducting lectures, experiments and practicals as well as reviewing current post-graduate curricula and developing new post-graduate curricula jointly.
2. Number, duration and academic areas of the staff secondment and those of PhD trainees are to be determined based on further discussions among NBHE, JICA and JKUAT.
3. The secondment of academic staff may commence as soon as the above-mentioned points are agreed among NBHE, JICA and JKUAT. The PhD trainees will commence their programmes at JKUAT from January 2013.



MINUTES OF MEETING
BETWEEN
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
AND
THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ERITREA
ON
PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY AND
CAPACITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Detailed Planning Survey Team (hereinafter referred to as "the Team") organized by Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JICA"), headed by Mr. Junichi Hanai, Senior Representative of JICA Kenya Office, conducted a survey from the 7th August to the 10th August 2012, for the purpose of the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Project for "Improvement of Quality and Capacity of Higher Education" (hereinafter referred as "the Project").

During its stay in the State of Eritrea, the Team had a series of discussions with the authorities of the National Board for Higher Education (NBHE) of the State of Eritrea, jointly developed ideas and exchanged views on the Project.

As a result of the discussions, both sides agreed the matters referred to in the document attached hereto.

Asmara, the 9th August, 2012



Mr. Junichi Hanai
Team Leader
Detailed Planning Survey Team
Japan International Cooperation Agency



Dr. Tadesse Mehari
Executive Director
National Board for Higher Education
The State of Eritrea

I. BACKGROUND

The Government of the State of Eritrea (GoSE) recognizes that the pace of development of the country heavily hinges on the quality of education and it has been making efforts to expand access to education at all levels. GoSE also considers that a competitive, knowledge-based economy cannot be built without adequately and appropriately trained workforce. To meet the growing demand for the trained workforce, GoSE decided to reform the tertiary education of the country in 2004. The reform led to the establishment of seven institutions of higher education (IHEs) located in different parts of the country. These IHEs now shoulder the social responsibility of producing highly qualified human resources and contribute to sustainable development of the country.

The expansion of access to tertiary education has generated its own challenges. Firstly, these IHEs which are newly established are confronted with expanding enrolment of students against a limited number of Eritrean teaching staff. Secondly, the IHEs find it beneficial to get input from partners in curricula development particularly for post-graduate programs. Thirdly, there is a need to prevent the risk of decline in the quality of education due to inadequate staffing and facilities. Therefore, GoSE considers that there is great need for improving quality and capacity of these IHEs.

Under these circumstances, National Board for Higher Education (NBHE) in Eritrea and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Kenya signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 26th of October 2011. The MoU established a framework for cooperation between NBHE and JKUAT in academic capacity building, including teaching, research and programme development.

Besides, the NBHE on behalf of GoSE requested the Government of Japan for assistance to improve quality and capacity of higher education of three IHEs, Eritrea Institute of Technology (EIT), Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC) and College of Marine Science and Technology (COMSAT). Responding to this request, the Detailed Planning Survey Team was dispatched to the State of Eritrea to discuss and agree on a framework of the technical cooperation project with the Eritrean side.

II. OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

Details of the Project are described in the Logical Framework (Project Design Matrix: PDM) (Annex 1) and the tentative Plan of Operation (Annex 2).

1. Title of the Project

Project for Improvement of Quality and Capacity of Higher Education

2. Overall Goal



EIT, HAC and COMSAT produce high-skilled human resources who can contribute to the society.

3. Project Purpose

Capacity of the three IHEs (EIT, HAC and COMSAT) for research-oriented post-graduate education suitable for Eritrea is strengthened.

4. Outputs

- (1) Research-oriented curricula are developed and implemented at post-graduate level at the three IHEs.
- (2) Equipment for laboratory experiments and practicals at post-graduate level are provided, fully utilized and maintained at the three IHEs.
- (3) Teaching and research capacities of the academic staff of the three IHEs are enhanced.

5. Activities

1-1 Academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT identify weaknesses and deficiencies in the current post-graduate curricula.

1-2 Academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT make revisions of the existing curricula based on the identified weaknesses and deficiencies.

1-3 Academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT jointly develop new post-graduate curricula.

2-1 Some educational equipment and materials for experiments and practicals at post-graduate level suitable for Eritrea are procured for the three IHEs.

2-2 Academic staff of IHEs and JKUAT support their lectures with experiments and practicals using the procured equipment and materials.

3-1 Academic staff of JKUAT are seconded at the three IHEs for conducting lectures, experiments and practicals jointly with Eritrean academic staff.

3-2 Academic staff of the three IHEs are seconded at JKUAT for conducting lectures, experiments and practicals, and preparing teaching materials jointly with JKUAT academic staff.

3-3 Some lecturers of the three IHEs are trained at PhD level in JKUAT by sandwich program.

3-4 Academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT conduct joint research in some specific areas.

6. Input

(1) Input by JICA

(a) Dispatch of Experts

Experts will be dispatched according to the necessity for implementing the Project. The following experts and advisory mission are expected.

➤ Japanese long-term expert

One Japanese long-term expert (Chief Advisor) coordinates the Project.

➤ Kenyan short-term experts

Several Kenyan lecturers from JKUAT will be dispatched for curricula development, joint lecturing and joint research at each institution.

➤ Advisory mission from Japan

An advisory mission consisting of academic staff from Japanese universities will be dispatched at least once a year.

(b) Equipment necessary for the implementation of the Project

The detailed specification and quantity of equipment to be provided each year will be discussed in principle every year between JICA and Eritrean counterpart personnel, based on the Plan of Operation, within the allocated budget of the Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY starts in April and ends in March)

(c) Necessary expenses for Joint Research

(d) Necessary travel and living allowances exclusively for secondments of academic staff and PhD programs in JKUAT

(2) Input by Eritrea

NBHE and the three IHEs will take necessary measures to provide at its own expense:

- (a) Services of NBHE and the IHE's counterpart personnel and administrative personnel as referred to in II-7;
- (b) Suitable office spaces, lecture rooms and meeting rooms with necessary facilities for the Japanese expert and Kenyan experts;
- (c) Available data and information related to the Project;
- (d) Expenses necessary for transportation within the State of Eritrea of the equipment referred to in II-6 (1) as well as for the installation, operation and maintenance thereof; and
- (e) Other facilities mutually agreed upon as necessary



7. Implementation Structure

The Project organization chart is given in Annex 3. The roles and assignments of relevant organizations are as follows:

(1) NBHE

The Executive Director of NBHE, as the Project Director, will be responsible for overall management of the Project. Director of Bureau of Higher Education Administration and International Linkages of NBHE, as the Project Manager, will be responsible for administration and implementation of the Project.

(2) EIT, HAC and COMSAT

Acting President of EIT, Dean of HAC and Dean of COMSAT are responsible for implementation of daily activities of the Project.

(3) Japanese expert and Kenyan experts

The Japanese expert and Kenyan experts will give necessary technical guidance, advice and recommendations to NBHE and the three IHEs on any matters pertaining to the implementation of the Project.

(4) Joint Coordinating Committee

Joint Coordinating Committee (hereinafter referred to as "JCC") meetings will be established in order to facilitate inter-organizational coordination. JCC meetings will be held at least once a year and whenever deemed necessary. JCC will approve an annual work plan, review overall progress, conduct monitoring and evaluation of the Project, and exchange opinions on major issues that arise during the implementation of the Project. A list of proposed members of JCC is shown in Annex 4.

8. Project Sites and Beneficiaries

The Project sites will be EIT (Asmara), HAC (Hamelmalo) and COMSAT (Massawa) in Eritrea and JKUAT (Nairobi) in Kenya.

Direct beneficiaries will be professors, lecturers and graduate assistant teachers in EIT, HAC and COMSAT. Indirect beneficiaries will be postgraduate and undergraduate students in EIT, HAC and COMSAT.

9. Duration

The duration of the Project will be three (3) years.

10. Environmental and Social Considerations

NBHE agreed to abide by JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social

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Considerations' in order to ensure that appropriate considerations will be made for the environmental and social impacts of the Project.

III. UNDERTAKINGS OF NBHE

1. NBHE will take necessary measures to:

- (1) ensure that the technologies and knowledge acquired by the State of Eritrea nationals as a result of Japanese technical cooperation contributes to the economic and social development of the state of Eritrea, and that the knowledge and experience acquired by the personnel of the State of Eritrea from technical training as well as the equipment provided by JICA will be utilized effectively in the implementation of the Project; and
- (2) grant privileges, exemptions and benefits to the JICA experts referred to in II-6 (1) above and their families, which are no less favorable than those granted to experts and members of the missions and their families of third countries or international organizations performing similar missions in the State of Eritrea.

IV. EVALUATION

JICA and the NBHE will jointly conduct the following evaluations and reviews.

1. Mid-term review at the middle of the cooperation term, if necessary
2. Terminal evaluation upon completion

JICA will conduct the following evaluations and surveys to mainly verify sustainability and impact of the Project and draw lessons. The NBHE is required to provide necessary support for them.

1. Ex-post evaluation three (3) years after the Project completion, in principle
2. Follow-up surveys on necessity basis

V. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT

For the purpose of promoting support for the Project, NBHE will take appropriate measures to make the Project widely known to the people of the state of Eritrea.

VI. MUTUAL CONSULTATION

JICA and NBHE will consult with each other whenever any major issues arise in the course of Project implementation.



VII. PROJECT DESIGN MATRIX (PDM)

A Project Design Matrix (hereinafter referred to as "PDM") is usually used to manage and implement the project efficiently and effectively. It is also used as a reference for monitoring and evaluating the project. The drafted PDM attached in Annex 1 will be applied to the Project with the following understanding:

- PDM is a logically designed matrix which defines the initial understanding of the framework for the Project and indicates the logical steps towards the achievement of the Project Purpose.
- PDM is to be flexibly revised according to the progress and achievement of the Project upon agreement between Eritrean side and JICA.

VIII. PLAN OF OPERATION (PO)

Tentative Plan of Operation is attached in ANNEX 2.

IX. RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS (RD)

Record of Discussion is an official document between JICA and an implementing agency (NBHE) for commencement of JICA's Project. Drafted Record of Discussion is attached in ANNEX 5.

X. OTHERS

1. The Project should be complementary to any other activities implemented under the MoU signed between JKUAT and NBHE.
2. The Project aims at strengthening capacity of the three IHEs for post-graduate education. In addition, spill-off effect on under-graduate education are also expected through strengthening academic staff of the three IHEs who are engaged in under-graduate teaching.
3. Equipment procured by the Project includes laboratory equipment, chemicals, reagents and scientific journals and other educational materials necessary for post-graduate education.
4. "Sandwich program" is an effective and efficient PhD program combining research programs in the three IHEs with those in JKUAT. Under this program, PhD trainees conduct research works partially at their own institutes and partially at JKUAT.
5. Necessary cost for secondment of academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT, that for PhD training at JKUAT, such as travel and living allowances, will be borne by the Project. Number and duration of academic staff's secondment as well as

those of PhD trainees are to be determined based on mutual consultation taking into account the limit of the Project budget.

6. The specific areas of joint researches are identified in the course of the Project implementation. Each IHE is expected to make its proposal for the joint research program.

Annex 1. Project Design Matrix

Annex 2. Tentative Plan of Operation

Annex 3. Project Organization Chart

Annex 4. List of proposed members of Joint Coordinating Committee

Annex 5. Drafted Record of Discussions



Project Design Matrix (PDM Ver.0)

Project Name

Project for Improvement of Quality and Capacity of Higher Education 3 years (September 2012 - September 2015)

Project Period

Target Groups: Eritrea Institute of Technology (EIT), Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC) and College of Marine Science and Technology (COMSAT)

Project Site

Eritrea (EIT in Asmara, COMSAT in Massawa and HAC in Hamelmalo) and Kenya (JKUAT in Nairobi)

	Narrative summary	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
Overall Goal	EIT, HAC and COMSAT produce high-skilled human resources who can contribute to the society.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of graduates of post-graduate programmes 2. Number of graduates who got jobs in the related fields of their studies. 	<p>Graduation record</p> <p>Questionnaires and interviews to the graduates</p>	Policy on post-graduate education remains as it is.
Project Purpose	Capacity of the three IHEs (EIT, HAC and COMSAT) for research-oriented post-graduate education suitable for Eritrea is strengthened.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratio of Eritrean lecturers 2. Enrollment of post-graduate students 	Record of the three IHEs	Budget necessary for post-graduate education is secured. Demand of the industry/government for post-graduate education remains as it is.
Output 1	Research-oriented curricula are developed and implemented at post-graduate level at the three IHEs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1-1 Number of curricula revised 1-2 Number of new curricula developed 	Record of the three IHEs	Academic staff strengthened continue to work at the three IHEs.
Output 2	Equipment for laboratory experiments and practice at post-graduate level are provided, fully utilized and maintained at the three IHEs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2-1 Number of equipment/materials procured 2-2 Frequency of equipment/materials utilization 	<p>Inventory of equipment/materials</p> <p>Annual report on resource utilization</p>	

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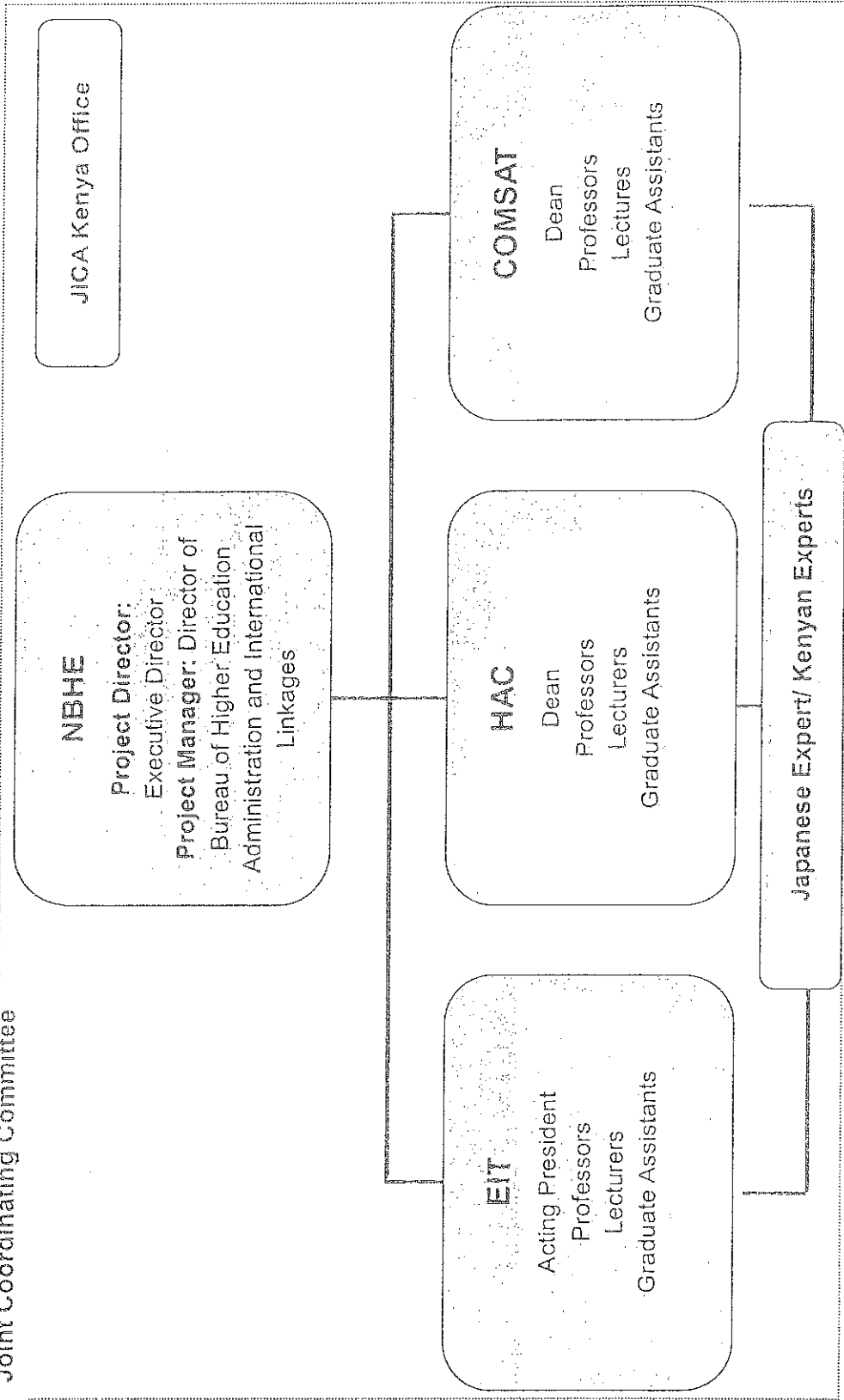
	Narrative summary	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Teaching and research capacities of the academic staff of the three IHEs are enhanced.</p>	<p>3-1 Number of joint lectures in the three IHEs</p> <p>3-2 Number of joint lectures in JKUAT</p> <p>3-3 Number of PhD trainees</p> <p>3-4 Number of joint researches and publications</p>	<p>Record of the three IHEs</p>		
<p>Activity 1</p> <p>1-1 Academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT identify weaknesses and deficiencies in the current post-graduate curricula and syllabi.</p> <p>1-2 Academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT make revisions of the existing curricula based on the identified weaknesses and deficiencies.</p> <p>1-3 Academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT jointly develop new post-graduate curricula.</p>	<p>Inputs</p> <p>Eritrea side</p> <p>1. Assignment of Counterpart personnel</p> <p>2. Provision of Office space for experts and facilities necessary for implementation of the Project</p> <p>3. Necessary local costs of the Project implementation</p>	<p>JICA side</p> <p>1. Dispatch of experts (1) Long-term Japanese expert (Chief Advisor) (2) Short-term JKUAT experts</p> <p>2. Provision of some equipment and materials for experiments and practicals</p> <p>3. Advisory missions</p> <p>4. Necessary expenses for Joint Research</p> <p>5. Necessary travel and living allowances exclusively for secondments of academic staff and PhD programs in</p>	<p>Preconditions: MoU between NBHE and JKUAT is expected to be effective at least during the Project period.</p>	

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Activity 2	Narrative summary	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
2-1	Some educational equipment and materials for experiments and practices at post-graduate level suitable for Eritrea are procured for the three IHEs.		JKUAT	
2-2	Academic staff of IHEs and JKUAT support their lectures with experiments and practices using the procured equipment and materials.			
Activity 3				
3-1	Academic staff of JKUAT are seconded at the three IHEs for conducting lectures, experiments and practicals jointly with Eritrean academic staff.			
3-2	Academic staff of the three IHEs are seconded at JKUAT for conducting lectures, experiments and practicals jointly with JKUAT academic staff.			
3-3	Some lecturers of the three IHEs are trained at PhD level in JKUAT by sandwich program.			
3-4	Academic staff of the three IHEs and JKUAT conduct joint research in some specific areas.			

Organizational Structure

Joint Coordinating Committee



List of Proposed Members of the Joint Coordinating Committee

1. Chairperson: Executive Director of National Board for Higher Education
(Project Director)

2. Members:

Eritrean side

- Director of Bureau of Higher Education Administration and International Linkages, National Board of Higher Education (Project Manager)
- Acting President of Eritrean Institute of Technology (EIT)
- Dean of Hamelmalo Agricultural College (HAC)
- Dean of College of Marine Science and Technology (COMSAT)

Japanese side

- Long-term Japanese expert
- Representatives of JICA Kenya Office/ JICA Liaison Office in Eritrea

JKUAT

- Representatives of JKUAT

Officials of Embassy of Japan to Eritrea may attend the JCC meetings as observers.

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Asmara, X August, 2012

Mr. Hideo Eguchi
Chief Representative
JICA Kenya Office

Dr. Tadesse Mehari
Executive Director
National Board for Higher Education
The State of Eritrea

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The Project will be implemented within the framework of the Agreement on Technical Cooperation signed on the 8th August 2005 (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement").

Appendix 1: Project Description

Appendix 2: Main Points Discussed

Appendix 3: Minutes of Meetings on the Detailed Planning Survey

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Both parties confirmed that there is no change in the Project Description agreed on in the Minutes of Meetings on the concerning Detailed Planning Survey on the Project signed on the 9th August 2012 (Appendix 3).

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MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED

(To be added if any)

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Paul