



# SKY project for Industrial Skills Development and Skills Assessment in Africa

Applied Social System Institute of Asia, Nagoya University

Project Leader: Shoko YAMADA

<http://skills-for-development.com/>

Email: [sky.project.adm@gmail.com](mailto:sky.project.adm@gmail.com)

Nagoya University, Furo-cho Chikusa-ku, 464-8601, Nagoya

## What is SKY (Skills and Knowledge for Youths) Project?

It is an interdisciplinary team of scholars to apply academic knowledge to solve problems on skills and employment  
<Expertise>

policy studies, educational measurement, econometrics, labor economics, anthropology, sociology, and area studies

## Objectives of the SKY Project :

- 1) To propose effective means for developing industrial human resources which contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries
- 2) To specify if technical and vocational education and training is providing a workforce with skills demanded by the industries
- 3) To develop the skills assessment module and operationalize it, so that it would benefit governments of developing countries, so local and investing firms can benefit

## Why Industrial Skills Development in Africa Now?

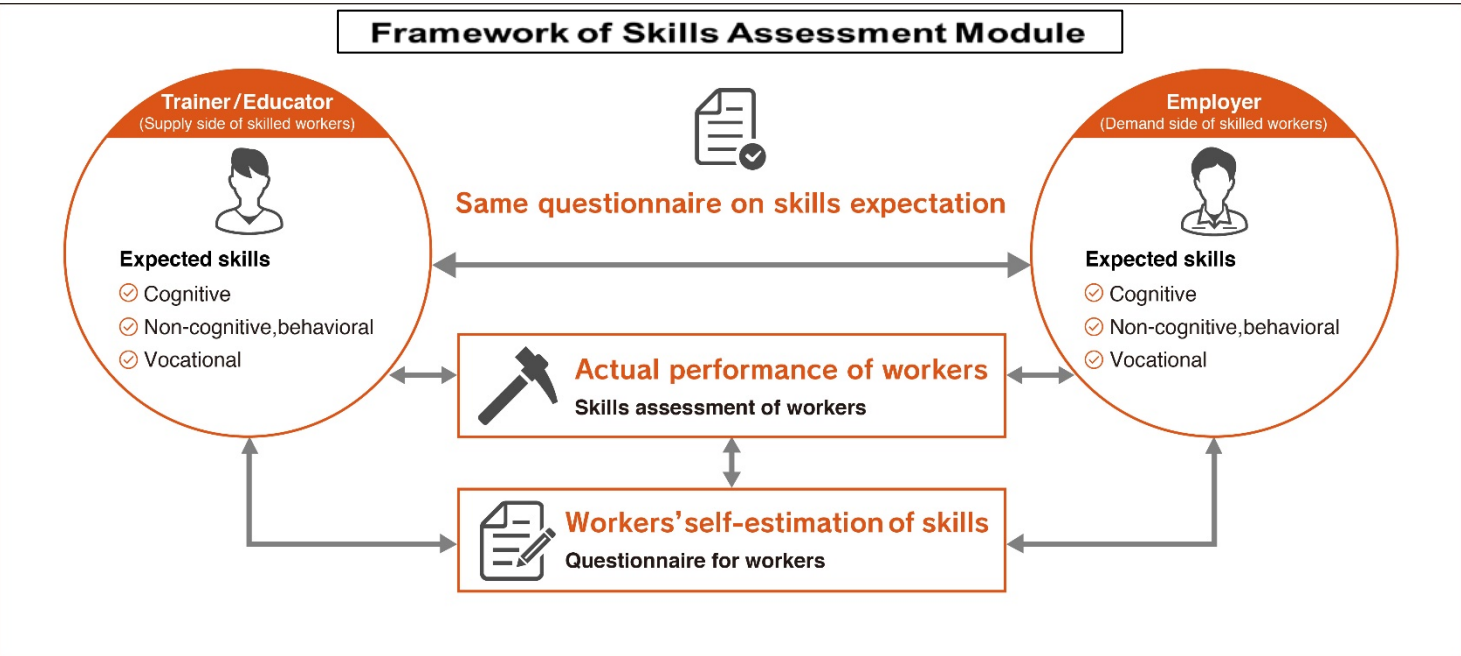
- From year 2000 onward, the economic growth rate in Africa is larger than that of developed countries including Japan, but their national incomes largely rely on the low value-added products such as a resource export.
- Workers' life tend not to be stable because many of them share jobs with low productivity and without decent income.
- While 40% of African workforce is younger than 24 years old, the unemployment rate is highest among them.
  - Unemployment rate for under 24 population is 14.1% in Sub-Sahara Africa, while the overall unemployment rate is 8.0% (World Development Indicators, 2014).



- ◆ Preparation of the workforce with high level of skills is the precondition for the economic growth based on the value-added production and decent employment.
- ◆ Vocational skills training under the limited governmental budget requires an efficient implementation of industrial skills development.
- ◆ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as well as the International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held by the Japanese government in August 2016, highlight the importance on industrial skills development.
- ◆ Africa that has a huge potential as the market and production base, growingly attracts Japanese corporations. Meanwhile, the lack of skilled labor force, together with a political instability and a lack of infrastructure, bottlenecks their extension into Africa.

Features of the Project:

- 1. The skills assessment module of SKY project can provide answers to below questions:
  - Whether there are **gaps in the expectations on the skills** of workers between the industries and the schools
  - Whether **the actual practical skills** of workers meet the expectations of the employers and trainers
  - Whether **the school curriculum** produces human resources with skills as intended
- 2. The Project grasps skills as not just a simple production skill, but multiple/comprehensive problem-solving skills composed of the followings:
  - **Cognitive skills:** Basic knowledge, literacy and numeracy, which can be acquired in the classroom
  - **Vocational skills:** Operational skills for production in special sectors
  - **Non-cognitive skills:** Skills to apply the knowledge, to have inter-personal relations, to follow the rule, and to judge things in order to make a required result



Pilot studies are conducted in three countries, aiming to standardize the skills assessment module for the application in different countries and industrial sectors



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