



6th African Kaizen Annual Conference

24-26 AUGUST 2021

TANZANIA

COMMUNIQUÉ

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE SIXTH AFRICAN KAIZEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE (AKAC2021)
HELD FROM 24 TO 26 AUGUST 2021 IN TANZANIA**

We, the Heads of African Kaizen institutes, National Productivity Centres, Kaizen professionals and consultants from Africa and Japan; the organizing and partner institutions Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as distinguished invitees:

1. **Express** our sincere gratitude to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, AUDA-NEPAD and JICA for organizing African Kaizen Annual Conference and the African Kaizen Awards (AKA) 2021;
2. **Acknowledge** the relevance and timeliness of the theme of the 6th AKAC 2021 “*Opportunities to Accelerate Industrialization and Trade in Africa: Streamlining Kaizen/Quality and Productivity Improvement (QPI) with Digital Technologies, Start-ups, SME Development, and Home Grown Economic Activities in Africa*” in contributing to the realization of Africa’s industrial transformation.
3. **Recognize** the important role played by government and regional institutions, pan African financial institutions, partners, regulatory bodies, and the private sector especially MSMEs in driving and improving productivity and competitiveness.
4. **Acknowledge** the need to work in a harmonised approach, nationally, regionally and continentally and to catalyse and enhance quality and productivity improvement as part of Africa’s drive towards the realisation of Africa’s industrialisation drive.
5. **Affirm** our commitment to promote Kaizen and Quality and Productivity and enhance the performance of AKI-AP 2021-2025 and its contribution in achieving the main goals of the AU Agenda 2063 for industrial transformation.
6. **Re-affirm** that quality and productivity improvement (QPI) or Kaizen helps to modernize African industries; improve quality along the value chain of production; improve productivity of inputs and outputs; foster competitive industries; develop the technical skills of workers and managerial capability; increase business dividends and workers benefits; and expand investment by generating additional revenue and profits and thereby creating job opportunities.
7. **Note** the progress made by some AU Member States including Tanzania and the outstanding and excellent performing companies nominated for AKA 2021 Awards by implementing AKI-AP.
8. **Acknowledge** and encourage the progress driven by the 5 African Kaizen Working Groups (WGs) on selected 5 key cross-cutting issues of AKI-AP 2021-2025.
9. **Note** the importance of research on Kaizen/QPI presented by JICA-Research Institute (JICA-RI) on the occasion of AKAC 2021 to improve the performance of AKI.

10. **Convey** our message through this communiqué to the Governments of African countries, Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD) process, AUDA-NEPAD, and JICA for their continued assistance in the implementation of AKI.

11. **Agree to**

- Further enhance the performance of the 5 WGs to continue to make meaningful contributions to the implementation of AKI and to endeavour to implement the recommendations for each WGs by all stakeholders.
- Support activities to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on African MSME's through implementation of AKI, by developing and implementing different solutions such as digital platforms, and remote/distance training and consultancy services.
- Continuously strengthen the capacity of Africa's institutions to implement the Kaizen approach and to provide quality training and consultancy services at the highest standards.
- Foster research on the successes, challenges and outcomes of Kaizen/QPI endeavours in Africa and promote the use of such research results for improved quality and productivity.
- Motivate and encourage companies to apply Kaizen technologies and related productivity improvement tools and participate in the African Kaizen Awards organized by AUDA-NEPAD and JICA.

Recommend

1. Participating countries to further accelerate commitments to implement AKI-AP at continental, regional, national and sub-national levels,
2. Participating countries to incorporate AKI-AP 2021-2025 into their national quality and productivity improvement policy frameworks, and facilitate its implementation;
3. Institutions in Kaizen/QPI implementing countries to collaborate in compiling AKI-AP best practices and sharing among African countries.
4. Governments to strengthen Kaizen Institutions, National Productivity Centres, Kaizen Units and relevant Counterpart Organizations to play a meaningful role in learning, adapting and disseminating Kaizen/QPI tools and systems.
5. Kaizen Institutions, National Productivity Centres, Kaizen Units and Counterpart Organizations to assume leadership in Kaizen/QPI movement and give due attention to Start-ups and MSMEs in their struggle to emerge, survive and sustain.
6. Governments to earmark resources for the continuation and scale-up of Kaizen activities.
7. AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with partners to strengthen its role in advocating and coordinating the implementation of AKI.
8. JICA to continue its support and technical assistance for the implementation of AKI 2017-2027 framework within the Yokohama Action Plan of TICAD process.

9. Participating companies to encourage and empower their management and workers to implement Kaizen/QPI activities.
10. Kaizen institutes and National Productivity Centres to strengthen their networks and relationships with relevant local institutions, associations, educational institutions and the like, to build and expand local capabilities.
11. Kaizen Institutes, National Productivity Centres, KUs and Counterpart Organizations to establish a national convention system (including at company and national levels) as part of AKA.
12. Kaizen practitioners and QPI professionals in Africa to further strengthen their commitment to implement AKI-AP and show more tangible results to win the hearts and minds of their respective Governments, policy makers, companies and public institutions.

Done in Tanzania on the 26th of August 2021.

Delegates of the AKAC 2021