

Urban and Housing Planners in Francophone Africa Learned About Urban and Community Development in Akabane

Seven urban and housing planners in Francophone African countries came to learn about at the Nouvelle Akabane-dai housing complex and the UR museum of urban and lifestyle design on 27 January.

They were the planning officials of Burkina Faso, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Madagascar invited by JICA, each country are facing housing shortages and various urban issues.

Director Ms. AKASAKA Kaori, who served as a lecturer, systematically explained the transition of UR's role in housing from the resolution of the housing shortage after World War II to the response to the declining birthrate and aging population, as well as plans, consensus-building, and implementation methods for the reconstruction of the Akabane-dai housing complex and the redevelopment of the west exit of Akabane Station.



The participants, who are striving to develop housing and towns urgently, showed a strong interest in the content of the lectures. They asked questions such as the system of rental housing' rent and the structure of elderly facilities, and the design of housing complexes.

They also studied that the redevelopment of the west exit of Akabane Station took a long time to build consensus with landowners for the rights conversion and formulate plans.

We guided to the Nouvelle Akabane-dai and the west exit of Akabane Station after the lecture, the participants were impressed by the innovative space and design of the Nouvelle Akabane-dai housing complex centered on Hintomation, where residents of all ages can



From left to right: Hintomation, a multi-generational communication space, walking through Nouvelle Akabane-dai, Akabane Station West Exit 2 Block

gather, and the park with disaster prevention functions. At the west exit of Akabane Station, they confirmed the redevelopment process, which divided into two blocks.

At the UR museum of urban and lifestyle design, the participants were able to experience the history of housing supply and the room size of the housing complex, which were mentioned in the lecture. They also visited “the special exhibition on earthquake reconstruction” and learned about UR's rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance such as the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which marked the 30th anniversary of the disaster.

At the end of the full day's program, a participant from Gabon expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to acquire about UR's knowledge and technology, and how UR's experience is helping disaster reconstruction.

The TICAD 9, the International Conference on African Development will be held in Yokohama in August this year. UR is transferring its knowledge of housing supply, urban regeneration, and disaster reconstruction to African countries.



Participants visiting the UR museum and experiencing the rooms of the housing complex, and Participants viewing video materials at the special exhibition for earthquake reconstruction.

End