

■ News

**Project launched to train educators from Senegal**

An opening ceremony was held on 7 October 2013 marking the launch of the Strengthening Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Project (PREMST2)—run jointly by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Republic of Senegal—as ten educators and project coordinators from Senegal started training at Okayama University. The participants received tuition in mathematics and sciences until 28 October.

One of the reasons for the low academic abilities of children in Senegal compared to other African nations has been attributed to the lack of knowledge and teaching skills of its teachers.

This project aims to resolve such issues for Senegal's educators, where participants learn new skills through lectures and practical exercises focused on mathematics and science, as well as observing classes and lesson planning sessions at primary schools affiliated with the Faculty of Education at Okayama University.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Masaru Kaga, Dean of the Graduate School of Education, Dr. Masahiro Taguchi, Vice-Director of the International Center, and Noriaki Nishiyama, Director of the JICA Chugoku International Center, and the participants. Vice-Director Taguchi gave a message of encouragement, saying, "We look forward to this course laying the foundation for realizing exemplary classes to be used not only in the schools of the members of this course, but widely throughout the whole of Senegal."



Vice-Director Taguchi giving his address



The educators from Senegal attending the opening ceremony