



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) paid a courtesy call to the African Minister's Council on Water (AMCOW) in Abuja to discuss possible strategic partnerships.

Speaking during the visit, AMCOW's Executive Secretary Dr. Canisius Kanangire said that AMCOW views JICA as a partner and that JICA can play an important role in the area of disaster capacity development.

"Disaster capacity is what we see JICA helping us with. Africa needs small but effective plans to address disasters on the continent," said Dr. Kanangire

Dr. Kanangire noted that AMCOW was looking at how to innovate to deliver on its mandate. "We are in the process of strengthening AMCOW to effectively deliver on its mandate. We have re-organised and strengthened our capacity but above all we are exploring new and innovative ways in implementing water and sanitation across Africa."

The Executive Secretary said that AMCOW was developing and providing a platform for coordination for Member States on issues of sanitation and water. The Executive Secretary lamented the high level of defecation on the continent and noted that this needs a high level of commitment from African governments.

Dr. Kanangire called on the continent to develop a think tank mechanism to be able to transform the environment on which water is managed in Africa. "It is critical that we engage and empower our youths in the Water and Sanitation Sector to harness the Demographic Dividend through investments in the Youth.. We must provide them with ways and means and capacitate them to help with the many issues surrounding the continent especially in the Water and Sanitation Sector."

