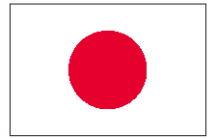


Japan Press Release

3 March 2016



**From
the People of Japan**

Japan Supports Education and Water Projects in Uganda

H.E. Junzo Fujita, Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, will sign four (4) grant contracts today, at the Embassy of Japan, for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), totalling over 1.2 Billion Uganda shillings (US\$ 351,310) with the representatives of the recipient organizations.

GGP is a scheme administered by the Embassy of Japan to support community-based development projects. The Embassy of Japan initiated the GGP in 1992 with only one project in Kampala. The number, sector, and region of the GGP have grown and expanded since then. Now, 13 to 14 projects are implemented every year in all parts of Uganda. By signing the grant contract with Kibale Secondary School today, the number of projects implemented under the GGP scheme reaches 210.

Our commitments in Uganda have successfully improved millions of people's lives through the construction of boreholes, class rooms, girls' dormitories, maternity wards and infectious disease wards, and the procurement of ambulances, school buses and trucks. The region wise distribution of the 210 projects is almost even - 61 are in Northern Uganda, 51 in Central, 50 in West, 42 in East (the locations of the remaining 6 projects are not recorded). The sector wise distribution is 106 in education, 53 in health, 11 in agriculture, 29 in water, and 11 in other.

Japan, steadily promoting ownership of and partnership with African countries through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, is committed to achieving Uganda's quality growth, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and consolidation of peace and good governance. The Embassy of Japan continuously encourages primary and secondary schools, health centres, NGOs and CBOs who are in great need to apply for the GGP.

The details of the 4 new projects are as follows:

St. Benedict Secondary School is a Catholic founded school located in Amuria District in Eastern Uganda. The area suffered for long from attacks of neighboring Karamojong as well as damages caused by rebel groups. The school was initially an agricultural school managed by Amuria parish before it developed into a secondary school; however, all facilities were destroyed by Uganda Peoples' Army rebels between 1989 to 1990. The school has 16 teachers and the enrollment of 444 students from S1 to S4 out of which 232 students are girls. The school currently uses a 70-year-old dilapidated church and a store as girls' dormitories which accommodate 140 girl students. Therefore, this project will construct a girls' dormitory and a latrine block, and install a set of solar PV system and furniture in order to improve girl students' learning and living environment.

St. Mary College Madi Opei is located in Madi Opei Sub County in Lamwo District and was established in 1992 by Missionaries of Kitgum parish and Gulu Archdiocese. The school has 16 teachers and the enrollment of 578 students from S1 to S4 and is the only secondary school in the sub county. Currently the school does not have permanent dormitories and uses a crumbling former parish hall that can accommodate only 80 girl students. Girl students that cannot be accommodated have to commute more than 7 km every day, and others even rent in a not so secure area and suffer from sexual harassment. Therefore, this project will construct a new girls' dormitory and a latrine block and install a set of solar power system and furniture in order to secure 200 girl students' learning and living environment.

Community Awareness and Response on AIDS is a local NGO that operates in the mountainous South Western Uganda (Buhweju District) where many community residents suffer from water shortage due to lack of access to underground water. Currently, the only source of water is nearby swamps which they share with domestic and wild animals. In most of the schools in the community, pupils go to fetch water in the morning and during lunch break; however, the access to the water source is limited, and the labour negatively affects their academic performance. Moreover, pupils hardly have access to drinking water while at school since the little that is available is consumed by teachers. This project will install 20 rain water harvesting tanks in 20 primary schools in 3 sub counties and 1 town where access to safe and clean water will be increased, and water and sanitation environment for students and community residents will be improved.

Kibale Secondary School is located in Kibale Sub County in Pallisa District, Eastern Uganda and was established as a government aided school in 1994. Currently, the school has 604 students and 18 teachers and the number of students has more than doubled in the past 5 years due to a flow of population from urban areas. The classroom shortage is serious that one classroom serves 150 students, making their learning environment poor. Additionally, the school currently has 2 stances of pit latrines, and they serve 248 girls students which make toilets excessively congested, forcing girl students leave the classroom for long time. It causes their academic performance to decline. Therefore, this project will construct classroom blocks and toilet blocks and install furniture so that the school will be able to provide 604 students with a better learning and sanitary environment as well as to improve girl students' academic performance.

The grant contract signing ceremony for the first four (4) projects will take place today 3 March 2016 at the Conference Room (2nd Floor), Embassy of Japan, Kyadondo Road, Nakasero, starting at 9:30am.

Your media house is kindly invited to cover this function.

For further information, please contact.

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Thank you.