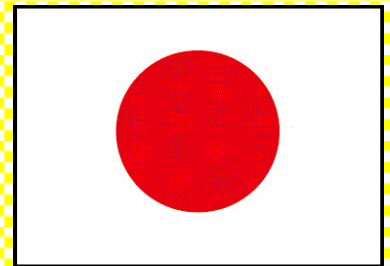




JULY 2018 (VOL. 10)

VOICE OF JAPAN

From KAMPALA



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A wider area of western part of Japan has heavily suffered human and material damage inflicted by highly unusual torrential rains in the first half of July. Following this disaster, a heat wave more than 35 °C has been covering most part of Japan. I sincerely thank many Ugandans for expressing to me heartfelt sympathies in this regard.

**EVENTS IN JULY****7月のイベント****19 JULY: JAPAN SUPPORTED SECONDARY EDUCATION IN KABAROLE DISTRICT**

The leadership and communities of Kabarole District in Western Uganda joined Mr. Naohiro Nozaka, Head of Economic Cooperation, to commission a girls' dormitory block worth of 93,469 USD which was constructed for the students of Kahinju Senior Secondary School. Girl students were commuting for very long distances which was affecting their performance and retention. The ceremony was braced with a lot of excitement from the communities and students while other dignitaries in attendance included the Ambassador of Uganda to South Sudan, H.E. Brg. Gen. Ronnie Balya.

**25 to 27 JULY: PRESS TOUR HELD IN WESTERN UGANDA**

The Embassy of Japan conducted a Press Tour on Japan's development assistance from 25th to 27th July. The purpose of the tour was to showcase the diversity of Japanese assistance including technical cooperation, grant aid, volunteers, Japanese NGO's projects in Western Uganda. More than 16 press officials attended the tour and picked up materials on projects supported by Japan in fields of health, education, climate change, water & sanitation and income generation.

27 JULY: INFORMATIVE MEETING ON JAPAN'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Ambassador Kameda organized an informative meeting on Japan's Development Assistance on Friday 27th July at Lake View Hotel, Mbarara. The purpose of the event was to showcase Japan's projects in the field of development assistance specifically in the western part of Uganda. In this informative meeting, beneficiaries of Japan's assistance projects shared their experience to the audience. The event was attended by around 100 participants including Hon. John Byabagambi, Minister of Karamoja and Hon. Bright Rwamirama, State Minister of Veteran Affairs.



17 JULY: MR. KIIZA RECEIVES JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENDATION

On 17th July, Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, announced to confer a commendation upon Mr. Lawrence Katekyeza Kiiza, the former Director Economic Affairs of MoFPED, for his tremendous contribution to Japan-Uganda economic relations, in particular, greater understanding about Uganda's development strategies among Japan's academic circles on one hand, and about Japanese model of development assistance among Uganda's policy makers, using his position of the Director of Economic Affairs for more than 10 years.



UPCOMING EVENTS

今後の行事予定

14 AUGUST: ABE INITIATIVE SEND-OFF CEREMONY



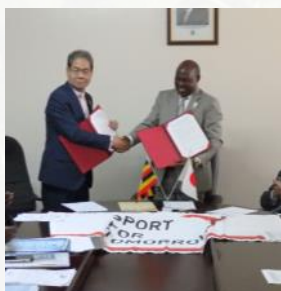
Under the masters' degree and internship program of the African Business Education Initiative for youth (ABE Initiative) 5th batch, three participants are going to be dispatched to study at Japanese universities in the fields of agriculture engineering and earth resources engineering in the end of August. On this occasion, the send-off ceremony is planned to take place on 14 August.

22 AND 23 AUGUST: GGP COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES TO BE HELD

"The Project for the Construction of a Girls' Dormitory at Obiya Primary School in Gulu District" and "the Project for the Construction of a Science Laboratory Block at Bezza Al-Hijji Senior Secondary School in Adjumani District" are now completed and will be commissioned on 22 and 23 August respectively. Through these projects, 200 primary students are able to access to safe accommodation in Gulu Municipality, and 400 secondary students are able to access proper science lectures in Adjumani Town.



20 — 24 AUGUST: DELEGATION FROM IZUMISANO-CITY TO VISIT UGANDA



Since Izumisano-city is registered as a host town to Uganda for Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, the delegation will discuss with Ministry of Education and Sports. With the municipality of Gulu, they will talk about future cooperation and exchange between sister cities. Moreover, they plan to visit one of the primary schools in Gulu and seek the practical interchange for better relations as finding out its educational environment.



JICA's support to Nakawa Vocational Training Institute and Uganda BTJET for 50 years



Opening Ceremony of Nakawa VTI in 1971, a start of history of collaboration between Nakawa and Japan

JICA's support to Nakawa Vocational Training Institute (Nakawa VTI) started in 1968, which means Japan has supported BTJET (Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training) sub-sector for 50 years. Though during a certain period, support was suspended due to internal conflicts in Uganda. The first JICA Technical Cooperation Project titled, "Uganda Vocational Training Center" was implemented from 1968 to 1974 in partnership with Nakawa VTI as the counterpart. This was aimed at supporting skill up-grading trainings demanded for promotion of small and medium enterprises. The Project established the training mechanism in the fields of Machinery & Fitting, Welding and Fabrication, Motor Vehicle mechanics and Electricity departments. During that time Uganda was faced with political instability that followed independence from England in 1962. It was difficult to have a smooth implementation of the project but we believe the trainees nurtured in the said fields are still essential in industries that have served as a foundation for industrial development in Uganda.

After the completion of the first project and JICA's suspension period of its support to Uganda (due to internal conflicts), JICA resumed its support. In 1994, when the GoU officially requested JICA to support industrial human resource development which was the most prioritized concern at that time. The shortage of skilled workforce caused by the prolonged internal conflict slowed down economic development in Uganda. And in 1994 JICA resumed its support with dispatching JICA experts to Nakawa VTI, and since then up to the currently on-going project titled, "TVET-Leading Institution's Expansion of Human Resource and Skilled Workforce Development for Industrial Sector" in Uganda (TVET-LEAD Project); JICA has continuously supported industrial human resource development not only in Uganda but also in surrounding countries through Nakawa VTI.



A line-up of Trees representing JICA Experts from the main entrance

In the past 50 years JICA has tried to develop industrial human resources **with competent skills for the market**. JICA has always aimed to transfer competent skills from Japan to Uganda through; Technical Cooperation Projects, JICA Trainings and Dispatch of JICA Advisors since such skills enable Ugandan youth to be employed and trained and up-graded for in-service workers to further contribute to economic development of Uganda. Besides, along the road from the entrance of Nakawa VTI to the school buildings, trees called "trees of JICA Experts" are planted. Every time a JICA Expert comes to Uganda, to transfer his/her skills to Nakawa VTI Instructors and returns to Japan, a tree is planted dedicated to each of them, and now there's a line-up of trees along the road from the main entrance that represents JICA's long-term support to Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (TVET) in Uganda.



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Nine New Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

JICA Uganda Office received 9 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to work in Community Development, Rice cultivation, Automobile and Physical Education. After the orientation, they will be dispatched to their respective assignment places within the country to assume duties.



MY EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN WAS A REMARKABLE ONE!

- Tayebwa Dickson (ABE EX-PARTICIPANT)

"I arrived in Tokyo through Haneda international airport in September 2015, and stayed at Shibuya 'the center of commercial business in Tokyo' and one of the busiest cities in Japan. As I had imagined, Tokyo's advanced infrastructure; the skyscrapers, the subway way system and road infrastructure were amazing. The city is very clean regardless of the human traffic especially in the morning and the evening hours. After just two weeks of stay in Tokyo, I moved to Obihiro, where I was to stay and study for the next 2 years.

Obihiro is located in the northernmost island of Japan, the Hokkaido prefecture. Contrary to Tokyo, the life in Obihiro is remote, there is no sophisticated underground-subway network or skyscrapers, this area is known for agriculture and livestock production with plenty of delicious food, the life in this area is simple and conducive for pursuance of academics. The best time to visit Japan is during Summer (May-September). Several festivals are held in summer such as the Tokachi

food valley mini marathon, Japanese tea ceremony, the famous fireworks festival (Hanabi), Obon dance and the World Ningen Bamba Human-Draft Competition.

On the other hand, Winter (December-March) is freezing cold, up to -25 °C. If you intend to visit during this season, carry heavy duty jacket lest you might freeze out. Nonetheless, life moves on smoothly whether

its summer or winter. As a student, I committed much of my time to studying and doing research, which focused on the screening for novel drugs against babesiosis, a tick-

transmitted disease that affects both humans and cattle across the world. As a foreign student, the professors, staff and Japanese students were always kind and supportive which made life very easy. Aside from academia, I had some time to socialize, networked, and I was the president of the Africa Obihiro Research Network (AORNet).

AORNet is an organization that was started by the African students in Obihiro University, in 2016, to foster collaborative research activities between Japan and Africa for the development of Africa. In addition to the Master's degree in animal science and food hygiene, I also gained a lot of expertise in business, net-working, and the understanding of the Japanese business ethics and social culture. I had an opportunity to network with over 20 Japanese companies during a business fair in Tokyo, most of which wanted to expand coverage to Africa. Additionally, I had an internship with Nentry's company limited, a major car dealer and exporter.

Based on my experiences, I strongly believe that programs such as the ABE initiative, that offer both skills and a practical experience to the youth from Africa play a fundamental role towards the social economic development of the African continent. **For, the bridges and foundations we create now will shape the future not just for us but also for the next generations."**



Members of the AORNet in Obihiro, from different countries in Africa



Hands on training; learning how to operate light duty machinery at Nentrys company during internship



JAPANESE NGO SCENE IN UGANDA

ASHINAGA UGANDA

NGO PROFILE NO. 1



Study Camp 2018 Kokoro-Juku Opening Ceremony

“Ashinaga Uganda is a Japanese International NGO that provides educational and psychosocial support to orphaned students in Sub-Sahara Africa. One of facilities, the Rainbow House (RH) provides material support for more than 800 registered children and primary school scholarships for 45 children who have lost one or both parents in Nansana, Wakiso.

Another core facility is “Ashinaga Uganda Kokoro-Juku (AUKJ)”, which was opened in 2014 also in Nansana, and is a purpose build educational facility at the heart of the Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI). Each year, after a thorough recruitment process, AUKJ invites a number of high school graduates from across sub-Saharan Africa to come to the Kokoro-Juku, where they receive educational and emotional support before going off to embark on undergraduate study in universities across the world.

On Wednesday 4th July 2018, Ashinaga Uganda held an Opening Ceremony to officially welcome the new 2018 candidates for AAI, of which they are 33 students from 26 countries. There were a number of local dignitaries in attendance, including the local Police Chief and the guest of honour, the Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Kazuaki Kameda.



On 11th July, a handover ceremony of Randsel (school bags) took place with the kind attendance of H.E. Kazuaki Kameda. They were second hand bags donated by Japanese children organized by the Japanese NGO Nippon Randsel Project. Ashinaga Uganda has collaborated with Nippon Randsel Project since last year and liaised with respective organization in Uganda who supports children.”



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