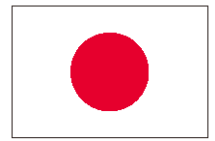


Japan Press Release

25 January 2016



**From
the People of Japan**

Japan's Grass Roots Human Security Projects Reach 200

H.E. Junzo Fujita, Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, will sign four (4) grant contracts today, at the Embassy of Japan, and another four (4) grant contracts on Wednesday 27 January for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), totalling over 2.2 Billion Uganda shillings (US\$676,377) 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 Matuumu Secondary School today, the number of projects implemented under the GGP scheme reaches a commemorative 200.

By adding 8 new projects on the list of the GGP today and on 27th, the Government of Japan will have supported 206 GGP projects in total so far in Uganda. 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 206 projects is almost even - 60 are in Northern Uganda, 51 in Central, 49 in West, 40 in East (the locations of the remaining 6 projects are not recorded). The sector wise distribution is 103 in education, 53 in health, 11 in agriculture, 28 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 8 new projects are as follows:

Kahinju Senior Secondary School was established in 1983 by Diocese of Ruwenzori - Church of Uganda. The school has 541 girls and 615 boys and 45 teachers. 27% of students walk more than 3 kilometers to get to school and girl students in particular are more vulnerable to harassment by men, violence and wild animals. Such long distance commuting makes students exhausted and causes poor performance at school, which leads about 30 girl students to drop out of school every year. The Diocese of Ruwenzori will receive US\$ 93,469 for construction of a girls' dormitory for 200 girl students in order to reduce the risks of dangerous commuting and provide a better learning and living environment.

Matuumu Secondary School is located in Kamuli District in eastern Uganda and has an enrollment of 477 girls and 547 boys, and 32 teachers. The school had a girls' dormitory which was built by the school in 2005, however a severe storm demolished the dormitory in 2015 and students have since then been forced to live under poor conditions by using 4 out of 10 classrooms as temporary dormitories. As a result of lacking enough classrooms, students' performance is becoming poorer. Matuumu Secondary School will receive US\$ 87,955 to construct a girls' dormitory for 200 girl students and provide a better learning and living environment.

St. Joseph Vocational Training Centre was established in 1989 by Salesians of Don Bosco and has 250 boys, 180 girls and 39 teachers. They offer vocational trainings based on social needs and their graduates are much appreciated by industries for their skills. The increasing number of students for the past three years has caused an urgent need for supplying water for daily use in the dormitory. Since the school has no waterworks facility, the students depend on the existing well and rainwater tanks which are usually inadequate and creates a severe water shortage. St. Joseph Vocational Training Centre will receive US\$ 92,873 to improve facilities and provide a better learning and living environment for 430 students.

Ashinaga Uganda, located in Wakiso District, is a local NGO established in 2001 by a Japanese philanthropic organisation Ashinaga Ikueikai. Their main object is to give education and counselling to HIV orphans. In addition, they started a new project titled “100 Year Project” , which aims at giving an intensive 6 month training to 35 students from 35 different Sub Saharan African countries and supporting them to go to highly ranked universities around the world. However, their projects are often disrupted by unstable power and water supply. Ashinaga Uganda will receive US\$ 90,964 for installing a solar PV system and a solar water pump system to improve their learning environment.

Akwang Secondary School is a government aided school located in Agago district and was established in 2006. The school currently has 683 students and 24 teachers. Though government in 2007 set biology, chemistry, and physics as compulsory, Akwang Secondary School lacks a science laboratory which makes it difficult for the school to carry out practical examination by Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB). As a result, performance of science subjects continues to be poorer than other subjects. Akwang Secondary School will receive US\$ 76,286 to construct a science laboratory with necessary equipment where safe and effective practical lessons will be carried out for 683 students in the school.

Bezza Al-Hijji Senior Secondary School is an ‘O’ Level community school in Adjumani District, with an enrollment of 252 boys, 86 girls and 21 teachers. The school uses a classroom as a science laboratory. Because of lack of a store, science equipment and chemicals are kept under tables in the laboratory. Furthermore, the space in the laboratory only accommodates 21 students at a time yet each class on average has 84 students. As a result, classes are divided into three groups and use the laboratory in shifts. Bezza Al-Hijji Senior Secondary School will receive US\$ 77,153 for construction of a science laboratory with three rooms for chemistry, biology and physics, and also procure furniture so as to improve students’ learning environment.

Childcare Padibe Primary School, located in Lamwo District, was established with the support of Irene Gleeson Foundation in 2007. The school has 773 pupils and 20 teachers. The existing ram shackled classrooms were constructed amidst war in 2005 and were temporal structures without windows. Whenever it rains, lessons are disrupted or stopped as pupils gather at the corners of their classrooms. Moreover, classrooms for P1 to P4 do not have desks and chairs and students are forced to sit on the floors to study. Irene Gleeson Foundation will receive US\$ 82,207 for construction of two classroom blocks and a latrine block, and also procure furniture in order to improve students’ learning environment.

Kalongo Primary School was established in 1972 in Agago District. It is the biggest school in the district with 1,154 girls, 1,252 boys and 33 teachers. The existing dormitories initially used as temporary houses made for “night commuters” during the war are now dilapidated and fragile because they were made from mud rather than cement and burnt bricks. Moreover, the roofs have a number of tiny holes, from which rain water falls onto students. Kalongo Primary School will receive US\$ 75,470 to construct a girls’ dormitory that can accommodate 200 girl students and install furniture so that the school can provide them with a better and safe learning environment.

The grant contract signing ceremony for the first four (4) projects will take place today 25 January 2016 at the Conference Room (2nd Floor), Embassy of Japan, Kyadondo Road, Nakasero, starting at 9:30am, and another four (4) on Wednesday 27 January 2016.

Your media house is kindly invited to cover this function.

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Thank you.