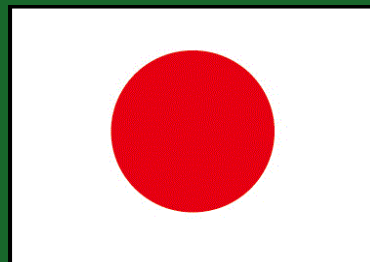




DECEMBER 2017 (Vol. 3)

VOICE OF JAPAN

From KAMPALA



Voice of Japan from Kampala is a free E-magazine issued monthly by the Embassy of Japan in Uganda to deliver recent updates and news from the Japanese community in Uganda. For subscription, please contact the Culture and Information Section at the Embassy of Japan in Uganda (contact details below).

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MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KAMEDA

Many thanks to all visitors to the reception marking the Emperor's 84th Birthday at my residence on 6th Dec. I was so happy to take this opportunity to bestow highly esteemed Japanese order to Hon. Kutesa, the Guest of Honour in that evening. I am spending this festive season in Japan. I from Japan wish you all year 2018 to be a successful and enjoyable year!

YEAR 2017 LOOKING BACK OVER JAPAN-UGANDA RELATIONS

10 BIGGEST EVENTS/NEWS IN 2017

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR IN TWO PAGES

JAN & NOV PUBLIC- PRIVATE CONFERENCE ON HIGH QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The conferences were held at a Ministerial level twice; once in Kampala in January, and the other in Tokyo in November for which Eng. Hon. Ntege Azuba led Ugandan delegation. Both conferences were participated by a large number of construction and consulting companies both from Japan and Uganda. Fruitful cooperation is expected in the infrastructure industry.



APR FOREIGN MINISTER KUTESA DECORATED BY THE EMPEROR

In April, Foreign Minister of Uganda, Hon. Sam Kutesa was bestowed one of the highest order for his significant role he played during his presidency of the UN General Assembly as well as for his contribution to enhancement of Japan-Uganda relations. The bestowal of the order was carried out on the occasion of the 84th Emperor's Birthday Reception in December.



MAY & AUG TWO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GRANT AID AGREEMENTS SIGNED

The Exchange of Notes for the project for Rural Water Supply in Kyoga Basin in Eastern Uganda, whose grant amounted to \$15.3 million, was signed early May while in August the food assistance equivalent to \$3.2 million was signed to ease insufficient food security in Uganda.



MAY UGANDA INVESTMENT SEMINARS HELD IN JAPAN

Uganda Investment Seminars were successfully held in Tokyo, in which Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Kyambadde and Executive Director of UIA, Ms. Kamugirerey, participated. Uganda's attractive investment and trade environment was widely presented.



MAY to DEC DELIVERY OF MADE-IN-JAPAN ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND OPERATORS' TRAINING CONDUCTED

Commissioning Ceremony of over 1,100 pieces of Komatsu and other Japanese road construction equipment was held with the presence of President Museveni. Following the delivery of the equipment, four-week training for the operators in four different regions were held to ensure proper and sustainable usage and maintenance of the equipment under the supervision of Japanese experts.



10 BIGGEST EVENTS/NEWS IN 2017 (CONT'D)

JUL

OFFICIAL DELEGATION OF IZUMISANO CITY VISITED UGANDA

Izumisano Delegation headed by Vice Mayor Matsushita visited Gulu Municipality and signed MOU with the witness by Prime Minister Rugunda to foster cooperation and exchange between the two local municipalities. Another MOU was signed with the Education Ministry for Izumisano City to host Ugandan athletes in Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games 2020.

JUN & AUG

STATE MINISTER KISHI PARTICIPATED IN SOLIDARITY SUMMIT ON REFUGEES AND JICA PRESIDENT DR. KITAOKA VISITED WEST NILE

Then State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Kishi represented Japan at Solidarity Summit on Refugees in Munyonyo in June and held bilateral talks with President Museveni. In August, Prof. Kitaoka, JICA's President, visited West Nile to observe South Sudanese refugee influx and the host communities generously admitting them. A JICA study team has been assessing the difficulties local communities are encountering and formulating projects to help alleviate their predicaments while the Government of Japan provided emergency assistance through UN agencies.



AUG

BILATERAL MEETING AT TICAD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MOZAMBIQUE

Foreign Minister Hon. Sam Kutesa led Uganda's delegation to TICAD Ministerial Meeting in Maputo and held bilateral talks over lunch with newly appointed Foreign Minister Hon. Kono, who chaired the TICAD Meeting.

OCT

"PIKOTARO" (JAPANESE YOUTUBE STAR) VISITED UGANDA TO PROMOTE TOURISM

Japanese celebrated entertainer Pikotaro designated as Uganda's Tourism Ambassador visited Uganda for the first time and was introduced to H.E. President Museveni at the Tourism Investment Forum held at Victoria Serena Hotel. His visit to Uganda was widely reported in print and TV media in Japan.



YEAR-ROUND

JAPANESE COMPANIES INCREASINGLY ESTABLISHED IN UGANDA

The number of companies established by Japanese entrepreneurs and registered in Uganda was 17 in 2015. This number increased to 20 in 2016. The Embassy identifies now 24 companies registered. One of such examples is notable Japanese company "Kansai Paint", which acquired a company formerly named "Sadolin Uganda" this year and renamed it "Plascon".

YEAR 2017 IN PICTURES * GRASSROOTS PROJECTS (GGP) COMMISSIONING *

Amuru district



Kasese district



Iganga district



Oyam district



Rubirizi district



Ntungamo district



Arua district



Amolatar district



Japan's grassroots grant will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2018. In Uganda, 222 projects have been implemented so far including the ongoing ones. 14 projects were commissioned across the country in 2017.

For more information on GGP, please visit the Embassy's website.





JAPAN-UGANDA FESTIVAL



84TH EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION



SEMINAR ON FOOD VALUE CHAIN PROMOTION

IN PICTURES: A delegation from Japan presented agricultural machines during a seminar on food value chain hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Nov.



Embassy's New Year's Resolutions for 2018



The Embassy
wholeheartedly
wishes you a
Happy and
Prosperous 2018!

Following the successful implementation of the various projects handled in 2017 in partnership with all of you, the Embassy of Japan kindly asks all of you to continue with the same brilliant cooperation in 2018 to further strengthen this already flourishing Japan-Uganda relations.

The Embassy hereby pledges to:

- **CONTINUE TO OFFER HI-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE** under the banner of Poverty Reduction through Economic Growth and Support for Redressing Regional Disparities, with focus particularly on key areas: Improvement of the business environment, mainly infrastructure, Increase of rural income, especially rice production promotion, Improvement of the living environment such as health and water supply, and the Social stability in the northern region, using JICA's finance and technical expertise, support through UN Agencies and Embassy's GGP, and engaging NGOs and other players.
- **STRENGTHEN CULTURAL RELATIONS** to get Ugandan citizens familiar with Japanese culture and lives to deepen the understanding of both citizens much more through festivals such as Uganda-Japan Festival held last November and other attractive events.
- **DOUBLE THE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT MORE JAPANESE COMPANIES** to come and invest in Uganda's market, given the vast potentials to be exploited.

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

The Embassy of Japan in Uganda will be closed on the following dates in January: 1st (Mon), 2nd (Tue), 3rd (Wed). The Embassy will resume regular office hours on Thursday, 4th January 2018. We wish you all a Happy New Year!



JICA'S NEWSROOM

DECEMBER 2017



DATA COLLECTION SURVEY FEEDBACK

JICA Uganda conducted a data survey on Refugees and hosting communities' social infrastructure situation in the Refugee hosting districts of West Nile. After the initial findings by the JICA study team, a feedback workshop was conducted in Arua for the local governments and in Kampala to Office of the Prime Minister and the line ministries.

The Survey covered the sectors of Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Roads and Small Bridges in the Refugee hosting districts of Arua, Moyo, Yumbe, Koboko and Adjumani.

After the data collection survey, a long list of possible projects to be implemented will be developed and later a shortlist of 10-15 projects will be selected. This will be completed in February 2018 and a feedback will be made to both line ministries and host districts.

Some of the projects may be implemented by JICA through the different schemes available while others will be implemented through collaboration with other agencies (e.g. UN agencies).

IRRIGATION ADVISOR

In October, 2017, JICA dispatched an Irrigation Advisor, Dr. Noda Kuninobu to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). He will serve as the 3rd in the last five (5) years for a minimum of one (1) year ending 15th October, 2018. Dr. Noda brings with him a wealth of experience spanning over 40 years in irrigation-related interventions. He is expected to build capacity of Engineers at MAAIF and District Local Governments in designing, supervision, operation and management of irrigation facilities. Additionally, he is expected to conduct part-time lectures to Masters of Science, Irrigation students at Busitema University of Agriculture – Eastern Uganda.

A NEW PROJECT FORMULATION ADVISOR FOR AGRICULTURE ARRIVES IN KAMPALA

Hello, I'm Takeki Shimawaki, a project formulation adviser in Agriculture, Water and Environment section of JICA Uganda Office. Previously, I worked in Haiti and Kenya for more than three years. It's going to be a new challenge to work for JICA but I'll do my best. Looking forward to seeing you all.



JICA VOLUNTEERS' DAY

The 1st annual JICA Uganda Office Volunteers' Day was held in Kampala on the 1st of December, 2017. All stakeholders of JICA Volunteer Program were invited to share their experiences, and guests included; officials in the ministries, representatives from volunteer organizations such as American Peace Corps and KOICA, representatives from recipient organizations and JICA volunteers; a total of 180 participants attended. The



event was opened by the guest of honor H.E. KAMEDA Kazuaki, the Ambassador of Japan to Uganda. After briefing on JICA Volunteer Program, and volunteers' security policies by JICA staff, 4 representatives from different recipient organizations together with JICA Volunteers shared their experiences and achievements. Mr. Simon, a Senior Researcher, National Crops Recourses Research Institute (NaCRRI) also shared his experience of working together with JICA Volunteers since 2008. In closing the event, Mr. Lamex Omara Apitta, the Commissioner Physical Education appreciated the achievements of volunteers who are devoted and hard-working. Finally, Mr. Kawazumi Kyosuke, Chief Representative of JICA Uganda Office expressed his appreciation towards the support extended to the JICA volunteer program.



Since 1965, JICA has been dispatching volunteers to over 88 countries. The volunteer program is tailored to promote international goodwill and deepen the mutual understanding of the two countries, have the volunteers cooperate in the economic and social development, and also, develop international perspectives and return the experience to the Japanese communities. In Uganda, the program started in 2001. A total of 711 Volunteers have been dispatched to different fields of Health, Community development, Agriculture, Education and Sports, Vocational training, Water and Sanitation. Currently 75 Volunteers including 3 Senior Volunteers are working in Uganda.

COMING UP NEXT

Arrival of New JICA Volunteers 16th January 2018

Six new JICA Volunteers will arrive in Uganda.



TAKUMI FOODS LIMITED

“TAKUMI FOODS LIMITED is a food processing company established in 2011 by Kazutaka Aragaki who worked as a coffee roaster and barista in Japan for seven years. We are the first company to produce chocolate in Uganda, and received Visionaries Of Uganda Award in 2016.



Chocolate Spread



Aragaki Chocolate



Aragaki Bento

ARAGAKI CHOCOLATE is the first product of our company, also first chocolate product manufactured in Uganda. It is made from the finest organic cocoa grown by local farmers in Bundibugyo at the foot of Rwenzori Mountains. Our chocolate is additive free and contain no vegetable fat, it is processed in our original method using special roasting technique and stone mills to preserve the original flavor of organic cocoa. Our sales outlets are Uganda duty Free Sales and Transit Duty Free Shop at Entebbe Airport, Shoprite at Lugogo Mall and Capital Shoppers at Garden City.

ARAGAKI BENTO is our new service of gourmet packed meal delivery started November 2016. We started this service with Japanese meal but now we offer continental and diet meal as well. This could be your best choice for your lunch at office and home, also we provide party bento; the assorted version to occasion like party and conferences.

IN 2018, we are going to introduce chocolate products of low-priced range under our new brand name "Day-to-Day Chocolate". The first product will be chocolate spread using Ugandan cocoa by February, and bar chocolate with local ingredients by June."

For more information;

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