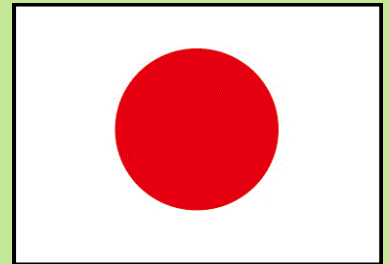




JANUARY 2018 (Vol. 4)

# 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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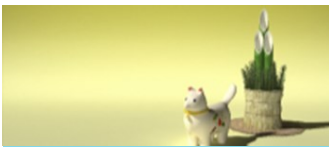
## MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KAMEDA

I am sending warm greetings to all of you from shivering Japan in the middle of wintertime, where I am accumulating energy to refreshingly start this year's activities in February with strong determination to raise the relations with Uganda to a higher level. I sincerely hope to see you soon!

## FAREWELL FROM EMBASSY'S STAFF

### MS. AIKO HINO, SECOND SECRETARY

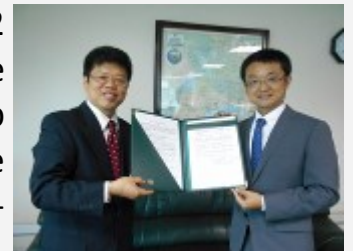
My name is Aiko Hino who has served as a second secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Uganda for the past 2 years. It has been my great honour to serve for the term to further strengthen the relationships with multi-layered stakeholders in the various sectors. I sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude to all of your cooperation. This year, we are expecting construction of the new Nile Bridge to be completed in Jinja. I hope this occasion will vigorously enhance Uganda's economic resilience and its tie with neighboring countries. I wish best to all the people of Uganda!



## EVENTS IN JANUARY

### JAPANESE NGO SIGNED A GRANT CONTRACT

A Japanese NGO, Terra Renaissance, signed a grant contract (173,352 USD) for a project entitled, "Self-reliance Support for South Sudanese Refugee and Host community – Vocational Training and Business Setup Support for Vulnerable People" on 30 January. The NGO will provide much needed vocational training in Pagirinya refugee settlement in Adjumani district. The project is expected to begin in February.



## COMING UP NEXT

### GRASS-ROOTS GRANT TO CELEBRATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

This year, we are celebrating 30th anniversary of the grass-roots program, which was established in 1989 and is currently supporting 141 countries and one region. "Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects" (so-called GGP or "kusanone" in Japanese) supports community-led small scale projects which directly benefit those who are in need the most. In Uganda, 222 projects have been implemented so far across the country.



## GRANT CONTRACTS FOR NEW GGP PROJECTS TO BE SIGNED

New projects were selected from over 500 applications this year after being scrutinized thoroughly. Grant Contract Agreements with more than 10 local organizations are expected to be signed before the end of March. We cannot wait to see many smiles! The signing ceremony will be reported in the following issues. For more information on GGP, please visit the Embassy's website: <http://www.ug.emb-japan.go.jp/02en/e04develop/ggp/ggp.html>



Photo: last year's signing ceremony

## JAPANESE NGO TO SIGN A NEW GRANT CONTRACT

A new project by Save the Children Japan, "Project for Improving Capacity of Communities to Respond Disasters and Adapt Climate Change for Vulnerable People in West Uganda," will begin in February. Its Grant Signing Ceremony is scheduled on 14th February in Kasese following a commissioning of the ongoing project by the NGO.



From  
the People of Japan

## PROGRESS OF JAPAN-FUNDED UN PROJECTS

The Government of Japan provides grants to international organizations to respond to issues that need urgent attention. In 2017, in addition to the regular contributions, Japan has provided total of 6.257 million USD to three UN agencies in Uganda (UNHCR, WFP and UNDP) to respond to the surge of refugee influx from South Sudan (Japan also pledged additional 10 million USD at the Uganda Solidarity Summit for Refugees in June 2017 also to support the refugee response through UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP). Each project has made progress so far benefiting both refugees and host communities. Here are some of the examples of the support provided through the projects so far:

**UNDP's** project, started in April 2017, has provided emergency employment opportunities through cash for work in Yumbe District. The cash for work activities, including road maintenance, tree planting, rubbish pit digging, garbage and cleaning, were selected through consultations with the community and stakeholders. People are devoting themselves to the work that enables them to buy life-saving items such as food and medicine, as well as other items that improve their quality of life. Ms. Atiku Jamal (22), a Ugandan female, said "I used the money I earned to build a hut for my dad who is critically ill and had no place to stay." As a secondary effect, it's noted that the project brings together both refugees and host communities; one participant said "this activity helps us to understand each other and foster friendship." The participants in cash for work save one-third of their daily wage. After completion of the work, they will be given the choice to take the savings and leave the project, or continue to business skills training for small enterprises development, where the savings are tripled by the project. The training starts in January 2018.



Women at road maintenance site in Ariwa

(Cont'd in next page)





**WFP** procured a total of 3,176 metric tons (MT) of food, including 1,755 MT of maize, 340 MT of beans, 305 MT of vegetable oil, as well as 775 MT of Corn and Soya Blend (CSB+). The maize and beans were purchased within Uganda. The commodities were distributed to a total of 636,302 refugees during the April 2017 cycle of general food assistance with in-kind food assistance in the northern settlements of Adjumani, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Kiryandongo, Palabek, Palorinya and Rhino Camp. Out of the total reached, 347,815 were women and 110,976 were children under 5 years of age. In addition to the food assistance, WFP assisted a total of 552 farmer groups (109 groups in Hoima District, 230 groups in Kamwenge District, 213 groups in Kyegegwa District) for livelihood improvement through capacity building and organization training. In total, over 15,000 farmers have been assisted through livelihood support. In April, the construction of three mini SCPs (Satellite Collection Points) of a 100 MT capacity commenced in the Kyaka II, Kyangwali and Rwamwanja settlements to encourage collective marketing by the refugee households. WFP contracted a company to build the facilities, and engaged the district engineers for supervision and monitoring. An official handover to the communities is expected in early 2018.



Picture: Rwamwanja Satellite Collection Points  
© WFP

## UP-COMING PUBLIC EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

### JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL - 1ST TO 3RD, MARCH, 2018

The Embassy of Japan will be hosting a film festival from **1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 at MD Cinemax, Ham Towers, Makerere Hill Road, Kampala.**

The festival will go for three consecutive days with two films each day from 3 to 6 P.M. We welcome everyone to come and experience unique and interesting Japanese cultural practices and lifestyle without having to travel to Japan.

**Entrance is free.** Hope to see you there!



© "Key of Life"



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## NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM JICA UGANDA CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE



In our continued pursuit to address human security and achieving quality growth in the Pearl of Africa, in 2018, JICA Uganda office continues to support agriculture (rice promotion, irrigation), basic human needs (health improvement & access to safe water), economic infrastructure (transport and energy), Northern reconstruction (community infrastructure & capacity development of local government) in alignment with Uganda National Development Plan objectives in order to move this country to the middle income status. In addition, the need to address the refugee crisis is at our heart.

Besides the construction of the new Nile Bridge across River Nile in Jinja standing at over 60% of its work, the procurement process of the Kampala Flyover construction and road upgrading project is in its advanced stage; the first participants of ABE (African Business Education) initiative are also expected to return this year to be the navigators for the industrial development in Uganda.

We continue to support improvement of health service delivery, capacity building for rice research and extension to increase productivity and quality as well as promotion of JICA volunteers who are working in the various fields. Through these programs, we aim at bridging the economic gap between the Ugandan society and Japanese. Together, let us lead the World with Trust. Happy New Year!

## Welcome!

Hi, my name is Kumi Mizuno. I am a new Volunteer Coordinator at JICA office. I was once in Malawi, and luckily I am back to Africa!

## Farewell!

My name is Ayako Kawaguchi, and I have been in this beautiful Uganda for 3 years as a Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you everyone, and hope to see you again one day!

## SIX NEW JOCVs ARRIVED IN UGANDA

On 17th January 2018, 6 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVCs) arrived in the country from Japan. Among them, 2 members are going to work for rice promotion, 4 members will support local communities for livelihood improvement such as water and sanitation and income generation in rural areas.



Currently, 66 JOCV members are in the country. Since the beginning of this programme in Uganda in 2001, a total of 717 Japanese Volunteers have been dispatched to the country.



UPDATE ON **THE NEW NILE BRIDGE** ACROSS THE NILE

Work progressively continues to be implemented at the New Nile Bridge in Jinja with installation of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> permanent stay cables on Pylons P1 located in the middle of the river and Pylon (P2) located on the Njeru side, respectively. A total of 72 cables are to be installed on this state of the art bridge. To date, the two pylon structures that support the bridge deck have been completed with each of these structures having a total of 21 lifts. The bridge deck or the section on which the road sits, one from Njeru side and another from Jinja side, continues to protrude into the river where they will meet mid-way hopefully by middle of 2018. Of the whole deck length of 525 meters across the Nile river, 413.1 meters have been completed.

**TRAINING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN JAPAN**

JICA, through “the Project for Capacity Development of Local Government for Strengthening Community Resilience in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions (WA-CAP)”, has concluded training conducted in Japan for the district planners of West Nile sub-region. The training was conducted at JICA Hokkaido (Sapporo). The objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of the local government officials to operationalize participatory planning process for community resilience and accountable resource allocation. Nine district planners, one representative from the Ministry of Local Government and a representative from the National Planning Authority participated in the training. The training is expected to improve the planning and implementation of development plans for the districts. The National Planning Authority said that the contents of the training will help them in formulating the national planning guidelines to be used by all districts in Uganda. They were very appreciative of the training.





# JAPANESE BUSINESS SCENE IN UGANDA

COMPANY PROFILE NO. 4

## SOLTILO UGANDA LTD.

**“SOLTILO UGANDA Ltd.**, a subsidiary of HONDA ESTILO Co., Ltd. acquired a professional football club “Bright Stars FC” (Home base: Kampala) which features in the Uganda Premier League (1st league). SOLTILO UGANDA Ltd. has been managing the club since last September.



The first half season finished at 8th place among 16 club teams. 2nd half season will start in February. One of our short-term goals is to produce Ugandan national football players with both skill and compassion for future international engagements including the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. And we hope to make a way for many Uganda players to be active in Europe.

This will be the 3rd professional club managed by HONDA ESTILO overseas, along with SV HORN (Austria/2015) and SOLTILO Angkor FC (Cambodia/2017). The club aims to produce superior players who have “the physical strength of the Africans” and “the mindset of the Japanese” through a training curriculum produced based on SOLTILO’s philosophy. We believe that producing superior players will create a chance for children and orphans in Uganda to have dreams through football.”

### Recruiting team sponsors to provide dreams for children

Along with the start of club management, the club started recruiting team sponsors. The club is looking for people and sponsor who can move toward our dreams and goals together.

For more information, please contact:  
YO TABUCHI  
[y\\_tabuchi@honda-estilo.com](mailto:y_tabuchi@honda-estilo.com)

