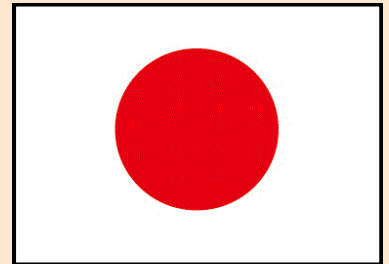




FEBRUARY 2018 (Vol. 5)

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

Dear readers, how are you? Since my return to Uganda, many events have been occupying my time including weekends, which is in fact to me a great pleasure. This is a proof how vibrant Japan-Uganda relations are in a variety of fields. You will acknowledge it after reading this month's E-Magazine. I hope you will have an opportunity to join such events near future.

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

GRANT CONTRACTS FOR 7 NEW GGP PROJECTS SIGNED



Mr. Mizumoto Horii, Deputy Head of Mission, signed seven grant contracts with the representatives of the recipient organizations on Feb 1st at the Embassy of Japan for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). The amount of the grants signed totaled over 1.5 Billion Uganda shillings (US\$ 444,322) to provide support in education, health, and agriculture, in Kamwenge, Rukiga, Kabale, Adjumani, Otuke, Kisoro, and Nutungamo districts. For more information, please visit Embassy's website.

PRESS TOURED JAPAN-FUNDED BASEBALL FIELD IN GAYAZA

As Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020 are approaching, the Embassy of Japan organized a press tour on Feb 11 in which media representatives got acquainted with Japan's contribution to the area of sports in Uganda. Through the Project for Construction of a Baseball and Softball Field, the first full-size baseball and softball stadium in Uganda was constructed in 2014. Since then over 10,000 young baseball and softball players use it every year. This project was funded under Japanese Government Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects amounting to approximately US\$ 122,175. The objectives of the press tour are to showcase Japan-funded sport projects, JICA's contribution to youth and sport activities, and the partnership between Japan and Uganda through sports. Japan will try its best to promote youth and sport activities in Uganda and enhance their friendship through sports.



We are looking forward to hosting you at Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



A Ugandan Gateball Player

The Japan Gateball union invited Mr. Robert Bakaze, an alumnus of Makerere University, to Japan to learn about Gateball last year. Gateball is a sport that originated from Japan. It was introduced in Uganda with the help of the Japan Gateball Union. When he came back to Uganda, he trained 23 players to develop Gateball in Uganda.



ASHINAGA UGANDA'S INTERNS PRESENTED THEIR EXPERIENCES IN UGANDA



On February 10th, six Ashinaga Uganda volunteers from Japan (Ashinaga Uganda is a Japanese NGO based in Nansana), who came to Uganda last March, made presentations on what they had achieved during their stay in Uganda. The audience commended them for their efforts and achievements. Ashinaga will receive several Japanese students again this March.

GGP PROJECT COMMISSIONED IN KAMULI



On Feb 23rd, Ambassador and Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Kadaga commissioned a new girls' dormitory constructed through "the Project for the Construction of a Girls' Dormitory at Matuumu Secondary School in Kamuli District." The grant contract worth of US\$ 87,955 was signed in 2016 to provide girls' dormitory with double decker beds and mattresses, solar power system, and a latrine block to improve learning environment of the school.

JAPANESE NGO SIGNED A GRANT CONTRACT & COMMISSIONING CEREMONY HELD



On Feb 14th, Ambassador and a representative of Save the Children Japan (SCJ) signed a grant contract worth of 458,822 USD for a project for disaster risk reduction and preparedness in Kasese district. This multi-year project, started in 2016, has been financed through Japanese NGO Grant Aid, and has benefited the disaster-prone communities in Kasese district. State Minister for Disaster, Hon. Ecuweru together with Ambassador and Chief Executive Director of SCJ commissioned an arch bridge and an irrigation system in Karusandara sub-county. They commended the community members for their excellent participation and ownership in the project by providing labor and in-kind contributions to improve the communities' resilience for disaster.

JAPANESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT UGANDA



Eight students from Tottori University in Japan are currently in Uganda. They hope to learn about Uganda through first-hand experiences. The students visited the Embassy on Feb 26th for a lecture by Ambassador to learn about the bi-lateral relation between Japan and Uganda. They are scheduled to stay until mid-March to visit various parts of the country.

UP-COMING EVENTS IN MARCH

JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL

As announced in the previous E-magazine, the Embassy of Japan will be hosting a film festival from **1st to 3rd March 2018 at MD Cinemax, Ham Towers, Makerere Hill Road, Kampala**. Please see the poster of the festival on the last page of the E-magazine.

COMMISSIONING OF GGP PROJECT

A couple of grass-roots projects are scheduled to be commissioned in March. The details of the commissioning will be available through our press release, and will be reported in our March issue.

4 JAPAN-FUNDED UN PROJECTS TO COMMENCE

The Government of Japan is to fund four new projects through United Nations agencies in Uganda; UNHCR, WFP, UNDP, and FAO. The agencies will receive 3 million USD, 1 million USD, 1.5 million USD, and 0.5 million USD, respectively, to support refugee response and refugee hosting communities in the areas of emergency food assistance, livelihood, and shelter, among others.



UPDATE ON THE 5S PROJECT

Following the “National Health Policy (NHP) II 2010-2020” that indicates health infrastructure management as one of the highest priority issues in the health sector, Ministry of Health requested JICA to implement a Technical Cooperation Project aimed at improving management and utilization of health infrastructure where in response, a 3.5 year project on improvement of Health services through Health Infrastructure management was implemented from Aug 2011 to Dec 2014.

Major purpose of the project was to improve the quality of health care by strengthening health infrastructure management at 7 Regional Referral Hospitals, 2 General Hospitals and 1 Health Center IV through utilizing 5S-CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement)-TQM (Total Quality Management) model. 5S, which stands for “Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain”, is an approach to improve work environment of the health workers. The Project also covered user training for medical equipment and capacity development for medical equipment maintenance workshops.

Having realized the benefits and impact of the project, Phase II of the project was started from 2016 to 2020 covering the remaining referral hospitals as well as strengthening Ministry of Health’s initiative and ownership to manage and supervise these activities. Target hospitals under Phase I were; Kabale, Mbale, Masaka, Hoima, Arua, Moroto and Lira RRH’s, Tororo and Entebbe GH’s, and Mukuju HCIV including Central and Regional Workshops. Newly added hospitals under phase II are Soroti, Jinja, Gulu, Fort portal, Mbarara, Mubende and Naguru RRH’s. The Experts are now working hand-in-hand with Ministry of Health officials to improve the quality of health care in Uganda.



UPDATE ON THE NEW NILE BRIDGE ACROSS THE NILE



Having been commissioned in April 2014, work on the New Nile Bridge at Jinja continues to rapidly be undertaken by the Joint Ventures of ZENITAKA-HYUNDAI as the main contractors and that of Oriental Consultants Company Ltd., Eight Japan Engineering Consultants Inc. and PyungHwa Engineering Consultants Ltd. as the engineers

for the project. This bridge will not only encourage economic activities in Uganda but also in the neighbouring countries and thereby promoting regional integration. Currently of the whole bridge length (525 meters) across the Nile River, 474.6 meters have been completed. It is hoped that the remaining 50.4 meters marking the closure of the bridge deck from Njeru and Jinja sides will be completed before the end of April, 2018.



JICA PRESIDENT'S 'GOHAN' HARVEST



During his working visit to Uganda from 24th - 27th August, 2017, Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, the JICA President, actively participated in the rice planting demonstration activity that was being administered by the JICA/MAAIF/NARO Promotion of Rice Development (PRiDe) project to the community of Mireyi Refugee settlement, Adjuman District. The rice planted then was recently harvested and a kilogram has since been sent to Japan for the JICA President's consumption.

TVET-LEAD PROJECT

UPGRADE TRAINING ON THE MECHATRONICS COURSE AT NAKAWA



"TVET—Leading Institutions Expansion of Human Resources and skilled workforce Development for Industrial Sector in Uganda" Project, started in 2015 at Nakawa Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) expecting the institute to collaborate with the private sector in designing practical training courses especially in the field of Automobile, Electricity and Mechatronics, to improve its employment-oriented vocational training management and disseminate its experience to other BTNET (Business Technical Vocational Education and Training) institutions. JICA has had a long relationship with Nakawa since 1968 when the first Technical Cooperation project started and currently, TVET –LEAD a five year project is being implemented.



As one of the components of the project activities, the Project is currently developing and implementing upgrade training on mechatronics targeting industry workers. To conduct the training course, NVTI instructors need to be trained to instruct on the latest mechatronics skills. In November 2017, a Japanese short term expert was dispatched to Uganda and provided three-week-training on a specific knowledge and skills to operate and maintain pneumatic system which is essential in the area of Factory Automation.

Mechatronics is a multi-disciplinary field of science that includes a combination of mechanical engineering, electronics, computer engineering, telecommunications engineering, systems and control engineering (simply it's a system of automation in manufacturing). And for this course, Nakawa has developed a training calendar to be shared with all the stakeholders especially the private sector.

Currently the trained instructors have brushed up their newly acquired skills and are extending an up-grading training mechatronics course at Nakawa. This is one of the modular curriculum which was developed together with the private sector and industries and agreed to conduct training in Programmable Logic Control (PLC) and Pneumatic systems; sensor design technology, inverters, motors and servers plus micro controllers. According to most educationists, they agree that business, technical and vocational schools should be the road that strikes a path through the country's sea of unemployment but it definitely needs a lot of support. Vocational education has the potential to curb the high unemployment rate since many people will have the skills to start their own jobs and even employ others, a move towards job creation.

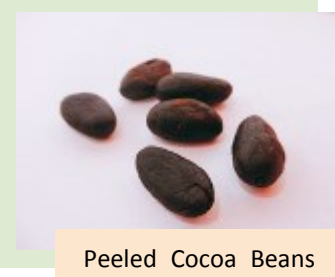
Farm of Africa (ARTISANS FARM LTD.)

COMPANY PROFILE NO. 5



“Artisans Farm LTD. is an agricultural processing company established in 2016. We mainly produce cocoa beans and vanilla beans products under the brand name of **“Farm of Africa”**.”

Our cocoa beans are purchased from farmers in Bundibugyo on the foot of Rwenzori Mountain. And then, they are fermented, dried and primary processed. Many companies in Uganda buy cocoa beans which are fermented and dried by farmers themselves. However, the quality of these beans is uneven and fermentation is insufficient in many cases. **Farm of Africa** controls temperature, pH, and Sugar Content for the quality. We adjust the fermentation of cocoa to create good aroma. We also try to stabilize the quality of our products.



Peeled Cocoa Beans

Our vanilla beans are purchased from vanilla farmers in the central Uganda area. And then, they are fermented, dried and aged carefully. Since the processing of vanilla beans is very delicate and laborious, special care must be taken in the occurrence of mold. We carefully process the vanillin, which is the source of flavor of vanilla. In order to maximize its flavor, we pay close attention for the process for 3 months in our factory.



Cured Vanilla Beans

Within 1 or 2 years, we are targeting to grow cocoa and vanilla in our own farm. We will manage varieties, cultivation methods and more mature harvest seasons. We will control the quality including the agricultural stage and the processing stage firmly. And then we aim to deliver better quality products **from Uganda to all over the world.**”



Drying Space

For more information, please contact:
Email: asami@farm-of-africa.com
TEL: +256 784 844 545



JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL 2018

At MID Cinemax, Ham Towers, Makerere

1st - 3rd March 2018 TIME: 3pm & 6pm



©Key of Life



©2014 "The Mohican Comes Home" Production Partners



©2015 "Midnight Universe" Film Partners



© 2016 "The Projects" Film Partners

Free Entry

PROGRAMME

DATE	TIME	
	3:00pm	6:00pm
1st March (Thursday)	<i>Key of Life</i> 鍵泥棒のメソッド (2012)	<i>The Mohican Comes Home</i> モヒカン故郷に帰る (2016)
2nd March (Friday)	<i>The Projects</i> 団地 (2016)	<i>La La La at Rock Bottom</i> 味園ユニバース (2015)
3rd March (Saturday)	<i>The Mohican Comes Home</i> モヒカン故郷に帰る (2016)	<i>Key of Life</i> 鍵泥棒のメソッド (2012)

Co-Organized by



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