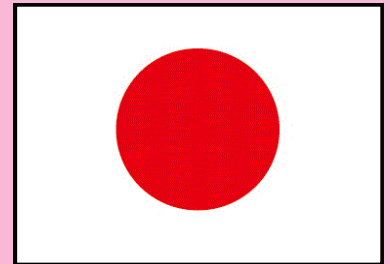




MARCH 2019 (VOL. 18)

VOICE OF JAPAN

From KAMPALA



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MESSAGE FROM **AMBASSADOR KAMEDA**

During March my elder daughter, who is a zealous bird-watcher, visited Uganda for 9 days. I accompanied her trip to Mabamba Swamp, Mgahinga National Park, Lake Mburo National Park etc., where I witnessed new investments into Uganda's tourism sector. I was especially Impressed by newly built quality accommodations for tourists with a solar power system being employed to the extent possible. I have a feeling that these kinds of investments will attract more Japanese tourists to Uganda.



EVENTS IN **MARCH**

MARCH 1: KCB BANK DELEGATION VISITED JAPAN



KCB Bank Uganda Ltd (Kenya Commercial Bank Uganda), a wholly owned subsidiary of the KCB Group and its first branch of Uganda opened in 2007, has sent-off 20 selected clients to Tokyo between 2nd and 12th March. On 1st March, Mizumoto Horii, Deputy Head of Mission, joined the send-off ceremony for these selected members of SMEs and emphasized that they would have an opportunity to identify new areas of investment and hopefully develop new partnerships with SMEs in Japan for the mutual benefit of both Japan and Uganda.

MARCH 6 - 7: PROF. KUROKAWA'S LECTURES

The Japanese Embassy organized lectures, welcoming Prof. Motohiro Kurokawa from Japan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance on 6th and with Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) on 7th. Professor talked about South East Asian experiences for industrialization and development and how it can relate to Uganda. After the lecture participants actively joined Q&A session and enjoyed the interaction.



MARCH 15: GGP CEREMONY

Ambassador Kameda signed six (6) grant contracts on 15th March, at the Embassy of Japan, for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), totalling over 1.8 billion Uganda shillings (US\$ 501,649) with the representatives from Abedober Health Centre III in Apac, Gulu Core Primary Teachers' College in Gulu, Kayenje Primary School in Buntamba, Moyo District Local Government in Moyo, Oriau Primary School in Katakwi, St. Joseph's Kitovu Hospital in Masaka. Projects will benefit local community people in those areas.



MARCH 15-17: 4TH JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL

Japanese Embassy in collaboration with the Japan Foundation, UNCC (National Theater) had 4th Japan Film Festival from 15-17th March at National Theater. More than 270 people came to enjoy the 4 Japanese movies shown throughout the 3 days.

"Rudolf the Black Cat" the animation movie was popular among young children and their parents and "Neko-Samurai" was also another popular movie enjoyed by many audiences including youth to elders. Japanese Embassy appreciate all the people who joined us on this event and hope everybody enjoyed the Japanese movies.





MORE EVENTS IN MARCH

MARCH 20: LAUNCHING CEREMONY AT KASESE

The launching ceremony took place on 20th March 2019 in Nyakiyumbu sub-county, Kasese District in the presence of the Hon. Musa Ecweeru, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees. The grant contract was signed on 4th February between the Embassy of Japan and Save the Children Japan. While Save the Children has been working in Uganda for 60 years, in the fields of health, nutrition, education, child protection, food security, livelihoods, humanitarian response, and disaster preparedness, its offshoot, Save the Children Japan, has also been actively engaged in the project in Kasese District since 2015. The grant amount of 567,985 USD (approx. 2 billion UGX) has been provided for the second year of the project.



MARCH 26: AMBASSADOR VISITED WEST-NILE FOR THE COMPLETION CEREMONIES WITH FAO AND UNDP

Ambassador Kameda attended the completion ceremonies in Moyo and celebrated successful completion of the projects implemented by FAO and UNDP. Through the supplementary budget grant scheme in 2018, the Government of Japan provided 500,000 USD for FAO's project entitled



“Strengthening the Resilience of Refugee and Host-Community Livelihood Systems” and 1.5 million USD for UNDP's project entitled “Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus in Responding to the South Sudanese Refugee Crisis in West Nile, Northern Uganda” respectively.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL: APPLICATION TO BE OPEN FOR SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS

Japanese Government will open Scholarship Application Process from April. There will be 3 types of scholarship available including ① **Research Student Scholarship (For Masters/PhD students)**, ② **Undergraduate Scholarship**, ③ **College of Technology Scholarship**. For ② and ③, any student who finished high school are eligible to apply even if they are currently enrolled in University (Age limit exist).

As the scholarship selection is competitive, please check past exams and prepare well for the written exam if you are seriously seeking for opportunity to study in Japan.

(Past Exam Paper HP) <https://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/toj/toj0302e-32.html#1>

APRIL 1: LAUNCHING CEREMONY FOR DO-NOU TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE ROAD

Ambassador Kameda signed a grant contract with Community Road Empowerment (CORE) for a project entitled, “Community Access Road Repair using Do-nou technology (wrapping soil in a gunny bag) through utilization of locally available materials and participatory approach by the youth (Phase 1)” on 24th January. On 1st April, Ambassador Kameda will attend the Do-nou Technology Project Launch Workshop at Golf Course Hotel in the presence of the CORE's chairman, Prof. Makoto Kimura.



Executive Senior Vice president of JICA Visit Uganda

Mr. Kazuhiko Koshikawa, Executive Senior Vice President of JICA, visited Uganda from 24th to 26th February. Mr. Koshikawa visited several JICA project sites and also met with several JICA personnel including JICA experts and JICA volunteers who work in various parts of Uganda in the field of Education, Baseball, community development, nurse, environmental education, etc.

Following the briefing by UNRA staff on 25th Feb, he observed the Source of the Nile Bridge escorted by the project manager. Prior to the crossing, he visited a gallery exhibition of the paintings drawn by pupils on the theme of "Your dream bridge" that he enjoyed viewing.



On 26th Feb, Mr. Koshikawa had a bilateral meeting with Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development after which, they signed the Grant Agreement of "The Project for the Improvement of Traffic Control in Kampala City (Detailed Design)".

He then visited Promotion of Rice Development (PRiDe) Project and held talks with Japanese experts and Dr. Asea, the director of National Crop Resource Research Institute (NaCRRI), about the importance of rice production in Uganda.



He concluded his stay in Uganda with a visit to Jinja Senior Secondary School where he was welcomed by students performing traditional dance and music, met with school teachers and encouraged the volunteer activities.



On the night of 26th Feb, Mr. Koshikawa exchanged opinions with the JICA staff over delicious local food and Pork BBQ.



FAREWELL! Mizouchi Yoshiyuki (Mr.)

I have been working as a volunteer Coordinator at the JICA Uganda office for the last 3 years. I was able to enjoy my work because during my assignment, I got to meet many volunteers who enjoy working with the people of Uganda. I really appreciate everyone who supports our volunteer activities.

I wish I could come back again to this beautiful country of Uganda very soon.



In February 2019, the Project for Capacity Development of Local Government for Strengthening Community Resilience in Acholi and West Nile Sub-regions (WACAP) conducted the 4th TWG meeting in Zombo for the West Nile sub-region and Nwoya for the Acholi sub-region.

The Community development component of the project which focusses on strengthening resilience in the two sub-regions showcased successful active community groups in the two sub-regions.

The team observed farmers' groups supported by the project and interacted with the group members. The farmers exhibited their achievements in terms of the products at their farms. In Zombo, the farmers were very grateful for the support, "we did not know that it is possible to use oxen to plough our gardens, we only kept animals for beef and not for ploughing. We can now plough more

acres of land with the animals and we are grateful for the support", this was a comment from the community group leader Zombo.

In Acholi sub-region, the group was started by women in the village to support each other after the return from IDP. With the support from the project, they have now included male members in their group and, according to them, this has reduced domestic violence because the men and women now work together in the field.

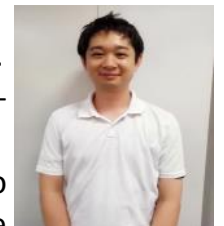


NEW STAFF



Hello, this is Yuki Inoue, JICA Uganda Office. I will be in charge of Agriculture, Water and Environment Sector as well as security issues. I am also interested in enhancing public private partnership. It is great honor for me to come here as I desired to come to this office and I am very motivated to do anything that I can do for Uganda.

NEW STAFF



Hello, my name is Ryuichi Ueda. I am assigned as volunteer coordinator and successor of Mr. Mizouchi. I am so happy to work for this country because UGANDA is known as a beautiful country among JICA. I'm looking forward to seeing as many people as possible !

Nakawa Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) has been implementing TVET LEAD Project whose purpose is to develop the capacity of NVTI for human resource development responding to the needs of the private sector. One of the main outputs is to develop the capacity of NVTI to support other Business Technical Vocational Education & Training (BTJET) institutions. Making use of human resource at NVTI, Training of Trainers (TOT) has been carried out in a variety of TVET areas. From 4th to 8th February 2019, TOT on Motor vehicle focusing on engine diagnosis was implemented at Kiryandongo Technical Institute (KTI). This TOT was very unique since it was in cooperation with JICA volunteer program. Mr. Yu Kibushi, a JICA Volunteer at Nile Vocational Technical Institute in Bulwe joined the program for 5 days. With his great knowledge and experiences of auto mechanic in Japan, he conducted training on Engine Mechanical Theory and Practice.



JICA Uganda Office would like to continue to implement this kind of collaboration utilizing JICA volunteer program not only in automobile sector but also in other TVET areas.

ASSOCIATION FOR AID AND RELIEF, JAPAN (AAR JAPAN)



Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan) is a Japanese International NGO that is operating in 15 countries over the world. AAR Japan's core activities include 1. Emergency support, 2. Support for persons with Disability, 3. Mine action, 4. Action against infectious Diseases, 5. Raising public awareness.

In Uganda, AAR Japan started its response to the South Sudanese refugee crisis in West Nile region in 2016. Besides refugee assistance, AAR Japan has supported landmine survivors to improve their livelihoods.

Since 2016, AAR Japan is a major Education partner in the refugee settlements in West Nile region. Under the circumstance that more than 60% of the refugees are below 18 years old, it is critical to ensure their basic rights to access quality education.

Our project of Construction of classroom blocks has reduced congestion in classrooms. The photo on the right shows Mr. Horii, the Deputy Head of Mission from Embassy of Japan, attended the opening ceremony of new semi-permanent classroom blocks in Yangani primary school, Zone 5, Bidibidi refugee settlement in Yumbe in April 2018.



Our diverse activities such as distribution of scholastic materials, school bags, training of teachers, and capacity building of school management committees have enhanced quality of primary and secondary education in the refugee settlements.

In addition, AAR Japan is also promoting peaceful existence between the host communities and the refugees in the settlements through football and netball sport events.

AAR Japan is also collaborating with Uganda Landmine Survivors Association (ULSA) to support the mine survivors, who are in Northern and Western Uganda due to a result of the wars caused by Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

Since 2010, AAR Japan has provided capital to more than 150 mine survivors, to sustain their livelihood thus improving living condition and re-integration to the communities. Currently, AAR Japan is supporting survivors from Kasese district. Ms. Biira, a landmine survivor, looks happy in the right photo for receiving her artificial leg for the first time.

All these achievements are the results of your generous support. We are grateful for your support towards the brighter future of the plight communities.



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