

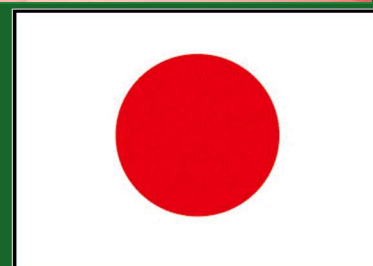
Mount Fuji



DECEMBER 2019 (Vol. 27)

# VOICE OF JAPAN

From KAMPALA



Rwenzori Mountains



Photo taken by Jörn Eriksson



*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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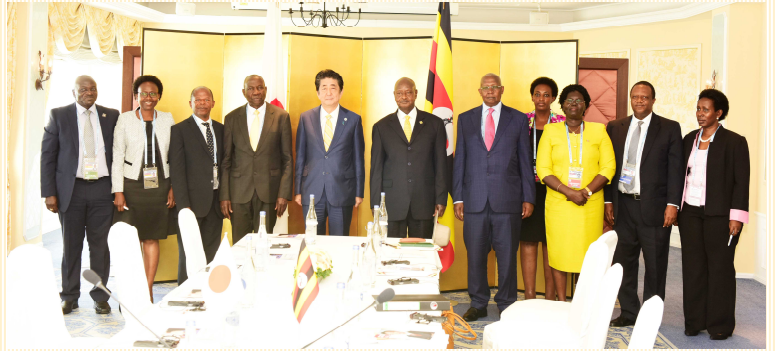
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## MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KAMEDA -LOOKING BACK ON THE YEAR 2019

Many thanks to all readers of E-magazine “Voice of Japan”. The highlight of the Year 2019 in Japan-Uganda relations, and Japan-Africa relations at large, is most probably TICAD 7, 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on African Development hosted by Japan in Yokohama late August, in which more than 40 African leaders, including H. E. President Yoweri Museveni, participated. I have a high hope that TICAD7 and the bilateral meeting between our two leaders will further promote meaningful cooperation, in particular in the field of infrastructure as well as health sector based on the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) signed last August with the aim of promoting co-operation in the field of healthcare and wellness in Uganda. An effect of TICAD7 was already seen in the launch of Asahi Eito quality toilet products in Kampala in November 2019. Asahi Eito is the third largest manufacturer of this kind of products in Japan and whose products are eco-friendly, water and energy saving.



A new area of Japan-Uganda relations has emerged last August. Namely the 3 month training



course for heavy engineering equipment operators under the UN Triangular Partnership Project for African Rapid Deployment of Engineering Capabilities (TPP-RDEC) was conducted at the Uganda Rapid Deployment Capability Centre—URDCC in Jinja district. 22 personnel from Japan Ground Self-Defense Force stayed in Jinja to instruct engineering personnel from UPDF in the operation of heavy equipment as a Japan’s contribution in the field of peace and stability in Africa. This was the first-ever training conducted by

Japan Self-Defense Force in Uganda’s soil.

In October, whole world witnessed the official ceremony of Emperor Naruhito’s enthronement at the presence of esteemed guests. Among them was Hon. Kamuntu, ex-Minister of Environment who participated on behalf of the Republic of Uganda in the ceremony.

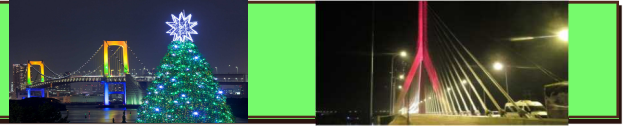
I have to also mention the visit by H.E. Vice President Edward Ssekandi to Japan in April 2019 as a Chief Guest for the 5th International Buddhist Day celebrations. Although this visit was not an official nature, the Vice President’s pray for peace was probably inscribed in the hearts of Buddhist leaders gathered from various countries.



The year 2020 is the year of Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in July-August in Tokyo. I am already expecting that Ugandan athletes will make outstanding achievements in Tokyo. Lastly I sincerely wish all of you the year 2020 to be a successful and enjoyable year!



# EVENTS IN DECEMBER



## DEC. 7: 5TH UGANDA-JAPAN FESTIVAL

On 7th December, 5th Uganda-Japan Festival was held at Yamasen Garden in Muyenga. The event was organized in collaboration of Japanese Embassy and Committee of the Uganda-Japan Festival. More than 580 people came to the festival to enjoy the Japanese culture in spite of cloudy sky.



On the stage there were performance of live Japanese music and songs, dance by Ugandan and Japanese children, Ikebana, Judo and Karate demonstration, and much more. The Judo performance was appreciated by many audience but especially small children since young girls around 10 years old demonstrated their practice of throwing the black belt master on the ground.



Participants also experienced Japanese culture themselves by visiting each booths offering different Japanese arts including Origami, Calligraphy, Cosplay, Japanese tea ceremony. There were also lottery and yoyo games catered for small children to enjoy. In the back garden of Yamasen there was gateball demonstration which was played by many children and adult alike.



Ambassador Kameda at the festival expressed his gratitude for all the participants for making this festival so enjoyable, believing the event representing friendship between Japan and Uganda. Ambassador also emphasized this event as a good opportunity for people to deepen the understanding of Japanese culture and to nurture the already close friendship between Japan and Uganda.

## COMING UP IN JANUARY

### SIX NEW GGP PROJECTS TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING

Ambassador Kameda will sign six (6) grant contracts on 13th January at the Embassy of Japan, for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), totalling over 1.8 billion Uganda shillings (US\$ 538,731) with the representatives of the recipient organizations. The new projects will be implemented in Koboko, Omoro, Kamuli, Kayunga, Nwoya and Apac district.

Our commitments in Uganda have successfully improved millions of people's lives in the areas of Health, Education, Agriculture, and Environment; through the construction of boreholes, class rooms, boys' and girls' dormitories, maternity wards and infectious disease wards, and the procurement of ambulances, school buses and trucks, which contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. With the six new projects signed, the number of projects supported in Uganda through GGP will reach 251 since 1992.



# JICA'S NEWSROOM

## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY CELEBRATIONS



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) participated in this year's International Volunteer Day that took place on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Celebrations dubbed "Volunteer for an Inclusive Future" were organized by The International Volunteer Organizations of Uganda (TVOU), of which JICA is a member. They show-cased a number of projects that they are assigned to do and participated in a panel discussion on the day's theme. One of the JICA volunteers, Ms. Kawashima illustrated the value of volunteering.

## HEALTH MINISTRY LAUNCHES 5S-CQI-TQM GUIDELINES

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the Ministry of Health launched the Quality Improvement Tool; '5S- Continuous Quality Improvement and Total Quality Management Implementation Guidelines for Uganda at the 6<sup>th</sup> National Healthcare Quality Improvement Conference held in Munyonyo.

The Guideline is one of the major outputs from JICA's project, "The project on improvement of Health Service through Health Infrastructure Management Phase II."

During the launch, the Minister of Health Hon. Jane Ruth Acheng commended JICA for the support in institutionalizing the 5S-CQI-TQM approach in Regional Referral Hospitals and all implementing partners and stakeholders especially in Kabale and Entebbe RRHs where it has been successfully effected so far.



## NVTI EXTENDS COLLABORATION TO UETCL



On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Nakawa Vocational Training Institute (NVTI), an institute supported by JICA and Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

In this collaboration, UETCL offered to train instructors from NVTI in High Voltage Transmission, a module in their Electrical Engineering curriculum. The offer is expected to upgrade the capacity of NVTI instructors in the electric engineering field.



# JICA'S NEWSROOM

## NEW STAFF



Hello!! I am Mishima Munehiro. I arrived in Kampala on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 as a JICA Volunteer Coordinator. I was JICA volunteer in the Philippines in mid 80's and have been working in the field of International Cooperation for more than 30 years in various places. This is my first assignment in Africa and I am excited to work with the people of Uganda. I am sure that I will enjoy working and do my best to contribute to the development of the country.



My name is Miki SEMBOKUYA. I'm newly assigned as a Volunteer Coordinator to Uganda and this is my third assignment but first time visiting Uganda. I'll be in charge of Volunteer activity in general and health volunteers. I'm very pleased to start work in Uganda.

## NEW BATCH OF VOLUNTEERS

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, We received 17 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and 1 Senior volunteer (16 long term and 2 short term).

They are going to have a one month In-country training and will later be dispatched to their host places in the fields of; Vegetable growing, Community Development, Midwifery, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Education, Primary School Teaching, Automobile maintenance, Electric and Electronic Apparatus, Youth activity and Infection Control.

