

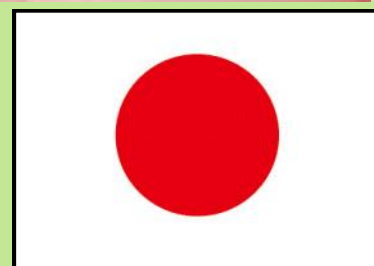
Mount Fuji



JANUARY 2020 (Vol. 28)

# VOICE OF JAPAN

From KAMPALA



Rwenzori Mountains



Photo taken by Jørn 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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## MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KAMEDA

Happy New Year to dear readers! I have luckily started year 2020 with busy programs already in the week beginning on 13th January, when I signed grant contracts with six local governments and other institutions to extend grant assistance for community-based development projects. On the same day three Japanese Members of Parliament arrived in Uganda to visit sites of some Japanese ODA projects, including the New Nile Bridge at Jinja, examining how they have benefited citizens of Uganda. Another Member of Parliament visited Kampala later in the same week with a view to doing fact finding of waste managed by KCCA and to advise how Japan could contribute in dealing with this issue. On Tuesday 21st Jan. I found myself in Kitgum town to commission the new Children's Library block constructed with support of Japanese government's grant funding. I am determined to continue working more and more for strengthening friendly relations between Japan and Uganda.

## EVENTS IN JANUARY

### JAN. 13: GRANT CONTRACTS FOR NEW GGP PROJECTS

New projects were selected from over 600 applications after being scrutinized thoroughly. The Ambassador KAMEDA Kazuaki signed 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 in Koboko, Omoro, Kamuli, Kayunga, Nwoya, and Apac Districts. Our commitments in Uganda have successfully improved millions of people's lives 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. The number of projects implemented in Uganda through GGP reached 251.



### JAN. 13-15: VISIT BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM JAPAN

The Special Committee on the Official Development Assistance (ODA) of the House of Counselors in National Diet of Japan dispatched three Members of Parliamentarian to visit and observe Japanese cooperation sites in Uganda, including Queensway Substation, Source of the Nile Bridge in Jinja, and Rice Development Project, etc. They also paid courtesy calls with H.E. President Museveni and Rt. Hon. Kagada, Speaker of Parliament of Uganda.



## JAN. 17-18: VISIT BY MEMBER OF JAPAN-AU PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

One of the leading members of Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League, Hon. ITO Tadahiko, visited Kampala on 17-18 January 2020. One of main purposes of his visit was to discuss waste management issues with KCCA for future cooperation in the framework of African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP). On 17th, Mr. Kitaka, acting Executive Director of KCCA briefed a plan of Ddundu landfill construction project, where he wanted to cooperate with Japanese side. Following the discussion, in the evening the Japanese MP had a meeting with Hon. Anwar Beatrice Atim, newly appointed State Minister of Environment. Hon. ITO and Hon. Atim discussed further cooperation between two countries in the field of waste management. Next day, 18th January, MP visited the Kiteezi Landfill site, where 1,200 tons of waste is being dumped every day.

In addition, the MP met with Hon. Kamuntu, newly appointed Minister of Justice to discuss the cordial bilateral relationship between Japan and Uganda.

On 18th January, Hon. ITO met with 5 graduates of ABE (African Business Education) initiative who studied and experienced internship in Japan. The graduates shared their experience in Japan and discussed their future development plan in their career.



## JAN. 21: GGP COMMISSIONING IN KITGUM DISTRICT

The Ambassador KAMEDA Kazuaki officiated in the commissioning of the project in Kitgum for a library block and fittings to Kitgum District on Tuesday 21st January 2020. "The Project for the Construction of a Library in Kitgum District" with a grant amount of USD 91,919 equivalent of over 325 million UGX is part of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), a scheme administered by the Embassy of Japan to support community development projects to uplift the life of people from the grassroots level.



## JAN. 23: JAPANESE NGO SIGNED A GRANT CONTRACT AT MOWT

The Ambassador KAMEDA Kazuaki 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 (Second Year)" on 23rd January at the Ministry of Works and Transport with witness of Hon. Peter Lokeris, State Minister for Works. The grant amount of 341,266 USD (approx. 1.2 billion UGX) has been provided by the Government of Japan for the project.

The project aims to improve current conditions of community access roads through transferring the practical road maintenance methods of Do-nou technology and empower the youth groups.





## COMING UP NEXT

### **FEB. 3-4 : GGP PROJECTS IN RUBANDA AND RUKIGA DISTRICTS TO BE COMMISSIONED**

The Ambassador KAMEDA Kazuaki will officiate a newly constructed and fully furnished girls' dormitory blocks in St. Agatha Girls' Secondary School in Rubanda District and St. Aloysius Girls' Secondary School in Rukiga District.

"The Project for the Construction of a Girls' Dormitory at St. Agatha Girls' Secondary School in Rubanda District" was signed between the Embassy of Japan and the school in 17th January 2017 with a total grant of 73,883 USD equivalents to over 250 million UGX.

"The Project for the Construction of a Girls' Dormitory at St. Aloysius Girls' Secondary School in Rukiga District" was signed between the Embassy of Japan and the school in 17th January 2017 with a total grant of 79,014 USD equivalents to over 280 million UGX.

Each grant was used for the construction of girls' dormitory block and procurement of furniture.

### **FEB. 6 : JAPANESE NGO WILL SIGN A GRANT CONTRACT**

Mr. HORII Mizumoto, the Deputy Head of Mission, will sign a grant contract with Terra Renaissance for a project entitled, "Self-resilience support for South Sudanese refugees and Host community — Vocational training and business setup support for vulnerable people — Phase III" on 6th February in Adjumani. The grant amount of 443,225 USD (approx. 1.6 billion UGX) has been provided by the Government of Japan for the project.

The project aims to support South Sudanese refugees and host community to be self-reliant and enhance community stabilization and social development. The project provides vulnerable people of refugees and host community with vocational trainings and business setup support.

### **FEB. 7 : GGP PROJECT IN OTUKE DISTRICT TO BE COMMISSIONED**

Mr. HORII Mizumoto, the Deputy Head of Mission, will officiate in the commissioning of the project in Otuke District on 7th February. "The Project for the Construction of a General Ward at Aliwang Health Centre III in Otuke District" was supported with a grant amount of USD 74,387 equivalent of over 267 million UGX through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), a scheme administered by the Embassy of Japan to support community development projects to uplift the life of people from the grassroots level.

### **FEB. 17 : TEACHERS TRAINING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP OPEN TILL 17TH**

Every year Japanese Government offers scholarship opportunity to Ugandan students and teachers. Currently Japanese Embassy in Uganda in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Sports is accepting application for Teachers Training Scholarship until 17th Feb, application to be submitted to MoES.

Applicants must be graduates of universities or teacher training schools and have worked as teachers at primary/secondary educational institutions or teacher training schools (excluding universities) in their home country for a total period of five years or more as of October 1, 2020. Applicants must have been born on or after April 2nd, 1985.

For details and the documents to submit, please see the Application Guideline at below URL.

[https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/smap\\_stopj-applications\\_teacher.html](https://www.studyinjapan.go.jp/en/smap_stopj-applications_teacher.html)



## RICE CULTIVATION IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA 9TH -13TH DECEMBER TRAINING



With support from JICA, under the initiative of The Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), the National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) and Promotion of Rice Development (PRiDe) Project Phase II organized a regional training on 'Rice Cultivation in Sub-Sahara Africa' from 9th – 13th December 2019. The training attracted twenty four (24) participants, mainly composed of Extension Officers, drawn from eight (8) CARD member countries including; Angola, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Sudan. The participants were able to; understand and acquire basic knowledge and skills on rice cultivation, participate in practical sessions of rice cultivation and acquire field experience, obtain necessary knowledge and skills for conducting Training of Farmers (ToF) and simple experimentations at demonstration sites. The training was in line with the RICE (Resilience, Industrialization, Competitiveness, and Empowerment) Approach of CARD II.

## FIRST GRADUATES FROM MUSOMESA FIELD SCHOOL (PRiDe) II PROJECT

Through the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Promotion of Rice Development (PRiDe II) Project, JICA and MAAIF undertook to boost rice productivity of the farmers. This is to be done through the **Musomesa Field School (MFS)**, a technology dissemination model that identifies farmer instructors (Musomesa) in target communities, and equips them with skills and knowledge of improved rice cultivation techniques through intensive training at each stage of plant growth.



In essence, the model promotes research-extension linkage and farmer-to-farmer extension with the technical support of the District Agricultural Officers (DAO). This was applied in districts of Kamwenge and Bugiri where farmer instructors were identified and equipped with skills and knowledge on improved rice cultivation. With their newly acquired skills as 'Musomesa Graduates', the farmer instructors have trained rice farmers in good rice cultivation techniques.

## UJEPA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

On 25th January 2020, UJEPA (Uganda-JICA Ex-participants' Association) celebrated 30 years of existence in a colorful event held at Nakawa Vocational Training College (NVTC). The event, presided over by the Japanese Ambassador His Excellency KAMEDA Kazuaki, was attended by representatives from Embassy of Japan, JICA Chief Representative Mr. FUKASE Yutaka, and UJEPA Chairperson Ms. Ruth Muwanga, a team from JICA Uganda office, NVTC, UJEPA ex-participants and well-wishers.



Ambassador KAMEDA commended the Ex-participants, who during the event, shared their experiences and training in Japan before handing them certificates in appreciation. The Ex-participants showed gratitude for the trainings offered and pledged to use the knowledge acquired in different fields to contribute to the development of Uganda.

UJEPA, established in 1988, is a network of professionals who have participated in JICA training programmes in Japan under the Japan/Uganda technical assistance through JICA. UJEPA's mission is to develop and foster a mutually beneficial relationship between Japan and Uganda and become vital partners by encouraging the ex-participants to be lifelong stewards through service and leadership.



## MR. MUHAME IVAN WINS JICA PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR THE YEAR 2019



JICA President's Award was established in 2013 to praise JICA colleagues and Departments that have made excellent achievement, improved efficiency in daily operation and demonstrated outstanding creativity, especially in accordance with JICA's Vision ("Leading the world with Trust") and Actions ("Commitment", "Gemba", "Strategy", "Co-creation", and "Innovation").

**Muhame Ivan, Program Officer JICA Uganda Office** is awarded as "National Staff of the Year", who made the most significant achievements in previous year. The following are his words of thanks.

In my childhood, I was convinced that a quality radio set had to have the inscription "Made in Japan" on it. Little did I know that I would get the opportunity to work with the manufacturers of those radio sets. My 11 years with JICA have been characterized by a series of tremendous improvements. Therefore, being recognized as a 'National Staff of the Year' by the JICA President comes as a special surprise and it is a big honor for me. It also challenges me to live up to the mark going forward.

I owe this achievement to the team at JICA Uganda for their continued coaching, patience and support.

## FOUR JOCV's TWO YEAR SERVICE ENDS

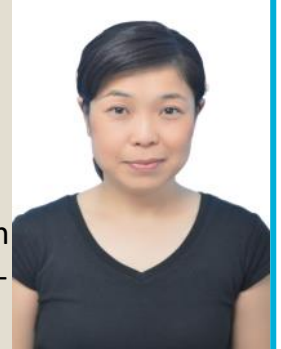
## FAREWELL



Four JOCV; Mr. KINOSHITA Teppei, Mr. DEGUCHI Satoshi, Ms. KAWASHIMA Ayaka and Ms. AOKI Mami ended their two year service . They worked with

National Crops Research Resource Institute (NaCCRI), Wakiso and Butambala District Local Government and Multipurpose Training and Community Empowerment Association (MTCEA).

I greatly thank each and everyone that made my time in Uganda such a rewarding experience over the two years. I feel truly fortunate to have worked in Uganda as a JOCV coordinator and will hold these memories close to my heart for good. Until we meet again, "Let us keep smiling." **MIZUNO Kumi (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Coordinator)**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SHEP APPROACH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Small Holder Empowerment Promotion (SHEP) Approach International Workshop will be held in South Africa from 25th – 26th February 2020 with the objective of facilitating information sharing among participants for the successful implementation of the SHEP approach in their respective countries.

Uganda shall be represented by "The Northern Uganda Farmers' Livelihood Improvement Project" (NUFLIP) counterparts, a Technical Cooperation project being implemented jointly by JICA, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and District Local Governments in Acholi sub-region.



## NATURING PROJECT

In 2000 Naturing Project was established in Japan as a Non profit organization. In 2008 Naturing Project was introduced to Uganda by Links Japan, a United Kingdom based NGO.

In 2013 Naturing Project registered a branch office in Uganda and since then started supporting local schools including Iganga Secondary School and Precious Jewels Nursery and Primary School.

In 2017 Naturing Project was officially registered as a local Non-profit Organization in Uganda. Naturing Project is geared towards promoting harmony between humans and nature, producing entrepreneurs through various educative programs.

In an effort to boost the educational system and support at Precious Jewels Nursery and Primary School, Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Kameda and his wife visited the school for the 4th time on the school's speech day on 1st December 2019.



The Ambassador and his wife were welcomed on stage by the director of the school Mr. Abby accompanied by the president of Naturing Project Mr. MATSUMURA Kazuyoshi. The Ambassador gave a speech and then his wife took on with a demonstration of a story about "Snow White".

The children took on the stage performing Japanese songs, introducing themselves in Japanese language, describing their body parts in Japanese, counting, telling time, items and days of the week all in Japanese language. The Ambassador appreciated Naturing Project and also encouraged the parents and teachers to continue teaching the language.



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