

August in Japan was extremely hot. Uganda experiences the dry season during this time. However, some weeks saw consecutive afternoons with thunder, and nighttime temperatures dropped to around 15 degrees Celsius on several occasions. Climate change is truly a global phenomenon. This month, TICAD 9 was held in Yokohama and, a large delegation from Uganda, led by Vice President Alupo, including three ministers participated. A separate report will be provided on TICAD 9.

1. Sake Promotion in Kampala

Japanese cuisine, also registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site, is globally popular. Uganda is no exception. In Kampala, a Japanese restaurant called Yamasen, opened in 2018, is famous. A sake promotion titled "Sake Pairing Night" was held there.

The sake featured was "Nanbu Bijin," a company headquartered in Ninohe City, Iwate Prefecture. Sake Mom, Mika Eoka, came from India to conduct the sake pairing with Japanese food.

During my return to Japan in May, I visited Nanbu Bijin's headquarters in Ninohe City. The company is focusing on exports and promoting its sake in Africa to expand its market.

The pairing of Japanese food, which generously incorporated local Ugandan ingredients, with Japanese sake was very well-received by participants. Ugandan cuisine generally centers on vegetables, uses relatively little oil, and is light on spices. I believe there is high potential for adapting local ingredients into Japanese cuisine and for their compatibility with sake. Attempts are also underway to brew sake locally in Kampala. I hope to see the penetration of Japanese food and sake, and a deepening of understanding of Japan.



Photo of Sake Mom Mika Eoka



Photo of the event

OMAKASE Chef's Special		
Bubbling Brook	Welcoming Cocktail	KORAGU NO SAKANA
MAGERA	Beans Potage Soup / Sauce in Ragout Creation by our head Chef Rogers	UMESU Sugar Free
Steamed Chicken Salad	Irish potato / Chicken / Gumbo / Japanese pepper	
Seared SASHIMI	Tuna / Tilapia	YUZU Lemon Sugar Free
Cold Seafood Served with vegetables	Cold tomato soup with seasonal vegetables and seafood	JYUNMAI GINJO
SAIKYO YAKI	Salmon / Fermented Chinese Cabbage / Beans sauce	
Roasted Beef	Roasted Beef / Potato Puree / Grilled eggplant parve	TOKUBETSU JYUNMAI
HASSUN	Alu-Pied bites	
Noodle	MATCHA Noodle / DASHI Broth / Olive oil	
Deserts	Japanese sweets (和菓子) Milk Chocolate TEA	

Photo of the pairing menu



Photo of Nanbu Bijin President Kuchi and Ninohe City, Iwate Prefecture

2. Visit to Uganda by Iijima Isao, Cabinet Office Parliamentary Vice-Minister, and Ogata Takeshi, Chairman of the Japan Foundation

On August 26th, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Iijima and Chairman Ogata visited Uganda.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister Iijima has a long history of involvement and support for Uganda. This time, he visited Uganda with Chairman Ogata of the Japan Foundation. The main purpose was to attend the donation ceremony of training equipment for a rehabilitation center for veterans. This project originated in 2019 (Reiwa 1), when Parliamentary Vice-Minister Iijima visited Uganda and received a request from the Ugandan side for support for veterans. In response to this request, the Japan Foundation donated the training equipment. The Ministry of Veterans Affairs has a rehabilitation facility in Mubende District, about a three-

hour drive from the capital, Kampala, where the equipment was installed.

The Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) is internationally active, including in peacekeeping operations in African countries. However, supporting veterans and those with physical or mental disabilities is not easy. Since there was no suitable scheme within Japan's ODA framework, the Japan Foundation undertook the support. The Ugandan Ministry of Veterans Affairs expressed its deep gratitude.



Photo of the donation ceremony



Photo of the donated equipment

Prior to the donation ceremony, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Iijima and Chairman Ogata paid a courtesy call on President Museveni.

With the presidential election scheduled for next January, Uganda is currently experiencing a heightened political atmosphere, but the President made time for these old friends. Topics such as TICAD 9 in Yokohama, which Parliamentary Vice-Minister Iijima also attended, were discussed.

(End)