

### Presidential Inauguration

On May 12, the inauguration ceremony for President Museveni, who achieved his seventh election victory in the January presidential election, was held at the Ceremonial Ground in Kololo, central Kampala. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Onishi Yohei was dispatched from Japan to attend the ceremony.

Prior to the inauguration, President Museveni hosted a dinner on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup>, the day before, at a hotel in the suburbs of Kampala, primarily for foreign guests. Attendees included Parliamentary Vice-Minister Onishi and the Japanese delegation, President Kiir of South Sudan, former Kenyan President Kenyatta, and others. The venue was in a cool environment with breezes blowing from Lake Victoria. President Museveni also attended with his daughter in a relatively relaxed atmosphere. While it was relatively simple, omitting flashy song and dance performances, it was a dinner that conveyed the President's warm hospitality toward foreign guests. During the dinner, a drone celebration for the presidential inauguration was held in the sky above Kampala.



Scene from the dinner

On the day of the inauguration, the ceremony venue was blessed with clear weather despite being near the end of the rainy season. Many supporters from throughout Uganda participated, creating a ceremony filled with Uganda's characteristic fervor. While traffic restrictions were in place around the venue, the city was full of people and vehicles.

At the ceremony, the elite troops of the UPDF (Uganda People's Defense Force) displayed their marching prowess undeterred by the strong sunlight. From above, air force military aircraft conducted demonstration flights. The descent of airborne troops was also displayed.



Scene from the ceremony

After solemnly taking the oath of office, President Museveni delivered a speech to the nation. In his speech, he discussed how Ugandan society and economy have changed since he took office and how the people's lives have improved. Using figures the President often cites, in 2013 only 32% of Ugandan citizens participated in the cash economy. Currently, 67% participate. The remaining 33% still live without using cash, so involving more citizens becomes one of the benchmarks for the new administration, adding high value to the economy. The President constantly argues that during the colonial era, Uganda only exported raw materials and citizens did not receive the true profits. Processing in Uganda and exporting, agricultural development and ICT utilization are things the President has been advocating during the election campaign and long before. The President loudly declared his determination that there are no more excuses and to aim for further development over the next five years. At the same time, he called on citizens to advance "wealth creation" and "employment creation."

At the inauguration, presidents from neighboring countries gathered, including President Kiir of South Sudan, President Hassan of Tanzania, and President Ndayishimiye of Burundi. Distinguished leaders such as former Kenyan President Kenyatta and former Nigerian

President Obasanjo also rushed to offer their blessings. It was truly a moment demonstrating President Museveni's prominence as a long-serving national leader.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister Onishi took this opportunity to hold talks with Prime Minister Nabbanja, and immediately after the inauguration, paid a courtesy call on the President and held talks for nearly 45 minutes. They exchanged views broadly, including on future Uganda-Japan relations, making it a valuable opportunity that could be called "inauguration diplomacy."



Bilateral meeting between President Museveni,  
and Parliamentary Vice-Minister Onishi

The presidential inauguration marks one milestone in the process of electing a new president that has continued since last year, or even before. A new administration with a five-year term has been launched. I hope it will be five years of further development, as the President powerfully declared.

(End)