

Uganda National Day

Japan supports Ugandan development

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AMBASSADOR OF UGANDA

Today, as Uganda celebrates the 53rd Anniversary of its Independence since 1962, it salutes Japan for the excellent bilateral cooperation and looks forward to an even more improved and strengthened relationship based on mutual interests and partnerships.



On this great occasion, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni extends his warm greetings to their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie, as well as the government and people of Japan.

On behalf of the government and people of Uganda, I have the honor to extend my profound gratitude to the government and people of Japan for the cordial hospitality extended to the president of the Republic of Uganda during his official working visit to Japan in September.

On the same note, I wish to convey our sincere sympathy to the government and people of Japan, especially the families of

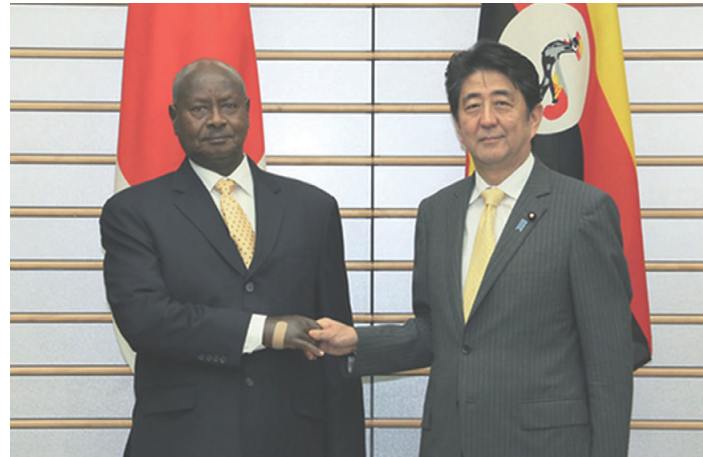
the victims of the recent disastrous floods that affected a number of people's lives in this country.

Bilateral relations

The president has visited Japan six times, including the most-recent visit in September, since the start of his regime. That shows the interest he has in Japan and his love for its people. A number of Ugandan high-ranking dignitaries have also visited Japan, including the speaker of parliament of Uganda, several cabinet ministers and, recently, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and current President of the U.N. General Assembly, Hon. Sam K. Kutesa, who visited Japan in July 2014.

Likewise, several Japanese dignitaries have visited Uganda as well, including Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko, the president of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), some cabinet ministers and members of the Diet. Several Japanese have also worked in Uganda at various levels under the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program.

During the president's visit in September, the Japanese and Ugandan governments concluded the signing of a loan agreement for the construction of a Kampala Flyover to the



President of the Republic of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni meets Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sept. 10 in Tokyo during his visit to Japan. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

tune of ¥20 billion. This will help to decongest Kampala, which is a central hub for traffic going to and from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sudan and Kenya.

The government of the Republic of Uganda views the Joint Communique recently signed between Uganda and Japan on Sept. 10, 2015, as the basis for further cooperation and will continue to work toward implementing all agreed areas of cooperation contained therein.

Economic cooperation

We value Japan's support of

Uganda through JICA in various fields and sectors such as infrastructure, education, health and agriculture, as well as technical assistance through Japanese Overseas Volunteers and Technical Advisors who continue to strengthen people-to-people interactions. We also value Japan's support in the rehabilitation of Northern Uganda, which had been ravaged by rebel insurgency. However, all parts of the country are now peaceful, safe and easily accessible.

During the president's visit, he met with the leadership of various Japanese private sector

companies and government organizations. These included meetings with Keidanren, various small and medium enterprises, government agencies, JICA, the Japan Oil, Gas, and Metals Cooperation, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Japan External Trade Organization and Nippon Export and Investment Insurance, as well as the members of the African Diplomatic Corps. Thank you all for honoring my president with your esteemed presence and audience. We will continue to work with you for the benefit of Uganda and Japan.

In his meeting with Keidanren, the president urged the business community to take the initiative of investing in and trading with Africa, with particular emphasis on Uganda. Echoing his request, I invite members of the Japanese business community to decisively come and invest in Uganda to harness its rich resources.

Uganda introduced the open-market economic policy to strengthen its trade relations with other countries. Ugandan goods access the U.S. markets through the African Growth Opportunity Act and European markets through Everything But Arms (EBA), quota and tariff free. I urge Japan to allow more Ugandan goods to access its market. The two countries will mutually benefit when they trade with each other.

Investment opportunities

Uganda is the seventh-largest producer of arabica and robusta coffee in the world and second in Africa. Our coffee is of very high grade (AA) and any investment in value addition to our coffee is welcome.

There are also investment opportunities in production, processing and value addition especially in food such as agro-processing (fish, coffee, tea, cotton, flowers, fruits and vegetables), beverages, as well as in dairy products.

Investment opportunities in other sectors include hydro-electric power generation, oil and gas, infrastructure development, pharmaceuticals, ICT and mining.

Nature and Tourism

Uganda, the "Pearl of Africa," is a country in the heart of the African continent that is blessed by nature. Known by the locals for generations, these natural delights are increasingly coming to the attention of the rest of the world, resulting in an increase in the number of tourists.

Uganda's nature and tourism offers traditional game-viewing safaris, mountain gorilla tracking, chimpanzees, mountain-eering, bird-watching and white-water rafting at the source of the Nile. Uganda has 10 national parks, 12 wildlife reserves and 14 wildlife sanctuaries.

I invite you to come and sam-

ple for yourself nature's gift to Uganda.

The country is on a steady path to modernization and appreciates Japan's support toward achieving its national

priorities.

I wish all Ugandans, friends and well-wishers happy Independence celebrations.

"Long live Uganda, long live Japan"

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Uganda on the 53rd Anniversary of Their Independence



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