

Uganda National Day

Excellent relations built on trust

BETTY GRACE AKECH-OKULLO
AMBASSADOR OF UGANDA



As we mark Uganda's 55th Independence Anniversary, I extend warm greetings from His Excellency President of the Republic of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the people of Uganda to their Imperial Maj-

esties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, honorable members of the Diet, all arms of government and the people of Japan for their continued support and friendship.

Uganda is currently a hub of peace, hosting over 1.2 million refugees. We thank Japan for their pledge of \$10 million at the Refugees Solidarity Summit. The country hopes to attain middle-income status by 2020.

Regarding bilateral relations, we thank Izumisano, Osaka Prefecture, for offering to host Ugandan marathoners during the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and

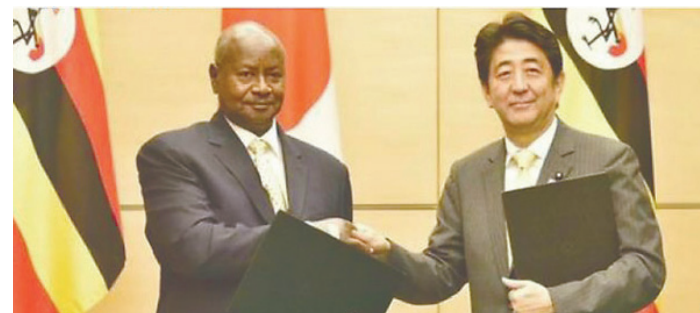
providing them training facilities prior to the games. Ugandan marathoners participated in orientation organized by the Senshu International Marathon this year, and Joshua Bekele Chemutai finished second in the 42 km race. Izumisano has strengthened bilateral relations between Uganda and Japan through a partnership with Gulu Municipality and Uganda's Ministry of Education and Sports.

We applaud Japan for their continued support of Uganda through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process.

With regards to trade and investment, Uganda's economy is fully liberalized. It is also a signatory to major international investment and business protocols. Uganda has consistently attracted foreign direct investment with a predictable investment climate, strong natural resource base, regional market access, conducive legal and regulatory frameworks and government commitment to private-sector promotion. Japanese small and medium-sized enterprises are invited to trade with Uganda in a win-win strategy. We hope to work on a bilateral investment treaty to improve our trade regimes.

We extend our appreciation to the Japan External Trade Organization for hosting the successful Uganda-Japan Business Seminar this year, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, U.N. Industrial Development Organization's Investment and Technology Promotion Office, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the African Development Bank Asia External Representation Office for sponsorship. Over 100 companies participated and we hope they will continue interacting with Ugandan businesses. Our appreciation also goes to companies that made presentations, including Saraya, Smileyearth, Far East, Crystal Coffee and Saka No Tochu.

As for infrastructure, Uganda bought several pieces of road equipment this year from Japan. We thank the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Tourism for holding a quality infrastructure development seminar in Uganda this year with our Ministry of Works and Transport and the successive follow-up dialogues in both Uganda and Japan. We thank the Japanese government for concretizing the construction of Kampala flyover, to reduce Kampala's traffic congestion.



Regarding tourism, Uganda, the "Pearl of Africa," is gifted by nature with serene and fantastic scenery complemented by a rich mosaic of tribes and cultures. Renowned travel guidebooks have twice consecutively named it a top destination and CNN in March named it the fifth-best tourism destination in the world. Please visit and see for yourself.

As for Ugandan diaspora, I congratulate all Ugandans and well-wishers on this 55th independence anniversary.

We congratulate Uganda Diaspora Japan, the Ugandan umbrella association in Japan, on their first year since inauguration.

We request all Ugandans in Japan to be ambassadors of the country in all aspects.

I thank all organizations that supported publication of this supplement.

God bless you.
"For God and my Country."

**President of the
Republic of Uganda
Yoweri Kaguta
Museveni and Prime
Minister Shinzo Abe**
EMBASSY OF UGANDA

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**Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Uganda
on the 55th Anniversary
of Their Independence**