

Uganda National Day Special

Collaborative programs bolster ties

BETTY GRACE AKECH-OKULLO
AMBASSADOR OF UGANDA



On this 57th Independence Anniversary, I convey warm greetings from President of the Republic of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, and the government and people of Uganda to their

imperial majesties, the imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, members of the Diet, all arms of government and the people of Japan for their continued support and friendship with Uganda. We congratulate their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako on the emperor's ascension to the chrysanthemum throne.



Japan continues to support water supply systems in Uganda. EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN UGANDA / JICA

The government and people of Uganda commiserate with the government and people of Japan on the sad loss of lives and properties that occurred because of typhoons that have hit various parts of Japan. We pray for strength and recovery for the victims of these calamities.

Uganda and Japan continue to enjoy strong, warm and cordial ties in economic, political and sociocultural fields based on the foundations of mutual respect as well as inclusive and constructive dialogue.

This relationship has been strengthened further by a number of exchanges such as high-level visits of leaders and dignitaries to and from both countries; for example, the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), the implementation of development projects and increased private sector engagement between the two countries. Ugandan Dr. Francis Gervase Omaswa was awarded the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize in the field of medical services. This is a great honor for our country and recognition of his world-renowned quality medical work. He is the second Ugandan to receive this award since 2013.

Uganda's refugee-friendly and open-door policy has made her the largest refugee hosting country in Africa. Yet, the country's resources to adequately provide for both refugees and host communities are constrained. Japan continues to support the U.N. Global Compact on Refugees in Uganda.

On the margins of TICAD 7, held in August in Yokohama, the president and prime minister held cordial discussions over a wide range of issues including global security, development cooperation, science and technology, education, quality infrastructure development and more support for

refugees. We hope to actualize most of their recommendations.

Uganda has prioritized quality infrastructure development as part of her strategy to realize economic growth and enhance global competitiveness. She hopes to attain middle-income status by 2020. Japan continues to support this development goal through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) activities.

Uganda is a rich agricultural country. Rice farmers' productivity, particularly through the Atari Irrigation Scheme Development Project, has been enhanced. Collaboration in the areas of health through the recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation on Universal Health Coverage is welcomed and will expand the Japanese support to health care systems in Uganda.

We appreciate and hope for the continuation of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth program as well as those JICA volunteers who have truly become Uganda and Japan's ambassadors.

The promotion of Nakawa Vocational Training Institute as an official training program provider will strive to meet the technological and skill needs for the expansion of Uganda's skilled workforce for the industrial sector.

We appreciate the Japanese who have visited Uganda and experienced for themselves the trade, investment and tourism opportunities that exist in the country.

Uganda's economy is fully liberalized. It consistently attracts more foreign direct investment due to an incentivized and conducive investment climate. We invite more Japanese small and midsize firms to engage in Uganda for mutual benefit. We promise to consistently improve on our trade and



investment regimes with Japan.

The country is known for her friendly and hospitable people as well as her breathtaking wildlife and diverse landscape. She boasts many World Heritage sites.

Uganda is truly the Pearl of Africa and a "must-see" on any discerning traveler's bucket list. Japanese are invited to experience this for themselves.

I introduce Yusuke Shiro Saraya as honorary consul of the Republic of Uganda in Osaka with consular jurisdiction for the Kansai region. The consulate will further strengthen bilateral relations between Uganda and Japan in the areas of trade, investment and tourism as well as people-to-people relations.

I thank the board and management of Kokugakuin University for their preparations to showcase Uganda at the Kokugakuin University Wednesday Seminar Series' Support Uganda Project scheduled for November. This will boost support for Team Uganda during the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

We congratulate all Ugandans living and working in Japan. As good ambassadors of Uganda, I request they remain united, focused and development oriented.

Thank you all for supporting the success of this day. May God bless you abundantly.

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the Japan-Uganda Summit Meeting on Sept. 10, 2015.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE OF JAPAN

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

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



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