



EMBASSY OF JAPAN BULLETIN

October-December 2017



The Emperor's Birthday Reception 2017

On the 7th of December 2017, the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Kenya held the annual reception held in honour of the 85th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at the Ambassador's residence. The event was graced by H. E. Mr. Toshitsugu Uesawa, Ambassador of Japan to Kenya and Ambassador Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya.



There were various attendees from the Government of Kenya, including former Vice President of the Republic of Kenya Hon. Moody Awori, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Mining Mr. Dan Kazungu and Governor of Meru County Hon. Kiraitu Murungi, representatives of international organizations, Ambassadors and Diplomatic Corps members, business leaders and Japanese residents.



Ambassador Uesawa in Ground Breaking for Thiba Dam, Mwea



On the 23rd of November 2017, H.E. Ambassador Uesawa attended the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Mwea Irrigation Development Project. The Government of Japan will fund approximately 12.2 billion KES for the construction of an irrigation dam facility and rehabilitation of the waterway. Mwea plays a significant role as a center of excellence for food production, which yields about half of Kenya's total rice production. Since back in 1985, Japan started development cooperation in the agricultural sector at Mwea. Japan and Kenya have enjoyed robust bilateral relationship for more than 3 decades through various important agricultural projects.



Universal Health Coverage Dialogue Forum

On the 24th of November 2017, H.E. Ambassador Uesawa joined partners in stimulating dialogue towards the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum 2017 in Tokyo and in Launching of the Japan Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) Project, within which Kenya has been selected as one of the 10 countries to receive support from the Government of Japan amounting to 1 million US Dollars to strengthen Pandemic Preparedness and Monitoring and Evaluation for UHC's.



The 7th KEJAA Annual General Meeting



On the 7th of October 2017, the 7th Kenya Japan Alumni Association (KEJAA) AGM was held at the Embassy of Japan's premises. Participants of the AGM comprised of members from the four alumni associations that make up KEJAA, officials from the Embassy of Japan in Kenya and representatives from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The 7th KEJAA AGM discussed about activities of 2018. One of the activities discussed is a planned study trip to various counties in Kenya, where different members of alumni group work to share their experiences, given that the members have various experiences in work and

business learned from their time in Japan. KEJAA also wants to establish a strong network within the alumni group and to develop work skills and business ideas that will contribute to Kenya's development. KEJAA has over 2,500 members in Kenya.



Japan Celebrates Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP)

Between October and December 2017, five grant signing ceremonies took place:



Grant signing ceremony
The Project for the Expansion of Tumaini Innovation Vocational Training Centre, Uasin Gishu County. Grant Amount of USD 78,221. (Date: 17 November 2017)



Grant signing ceremony
The Project for the Development of Educational Infrastructure at Nangitony Primary School, Turukana County. Grant Amount of USD 100,833. (Date: 17 November 2017)



Grant signing ceremony
The Project for the Improvement of Educational Environment at Kimilili D.E.B Special School for Mentally Handicapped Pupils, Bungoma County. Grant Amount of USD 80,607. (Date: 17 November 2017)



Grant signing ceremony
The Project for the Development of Educational Infrastructure at Jubilee Secondary School, Kericho County. Grant Amount of USD 104,263. (Date: 08 December 2017)



Grant signing ceremony
The Project for the Development of Educational Infrastructure at Buyani Secondary School, Tana River County. Grant Amount of USD 84,899. (Date: 08 December 2017)

Japanese Language Proficiency Test JLPT

Brief

On the 03rd of December 2017, the annual Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) was held at the Utalii College in Nairobi. A total of 49 students from Kenya and other African countries sat for the test. The JLPT can be used as a reference to help examinees and others get an idea of "what successful examinees of a particular level can do in Japanese."



Old Meets New: The 2017 Japanese Cultural Festival Experience



On the 9th of December 2017, the Japan Information and Culture Centre (JICC) held a Japanese Cultural Festival based on the theme 'Old Meets New, a Japanese Cultural Experience'. The Japanese Cultural Festival is an annual event where various aspects of the Japanese culture are showcased to members of the public. Through this, the Cultural Centre aims to enhance mutual friendship and understanding between Kenya and Japan.

This year's Japanese Cultural Festival was officially opened by H.E. Ambassador Uesawa. Ms. Joy Mboya, Executive Director at the Go-down Arts Centre also graced the occasion. The main event during the morning session of the Japanese Cultural Festival was a Japanese Tea Ceremony. The Tea Ceremony commonly referred to as 'sado' was performed by a Japanese Tea Ceremony Group based in Kenya.



During the afternoon session, a 'Nodojiman' and 'Cosplay' competition was held. Nodojiman is a Japanese singing competition while cosplay, which is short for costume play, involves dressing and acting as popular characters from manga, anime, video games and film. Other events were a movie screening, a Japanese language and quiz session, an open house exhibition, origami and martial arts demonstration.

About 500 people attended the cultural festival.



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