



EMBASSY OF JAPAN BULLETIN

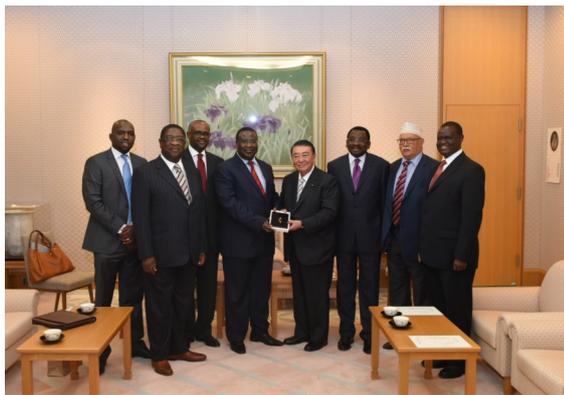
April-June 2015

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(POLITICAL) Senate Speaker David Ekwee Ethuro and the Other Senators Meet Their Counterparts in Japan

From 27th June to 5^h July 2015, Senate Speaker Hon. David Ekwee Ethuro and the other Senate members made a one week visit to Japan. Hon. Ethuro held fruitful talks with his counterparts, both Hon. Tadamori Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Hon. Masaaki Yamazaki, President of the House of Councilors of Japan. The delegation also had various meetings with Japanese counterparts including a working dinner with some members of Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League. They exchanged their experiences and challenges of the bicameral systems as well as the devolution processes in two countries.



Courtesy call on Hon. Tadamori OSHIMA, Speaker of the House of Representatives



Courtesy call on Hon. Masaaki YAMAZAKI, President of the House of Councillors

PICUTURE OF THE QUARTER



BOY'S DAY

PUPILS CELEBRATE BOY'S DAY BY WEARING SAMURAI HELMETS WHICH THEY MADE BY ORIGAMI AT KERICHO REHABILITATION SCHOOL.

5TH OF MAY IS BOY'S DAY IN JAPAN TO WISH BOYS TO LIVE STROG AND HEALTHY.



(ECONOMIC COOPERATION) Japan Celebrates Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)

From April to June, 4 GGP projects started their construction and 3 GGP projects were handed over.

PICTURE SPEAK



The construction of Munje Fish Banda

*On the left: H.E. Tatsushi Terada receiving an explanation about the fish drying solar equipment.
On the right: H.E. Tatsushi Terada holding fish from the solar chest freezer.*



The Construction of Kawa Katana Earth Dam

*On the left: Minister Mikio Mori taking the photo with the beneficiaries.
On the right: Minister Mikio Mori receiving an explanation about the Earth Dam.*

List of GGP Projects (April-June 2015)

Ground breaking

The Project for the Renovation of a Maternity Ward at Kiptulwa Dispensary USD 86,923 (Approx. Kshs 7.9 Million) (24th April 2015)

The Project for the Expansion of St. Bakita Nagis Primary School USD 88,361 (Approx. Kshs 8.0 Million) (27th April 2015)

The Expansion of Lulu Friends Primary School USD 90,836 (Approx. Kshs 8.2 Million) (28th April 2015)

The Project for Water Supply in Karadolo West USD 86,343 (Approx. Kshs 7.8 Million) (29th April 2015)

Handing over

The Construction of Munje Fish Banda USD 98,794 (Approx. Kshs 8 Million) (7th May 2015)

The Expansion of St. Joseph House of Hope USD 121,900 (Approx. Kshs 10.1 Million) (9th April 2015)

The Construction of Kwa Katana Earth Dam USD 118,500 (Approx. Kshs 9.8 Million) (30th April 2015)



(Public Relations-Opinion) What Kenya can Learn from Japan

By Wycliffe Muga – Published on The Star Newspaper (Thursday November 20th 2014)



For the last week or so, I have been in Tokyo, attending a conference and related celebrations that mark 60 years of Japan's development assistance to countries in Asia and Africa.

And as we have been taken around to witness the marvels of Japanese engineering on visits to global-brand Japanese corporations and inspections of public infrastructure; been introduced to the finer points of Japanese culture and hospitality; and debated the fine details of 'Abenomics' (the economic policies of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, which aim to end Japan's many years of economic stagnation); my mind has repeatedly returned to the question of what Kenya can learn from Japan.

And having given it much thought, I would say that what we would most benefit from is if our leaders engaged in more long range visionary planning, of the kind that is taken for granted here. To illustrate what I mean by this, I need only give two examples of landmark Japanese development projects in Kenya.

First, consider the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). It is easily forgotten now that this was a 'greenfield investment' by the Japanese government: Kenya only gave the land; Japan did everything else, building up a huge modern university campus from scratch.

Now at that time (the early 1980s) Kenyan ideas of university education were very different from what they are now. Following what I would term as 'the old Makerere model', university education was seen as something to be made available only to a tiny elite of top-performing students. And if you talked of 'unemployed graduates' back then, people would laugh at you, as university graduates in the early 1980s could pick and choose where they wanted to work.

Indeed, it was common back then to speak of 'The University' as there was actually only one – the University of Nairobi. And there were no second chances when it came to university admission – if you missed out, you had better hope that your family could afford to take you to the UK or US (if they had plenty of money) or to India (which was more affordable).

So when JKUAT was proposed, there was no shortage of critics. I remember one such critic pointing out that the cost of this one university, if dedicated to building primary schools around the country, could easily create hundreds of such simple-structure elementary schools. Alternatively, this money could help build a dozen or so model secondary schools. And surely those were greater national priorities than a fancy new university.

***“After our encounter over the years, we have found that the Japanese have enough foresight and some to spare”
by Wycliffe Muga***

Thirty years later, with about 20 public universities and almost as many private universities, it is clear that the generous Japanese funding that brought JKUAT into existence was actually addressing an urgent national priority. It may have seemed ahead of its time in the 1980s, but now we can only wish that the Japanese had built more than one. For we now understand university education as something that should be available to all who want it – not just a benefit only a small elite can hope to possess.

And much the same can be said for another landmark Japanese greenfield development project: the Kenya Medical Research Institute, which is one of Africa's leading health research institutions.

Not that I recall any specific criticism of Kemri (which was also launched about 30 years ago) but the same argument could easily have been made: why build a state-of-the-art center for biomedical research when that same money could help build much-needed clinics and dispensaries all over the country?

But in the shadow of Ebola, which of us is not grateful now that Kenya is one of the countries in Africa with advanced diagnostic labs (ie at Kemri) and personnel trained to use them.

In all assessments of why the current West African Ebola epidemic spread so far and wide, so quickly, repeated mention has been made of the fact that those nations most devastated are precisely those which lack a robust public health infrastructure. And that if such infrastructure had existed, the epidemic would have been dealt with very differently.

All in all, it is clear enough that Kenya has benefited immensely from Japanese development assistance over the years, and, typical of Japan, such assistance has usually been far ahead of its time, with the ultimate benefits of many resulting projects only being evident long after completion.

The British philosopher and mathematician Bertrand Russell once defined civilization as primarily foresight. In Kenya's encounter with Japan over the years, we have found that the Japanese have enough foresight, and some to spare. -



(PEOPLE-PEOPLE EXCHANGE) 2016 MEXT Scholarships

On 9th and 13th of May, JICC held seminars for 2016 MEXT Scholarships, which recorded more than 500 participants. Seminars had various presentations lined up, among them testimonials from MEXT Alumni, Dr. George O. Otieno (Kenyatta University) and Dr. Gabriel Oluga Aboge (University of Nairobi), a video presentation on studying in Japan and a Power Point presentation on the scholarship process. Successful applicants will depart to Japan in April, 2016.



(PUBLIC RELATIONS) Kericho visit for Introduction to Japan

On 5th and 6th of June, JICC visited Kericho County to introduce Japan to primary and secondary schools. Through an introductory video on Japan and Japan Quiz, the pupils have expanded their knowledge on Japan. The students were also taught and sang two Japanese songs titled *Tsubasa wo Kudasai* and *Natsu no owarino* harmony. The schools visited in Kericho county were: Kericho Rehabilitation School, Moi Tea Girls Secondary and Sosiot Girls Secondary.



(PEOPLE-PEOPLE EXCHANGE) MEXT Alumni's Experience



Joe, Spring, 2015

".....The Japanese people are very friendly and polite; they made my stay in Japan interesting and fun. Virtually every day was a learning experience for me. The Japanese culture which is centred on how human beings interact with the environment taught me many things and among the many things I learnt was taking care of the environment and being honest at all times....."

Extract from Joe Kinuthia's Experience in Japan. Joe is a MEXT Alumni who has just returned to Kenya after completing the Teacher Training program. Full text is available in our website.

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