



OCTOBER -
DECEMBER 2020

EMBASSY OF JAPAN BULLETIN

Handing Over Ceremony for the Construction of Mother and Child Health Clinic and HIV/TB Centre

The official handing over ceremony for “the Project for the Construction of Mother and Child Health Clinic and HIV/ TB Centre” was held at Reinha Rosary Mission Health Centre in Githunguri Location, Athi-River Sub-County in Machakos County on 20th November, 2020. Reinha Rosary Mission Health Centre was granted funds amounting to USD95,909 (Approx. 9.2 million Ksh) for the construction of this mother and child health clinic and comprehensive care centre.

This health centre has been providing medical services in the past, however, it was difficult to separate spaces for each service due to the limited counselling rooms and the like. Therefore, there have been issues such as providing some medical services on a daily basis, and sharing the same spaces for infectious patients, pregnant women, and children. As a result of this project, the capacity of the facility is expected increase from the current 8,500 persons to 14,600 persons per year. It will also help prevent the spread of infectious diseases by allowing each department to have its own appropriate space.



Conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon to Professor Miriam WERE



On 27th November, H.E. Mr. HORIE Ryoichi conferred the decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon to Professor Miriam WERE, on behalf of the Government of

Japan, at the Official Residence of the Ambassador. The conferment ceremony was held on a small-scale in line with the COVID-19 guidelines and health protocols of the Kenyan authorities.

The decoration was conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on 29th April, the 2nd year of Reiwa (2020) and witnessed by the then Prime Minister of Japan to acknowledge Professor Miriam WERE's contribution to the development of global health as well as her ardent dedication in bolstering Kenya-Japan bilateral relations in health and human exchange areas. It was the second time that Professor's achievements have been acknowledged by

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan as she was awarded the first Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize in 2008.

During the conferment, Ambassador HORIE conveyed his warm congratulations to Professor WERE and also acknowledged the special double meaning of her receiving the decoration at this moment, that is, her role as a shining example of women leadership which inspires and encourages young women all over the world as well as the recognition of the importance of global health development in dealing with the current pandemic.

Professor WERE, in her remarks, appreciated the recognition from Japan and looked back on her long, meaningful relations with Japan, including her involvement with the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize, not only as the first Laureate of the prize but also of her recent work as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize.

Ambassador Ryoichi HORIE wished Professor WERE continued success and good health.

After the ceremony, Ambassador HORIE and Madam Yuko entertained the guests with several songs in English, Japanese and Swahili and in return Professor Miriam WERE and her family performed traditional songs and dances.

Japan-Kenya Cultural Exchange: Ambassador Horie and Mr. Eric Wainaina playing Music Together



Ambassador Ryoichi HORIE and Madam Yuko singing Eric's renowned song 'Daima' with Eric

Music is a universal language, and it holds a special place in both Japanese and Kenyan cultures. On November 13th, 2020 the Japanese Ambassador to Kenya, H. E. Ambassador HORIE Ryoichi and his wife, were joined by singer and songwriter, Mr. Eric Wainaina and his family at his official residence where they shared in song, favourite tunes from Japan and Kenya.

One of the songs they performed was Mr. Eric Wainaina's song "Daima" which is a call to overcome challenges and division and courageously unite together to achieve harmony and build Kenya.

In addition to music, they also participated in the Japanese tea ceremony, flower arrangement and origami, which is the Japanese art of paper folding.



Madam Yuko arranging flowers in the Japanese traditional style called 'Ikebana'

Ikebana Demonstration presented by Madam Yuko using the branches of coffee bushes and macadamia nut trees



Top Left: Eric and his family enjoying the Tea Ceremony. Ambassador Horie served tea presented by Madam Yuko (Hostess in the Ceremony)

Right: Eric's family enjoying origami (Japanese Art of Paper Folding) and flying origami planes

Japanese Origami

Public Diplomacy: Cultural Exchange and Japanese Language Education

Culture, alongside politics and the economy, is an important field within the diplomacy of Japan, and its role has become more and more important in recent years.

The impact of public opinion on diplomatic policy has been increasing due to the dramatic development of the Internet and mass media. For this reason, in order to promote diplomatic policy successfully it is critical to attain the understanding of not only foreign governments but also foreign nationals.

In particular, as an important part of diplomatic policy, countries are investing significant efforts in ensuring that people in other countries see them in a positive light.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan takes a direct approach towards citizens of foreign countries, comprehensively developing its efforts in public relations overseas and cultural exchange so as to foster favorable and deep understanding of Japan's diplomatic policies and national circumstances.

The Ministry is also working to convey the appeal of Japanese culture and promote exchanges with citizens of other countries.

From this point of view, the Government of Japan is proactively furthering a variety of initiatives including exchange and cooperation within the cultural field as well as supporting the international exchange activities of private entities.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

To promote Public Diplomacy in Kenya, Japan works through the Japan Information and Culture Centre (JICC). The Centre is the cultural and public affairs section of the Embassy of Japan in Kenya. Its mission is to promote better understanding of Japan and its culture by providing a wide range of information, educational services and events to the Kenyan public.

Some of the services offered by JICC include:

1. Introducing Japanese Culture

JICC works to introduce a diverse variety of facets of Japanese culture, from art, music, drama, and film to fashion and design, to the world.

2. Japanese Language Education

JICC in cooperation with the Japan Foundation, dispatches Japanese-language education specialists, invites overseas Japanese instructors and students to training programs in Japan, develops Japanese language education materials and holds Japanese speech contests at overseas diplomatic establishments.

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Japan and the United Kingdom collaborated to provide capacity building training for the Kenya Coast Guard Service Officers in Mombasa (20th to 31st January)



Signing ceremony of the written confirmation concerning Pre-Games Training Camps for the Kenyan Team for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo (13th February)



Handing Over Ceremony for the project for the improvement of livelihoods of Kerio Valley communities through the establishment of a fruit value addition facility (14th February)



The Japanese National Day Reception to mark the birthday of Emperor Naruhito was held at the official residence of the H.E. Amb. Horie Ryoichi (21st February)



First Lady Margaret Kenyatta met with Amb. Horie who briefed her on the various projects supported by the Government of Japan (5th March)



The 2020 Japanese Government scholarship recipients paid a courtesy call to Amb. Horie. The three will be leaving for their studies in Japan later on this year (5th March)



Japan and the United Kingdom collaborated to provide search and rescue (SAR) capability assessment for the Kenya Coast Guard Service (9th to 21st March)



H.E. Amb. Horie and Dr. Ikiara held the 2nd Japan-Kenya Business Dialogue. The dialogue was established during the TICAD-7 held in Yokohama, Japan in August 2019 (12th March)



Between January and March, eight new Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) contracts were signed between the Embassy and various organisations.



Amb. Horie signed an Exchange of Notes with Hon. Yatani. The project is expected to help Kenya achieve Universal Health Care and assist in combating COVID-19 (27th August)



Amb. Horie and Hon. Yatani signed Exchange of Notes to provide medical equipment and disburse Japan's grant aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (4th September)



Amb. Horie and Hon. Yatani signed Exchange of Notes for the improvement of Power Distribution System in and around Nakuru and Mombasa (18th September)



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Public Diplomacy: Cultural Exchange and Japanese Language Education continued



Students from Rongo University in Migori County learning how to fold origami cranes

3. People-to-People Exchange

The Japan Information and Culture Centre, JICC has three priority areas of interest with regards to People-to-People Exchange

- Student Exchange Programs - Japan promotes student exchange programs with various countries, welcoming young people from around the world to study in Japan.
- Youth Exchange - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan supports youth exchange in a variety of forms.
- Sports Exchange - Sport plays an important role in promoting international exchange and mutual understanding beyond borders, language and race.



One of the participants of the speech contest delivering her speech in Japanese

4. Cultural Grant Assistance

In many countries, efforts are being made to improve not only just economic and social infrastructure but also culture.

Cultural Grant Assistance is meant to deepen mutual understanding, friendship and goodwill between Japan and Kenya, by providing support for Kenya's efforts.

This grant assistance was established in 1975 as part of Official Development Assistance (ODA).



Amb. Horie with some of the competitors of the 2019 Judo Ambassadors Cup



A demonstration on how to make Wagashi, Japanese traditional confectioneries



A presentation of a Japanese Drum "Wadaiko" performance



A Woodcut Print demonstration at Kenyatta University

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