

Embassy of Japan Bulletin



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Conferment of His Majesty Japanese Emperor's decoration "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" upon Ambassador Dennis Awori

On 25th June, 2021, H.E. Ambassador HORIE Ryoichi celebrated the conferment of His Majesty Japanese Emperor's decoration "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" upon Ambassador Dennis Awori at his residence.



The decoration was conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on 29th April, the 3rd year of Reiwa (2021) and witnessed by Japan's Prime Minister Mr. SUGA Yoshihide, to acknowledge Amb. Awori's contribution to the development of the bilateral relationship between Japan and Kenya during his five year tenure as the Kenyan Ambassador to Japan and as a shining business leader in bridging the two countries together.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Horie conveyed his congratulations to Ambassador Awori. Ambassador Awori in turn expressed his appreciation to Japanese people and reassured his continuous engagement in strengthening Japan-Kenya bilateral relations.

Conferment of His Majesty Japanese Emperor's decoration "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" upon Mr. Douglas Wakihuri



On 11th June, 2021, H.E. Ambassador HORIE Ryoichi, bestowed the Japanese decoration of "the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" upon Mr. Douglas M. Wakihuri, on behalf of the Government of Japan, at his residence. The decoration was conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on 29th April, the 3rd year of Reiwa (2021) to acknowledge Mr. Wakihuri's great contribution to the development and promotion of Japan-Kenya bilateral relations in the sporting and cultural fields.

Mr. Wakihuri paved way for the practice of Kenyans running for Japanese company teams, a practice that has seen foreign athletes training with young Japanese athletes who go on to become world-leading marathon runners. Moreover, after his retirement, Mr. Wakihuri has been positively engaging in boosting the bilateral cultural relationship between Japan and Kenya and extending cooperative support on various occasions, such as the organisation of the Nairobi Sotokoto Marathon.

COVAX AMC Summit



Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office

The Government of Japan and Gavi co-hosted the COVAX AMC Summit on 2nd June, 2021. The summit aimed to raise additional funding to secure vaccines for developing countries by the end of 2021 thereby overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the summit, Prime Minister Suga called for further solidarity and commitment from the international community in the fight against COVID-19, and expressed Japan's full support for ensuring equitable access to safe and effective vaccines with a view to achieving Universal Health Coverage.

He also explained Japan's continued support for the efforts by the COVAX Facility, including its financial contribution amounting to 200 million USD and an additional contribution of 800 million USD. Furthermore, he expressed Japan's intention to provide, when circumstances allow and at an appropriate time, around 30 million doses of vaccines manufactured in Japan to other countries and regions, including through the COVAX Facility.

Emergency Grant Aid in Improving Cold Chain in Kenya and Somalia

The Government of Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid about \$ 2 million (212 million Ksh) to Kenya and \$900,000 to Somalia through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to improve the cold chain capacity for COVID-19 vaccines roll out, as part of approximately \$ 39 million to Latin America and the Caribbean and African countries that suffer from the impact of COVID-19.

This funding will be utilised to provide cold chain equipment including medical equipment and transportation as well as training for health worker to use the facilities, as "Last One Mile Support" to ensure vaccination in each country, through UNICEF.

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Japan strengthens its support for Kenya's fight against COVID-19 with additional PCR Test Kits



On 3rd June, 2021, H.E. Ambassador HORIE Ryoichi and Mr. IWAMA Hajime, Chief Representative of JICA in Kenya handed over 75,000 PCR test kits to Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). The donation, which was made through JICA, is the second from Japan to KEMRI to boost Kenya's

efforts to contain the spread of the corona virus. The first donation was handed over in August 2020.

Over the past 40 years, Japan has developed cordial relations with KEMRI since it first supported the establishment of the institution in 1979. During the handing over of the test kits to Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, Ambassador HORIE expressed his expectation that the additional support will assist the Government of Kenya in accurately assessing the infection situation in the country.

Ambassador Horie also introduced two Japanese nationals, Dr. TAMAKI Raita and Dr. SHIMIZU Kazuki, who are currently working at the forefront of Kenya's battle against the COVID-19. The former is working in the Ministry of Health as a Disease Surveillance Advisor, and the latter is working in the WHO office in Kenya in supporting the Emergency Operating Centre in the Ministry of Health.

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Currently, ensuring equitable access globally including in developing countries and accelerating vaccination is the common challenge for the international community towards the goal of containing COVID-19. Japan has been contributing to formulating the COVAX Facility, an international mechanism for the procurement of vaccines, and has already made financial contribution of 200 million US dollars in total. Japan's Emergency Grant Aid this time aims to deliver vaccines to each and every person in the all corners of developing countries, which will complement efforts of the COVAX Facility.

Based on its experience in helping build medical supply networks that reach every corner of developing countries, Japan will continue to extend support to provide vaccines to every person in the world with a view to containing COVID-19 as quickly as possible.

Japan's support for the renovation of the Agriculture Laboratory Building at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)



On 7th June, 2021, H. E. Ambassador HORIE Ryoichi attended the handing over ceremony of the Agriculture Laboratory Building (ALB) at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

Amb. Horie expressed his expectation that the support would contribute to development of human resource and growth of agriculture sector in Kenya. The Ambassador concluded his speech by pledging that Japan would continue to work with Kenya to overcome the challenges of public health and economy arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The laboratory was renovated as part of Phase 1 of the Africa-Japan project (2014-2020), supported through JICA. The project is intended to strengthen the knowledge and skills of students and staff of both JKUAT and the Pan African Union Institute of Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI) – itself hosted on the JKUAT campus.

Ambassador and Madam HORIE attend the Tokyo Olympics Trials



On 19th June, 2021 Ambassador and Madam HORIE attended the Olympic Trial Championship held at the Moi International Sports Centre Kasarani.

Amb. Horie cherished the performances by the Kenyan athletes and wished them all the very best in the

upcoming games. The Ambassador also reassured that the preparation to receive Team Kenya in Kurume City were well underway and nearing completion, and that the team would enjoy a cordial and comfortable stay.

Rt. Hon. Raila A. Odinga as well as CS Amina, who were present at the event, paid tribute to Japan's meticulous preparations to host the Games amidst the global pandemic and extended special gratitude to Ambassador Horie for his support for the success of the Kenyan athletes.

The Japan-Kenya Business Forum



Mr. EJIMA Kiyoshi, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

On 24th June, 2021 the Government of Japan through the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) in collaboration with the Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) co-hosted the virtual Japan-Kenya Business Forum. In his opening remarks, Mr. EJIMA Kiyoshi, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry,

announced that Japan and Kenya will co-host the "2nd Japan-Africa Public Private Economic Forum" scheduled to be held at the end of this year. The upcoming forum aims to accelerate and expand business activities with Japan from Kenya to the rest of Africa. Mr. Ejima also encouraged Japanese companies to further invest in Kenya and other African countries. This was reiterated by Dr. Ikiara who noted that the "Japan-Kenya Business Dialogue" provided an excellent platform to improve the business environment between Kenya and Japan, and he further called upon Japanese companies to feel comfortable investing in Kenya.

IFC's 9th International Food Safety Forum

H.E. Ambassador HORIE Ryoichi attended the IFC's 9th International Food Safety Forum virtually on 11th May, 2021.

Since 2017, the Government of Japan through IFC has been working on the improvement of safety and hygiene practices in the food processing industry in Kenya. The primary goal is to provide solutions that will benefit companies active in this industry to enhance their competitiveness in the international and regional market and also to benefit ordinary citizens by guaranteeing them safe and high-quality products.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Horie emphasised that Japan was strongly committed to improving agribusiness in Kenya and would maintain constructive engagement and collaboration in Africa toward the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) held in Tunisia next year.

Ms. Jumoke Jagun-Dokunmu, IFC's Regional Director for East Africa, Mr. Keith Hansen, World Bank Country Director for Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda, Prof. Hamadi Boga, Principal Secretary for State Department of Crop Development and Agriculture Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives and other honourable guests were in attendance.

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