

# We Are *Tomodachi*

## Japan in Africa Edition 2016



The Government of Japan

*We Are Tomodachi*  
Japan in Africa Edition 2016



Prime Minister Abe attended the closing ceremony of XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. During the portion of the ceremony introducing Japan and Tokyo, which will host the next Olympic and Paralympic Games, the prime minister conducted a performance in which he appeared as the character Mario from the Japanese Super Mario video game series (August 2016).

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# TICAD

## NAIROBI 2016



### About TICAD

TICAD stands for “Tokyo International Conference on African Development.” It was launched in 1993 to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners. Meetings are led by Japan and co-organized by the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the African Union Commission (AUC). With the inception of TICAD, Japan became the first country to have pioneered a pan-African external development partner forum. TICAD’s innovative approaches include advocating African ownership and the international community’s partnership; promoting the participation of international organizations, donor countries, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations in Japan-led aid initiatives; and creating follow-up and review mechanisms to ensure the progress of each project.

### TICAD VI

The sixth TICAD (TICAD VI) was held in Africa for the first time, with Kenya as the host nation, on August 27 and 28, 2016. In addition to delegates from 53 African countries, over 11,000 people attended, including participants in side events held at the conference site. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, and President Idriss Déby Itno of Chad co-chaired the conference.















At TICAD VI, taking note of the new challenges that have arisen since TICAD V, such as the collapse in prices of natural resources, the Ebola crisis, and the rise of violent extremism and terrorism, the delegates adopted the TICAD VI Nairobi Declaration, which addressed such topics as Africa’s economic diversification and industrialization, resilient health care systems, and social stability, aiming to further advance Africa to be a growth center of the world by the middle of the twenty-first century.

For more details, visit:  
<http://www.japan.go.jp/ticad/>

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Note: All U.S. dollar equivalents for Japanese yen amounts in this issue of *We Are Tomodachi* are calculated at 105 yen to the dollar, roughly the rate at the time of publication.

# Japan's Vision for African Development

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Excerpts from the Speech at the Opening Session of TICAD VI, Delivered in Nairobi, Kenya, August 27, 2016

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Full text: [http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97\\_abe/statement/201608/1218850\\_11013.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201608/1218850_11013.html)

At long last, and exactly as promised, TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) has come to Africa! With 23 years behind us, TICAD is now on African soil, opening a new chapter in the relationship between Japan and African countries.

Africa is now off and running, aiming at long-range goals, aspiring to be a certain kind of continent with certain kinds of countries in 2063. Agenda 2063—the grandness of this concept, to the best of my knowledge, is simply unparalleled.

However, the enormous continent of Africa has given no permanent member to the United Nations Security Council. Agenda 2063 states clearly that by 2023, it will rectify this situation. You in Africa have a right as a matter of course to demand that the international community better reflect your views. Africa should send a permanent member to the United Nations Security Council by 2023 at the very latest.

Reform of the United Nations Security Council is truly a goal that Japan and Africa hold in common. I call on everyone here to walk together towards achieving it.

Over the recent past, Africa has not been free from tragedy. Ebola virus disease claimed over 10,000 lives. Some countries are troubled by the plunge in the price of commodities, while in other nations, peace has been shattered.

Whatever problems there are in Africa, however, they are quite simply there to be solved, period. And Japan is a country that ardently hopes to resolve the issues facing Africa together with Africa, and will not let up in its efforts.

Some 70 Japanese companies have sent executives here to TICAD. Japanese companies are committed to quality. Our hunch is that the time has come to make the best of Japan's capabilities, Japanese companies' capabilities, for the advancement of Africa, where you seek nothing but quality in your socio-economic development. I declare to you that we will launch the "Japan-Africa Public and Private Economic Forum" as a permanent forum. Members of the Japanese Cabinet, together with top executives from Japan's major business associations and corporations, will visit Africa once every three years. This makes it a forum bringing the power of the public and private sectors together to forge solutions.

The pledges my government announced three years ago in Yokohama still have two years remaining before they fall due, and yet 67 percent of them have already been carried out.

Today's new pledges enhance and further expand upon those launched three years ago. The motif here is "Quality and Empowerment," which reflects the outcomes of the G7 Summit Japan hosted this year in a place called Ise-Shima.

Allow me here to add to the word "Africa" the three modifiers of "quality," "resilient," and "stable." That is precisely the form of Africa that Japan will aim for, working together with you.

A "quality Africa" will be built through the three elements of infrastructure, human resources, and "kaizen."

Japan will appropriate approximately 10 billion US dollars to Africa over the next three years for building



infrastructure. A portion of this will be executed through cooperation with the African Development Bank.

Next, human resources. Under the “ABE Initiative,” the number of future executives from Africa who have studied in Japan will soon reach a thousand. As a new pillar, we want to foster future foremen and plant managers—leaders at worksites. Over three years, the Initiative will foster roughly 1,500 people. In addition, by bringing Japan’s higher education system, by 2018, we wish to have raised a total of 30,000 people to be the human resources supporting the foundations of industry.

The final element is “kaizen.” “Kaizen” enhances productivity and decreases defective goods through the initiatives and ingenuity of the people working on the production line. The common philosophy running through this is trust in each individual worker. It is a philosophy and a method born in Japan. Japan will cooperate with NEPAD to spread “kaizen” all throughout Africa. We will aim to increase by 30 percent the productivity of factories where “kaizen” is introduced.

A “resilient Africa” is one that does not capitulate to illness. When a public health emergency like Ebola occurs, two things matter: to have preparedness in the local areas, and for the entire international community to confront it. Japan will foster experts and policy professionals who will combat infectious diseases, for a total of 20,000 people over three years. At the G7 Summit, Japan set forth a contribution plan for the field of health. More than 500 million US dollars of that will be channeled through global organizations in order to strengthen Africa’s health systems and counter infectious diseases. In doing so, we expect to save the lives of more than 300,000 people.

Of course, promoting universal health coverage, or “UHC,” is the foundation for everything. Japan’s goal will be to increase the population benefiting from fundamental health services by 2 million people over the next three years. I will also mention that we will launch the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa, or “IFNA.”

A “stable Africa” is one that goes all out to bring about peace and build the foundations for security. The very first time Japan’s Self-Defense Forces were engaged in PKO in Africa was in Mozambique in 1993, the same year in which the TICAD process started. It is the trust that the SDFs have built up since then that has made the job of human resource development possible. For Japan, which bears the flag of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the principle of international cooperation, this is a very gratifying development.

A “stable Africa” is also one in which young people have both self-efficacy and self-esteem. In order to cultivate self-confidence and dreams in young people, Japan would like to provide vocational training to 50,000 people over the next three years.

To bring about a quality, resilient, and stable Africa, Japan will empower, in other words, implement human resource development for 10 million people over three years beginning in 2016.

When combined with investment from the private sector, I expect the total will amount to 30 billion US dollars. This is an investment that has faith in Africa’s future, an investment for both Japan and Africa to grow together.

When you cross the seas of Asia and the Indian Ocean and come to Nairobi, you then understand very well that what connects Asia and Africa is the sea lanes. Japan bears the responsibility of fostering the confluence of the Pacific and Indian Oceans and of Asia and Africa into a place that values freedom, the rule of law, and the market economy, free from force or coercion, and making it prosperous.

Japan wants to work together with you in Africa in order to make the seas that connect the two continents into peaceful seas that are governed by the rule of law. Let us make this stretch from Asia to Africa a main artery for growth and prosperity. Let us advance together, Africa and Japan, sharing a common vision.

The future abounds with blazes of bright colors. We are poised to hear the intense yet refreshing beat of the drums. My African friends, let us continue to walk forward together, believing in the potential that the future holds.

Thank you very much.

# Improving East Africa's Inland Logistics

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## New International Bridge and Customs Post Facilitate Cross-Border Transport

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The Rusumo International Bridge at the border of Rwanda and Tanzania is a key logistics link for the inland countries of East Africa. The bridge is on the Central Corridor, an arterial roadway from the Indian Ocean to Rwanda. For many years it was subject to constant congestion due to traffic limits made necessary by the bridge's structural deterioration and to the complexity of customs procedures. To address this problem, the Japanese government extended JPY 3.72 billion (USD 35.4 million) in grant aid to undertake the Project for Construction of Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Border Post (OSBP) Facilities, aimed at achieving a dramatic decrease in the amount of time required to cross the border. This major project, based on technical cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), included both construction of a new bridge and the introduction of OSBP facilities to streamline customs formalities.

The new two-lane bridge, built with high-level Japanese technology, eases passage by allowing two-way traffic. And the new OSBP complex reduces congestion and promotes smoother cross-border trade: Whereas previously it was necessary to go through customs separately on both sides, a process that could take about 14 hours, now the procedures can be completed more expeditiously in one stop. Over a period of eight years the Japanese government worked steadily with various government organs in Rwanda and Tanzania and with the East African Community (EAC), which has been promoting the adoption of the OSBP concept, to support the enactment of relevant legislation. JICA also assisted with the preparation of operational manuals and technical training for customs officials. On March 1, 2016, the long-awaited OSBP was inaugurated, greatly shortening the time required to clear customs. JICA estimates that in the first year of operation, the new facility will result in savings of USD 1.8 million in costs for round-trip transportation between the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Kigali, capital of Rwanda. And the improvement of the Central Corridor logistics network will promote the flow of goods and contribute greatly to the economic development and modernization of East Africa's inland nations.

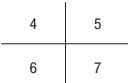
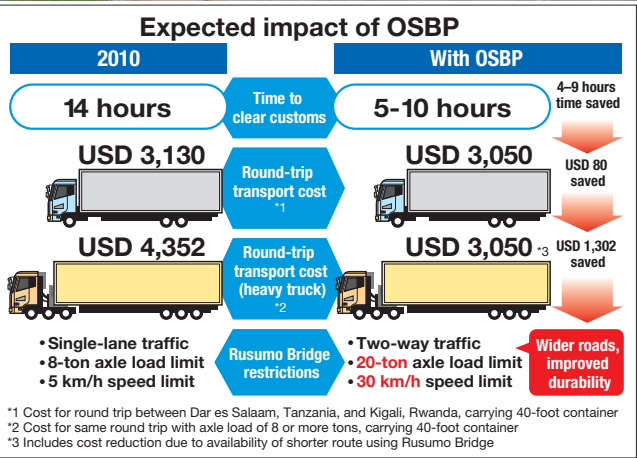
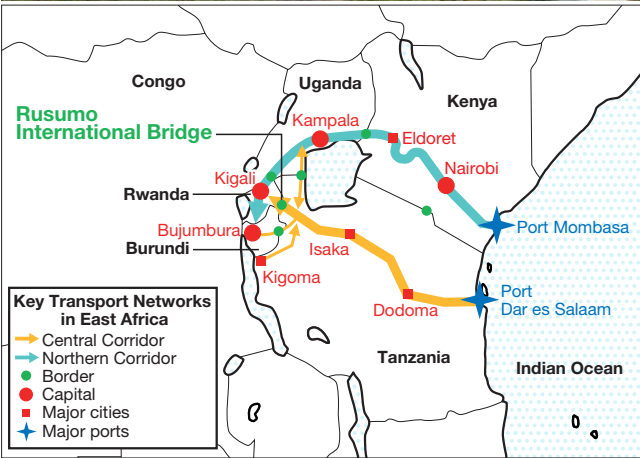
The project has also produced positive effects in enhancing the capabilities of the local engineers who were involved. Ryutaro Murotani, acting senior representative at the JICA Rwanda Office, notes, "Rwandan engineers who worked on this project have put their experience to work on another project: the construction of an OSBP on the border between Rwanda and Uganda." Representatives of local construction companies also report that working with a Japanese company on the bridge-building project offered them a good opportunity to learn Japanese civil engineering technology and high-quality construction techniques.

JICA'S goal is to see a uniform system of one-stop border posts adopted throughout Africa's distribution network so as to enhance the interconnectivity among the countries of the continent. The agency is now at the preparatory stage, working on a sourcebook together with the regional organizations and national government organs currently operating OSBPs based on their own systems. Support for the Rusumo International Bridge project has been a part of this undertaking, and the project's successful outcome will be a step toward further support for Africa's development.





1. Overview of the new Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Border Post (OSBP) complex. The area beyond the curve in the river on the left is the site of the OSBP on the Tanzanian side of the border. 2. A commemorative panel at the approach to the bridge displays the flag of Japan along with those of Rwanda and Tanzania. Local university architecture students visited the site frequently to see the Japanese launching erection method used in constructing the bridge. 3. An engineer from a Japanese construction company (left) provides guidance to local engineers as they work together on the project.



4. Congestion on and around the old bridge. The Rwandan side of the border is in the foreground. On the far side, in Tanzania, a line of trucks wait to cross the border. The former bridge had an axle load limit of only 8 tons and the speed limit was 5 kilometers (3 miles) per hour; only one large truck at a time could cross it. 5. A view of the new bridge from the Tanzanian side. The yellow-fenced pathway-like structure on the left is the old bridge. 6. The major roadways for transport of goods from the Indian Ocean to inland areas. The Northern Corridor was formerly the most-used route, but two border crossings made it time consuming. With the inauguration of the new bridge and OSBP, the Central Corridor has come to play a much bigger role as a transport route. 7. Improvements expected to result from the project. In addition to the lowering of transportation costs thanks to the introduction of OSBP facilities, the opening of the new bridge will allow the passage of trucks heavier than the former limit of 8 tons.

# Fighting Infectious Diseases in West Africa

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## Japanese Support for an Advanced Research Facility

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West Africa is constantly fighting against infectious diseases. Malaria, for example, causes more than 10,000 deaths a year in Ghana, and the country has around 270,000 people with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In order to promote the sustained development of this region, it is necessary to fight and overcome these diseases. And since the infectious diseases of this region are repeatedly mutating and developing new routes of infection, it is essential to conduct a steady, long-term campaign against them locally, including activities to detect and promptly analyze viruses.

Bacteriologist Dr. Hideyo Noguchi was a pioneer Japanese researcher who conducted work on site in this region. He commenced his studies on yellow fever at a hospital in Accra, Gold Coast (now Ghana), in 1927, and he achieved numerous noteworthy results, including the discovery of the pathogen for yellow fever, before he was infected with the disease six months later and died there. For those accomplishments, he was nominated three times for a Nobel prize. In 1968 the government of Ghana requested Japan, Dr. Noguchi's home country, to assist in medical research on infectious diseases. The Japanese government responded by launching a program of technical cooperation that same year. In 1979 the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), named in honor of Dr. Noguchi, was established in Accra with grant aid from Japan, and since then Japanese researchers have been dispatched to this institute on an ongoing basis.

Researchers at NMIMR, while coping with frequent blackouts and inconsistent water supply, have been able to produce numerous successful results. One major field for research has been HIV, and in 1986 researchers in Ghana became the first to discover HIV-2, a strain of the virus concentrated in Africa. The institute has now firmly established itself as a key base for contagious disease research in West Africa.

Handling pathogens like HIV requires highly secure facilities. In 1999 NMIMR completed a research laboratory facility that meets the biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) standard of the World Health Organization (WHO). Because of this, in 2014 the institute was recommended by the WHO as one of the most critical institutions contributing to the fight against Ebola virus disease. And it supported work not just within Ghana but also in tandem with other West African countries on measures to deal with Lassa fever, which showed signs of an outbreak this year.

NMIMR's staff of 334 people includes 49 researchers from Ghana, other African countries, Japan, and elsewhere around the world, including France and the United States. Dr. Mitsuko Ohashi, a Japanese parasitologist who has been working at the institute for seven years, notes, "The researchers have high potential. The levels of personnel and research at NMIMR are world-class, and together we are producing results by serving as members of a team where we are improving ourselves through friendly rivalry."

In order to further strengthen the capacity of Ghana and West Africa as a whole to fight infectious diseases, the Japanese government has decided to provide grant assistance for the construction of a new facility at NMIMR, the Advanced Research Center for Infectious Diseases, scheduled for completion in August 2018. This center will enable even more precise detection and surveillance of pathogens with a BSL-3 compliant molecular biology lab with the latest devices. It is hoped that this will serve as a base for medical research and education for future researchers, thus helping to control the diseases that threaten humankind.

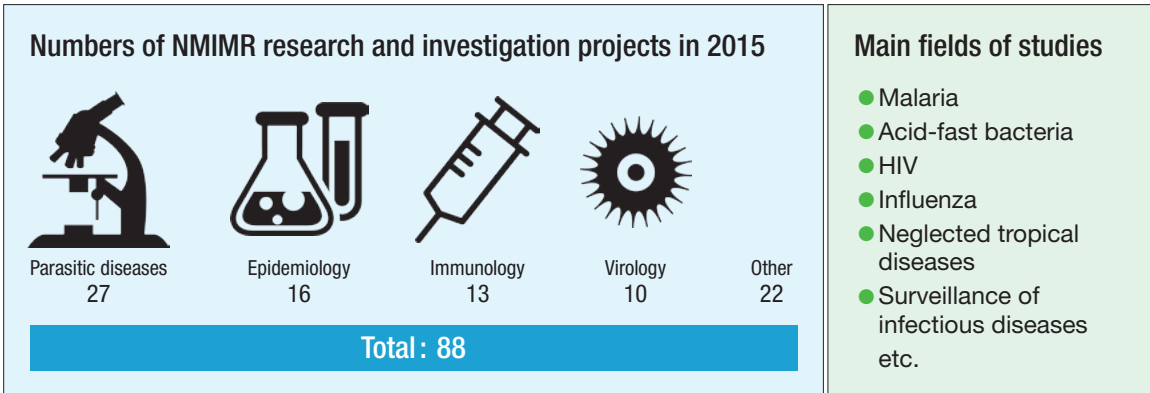


photo : Aiko Iizuka/JICA (1, 2, 3)



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1. The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), located in a suburb of Accra, Ghana's capital, serves as a center for the fight against infectious diseases in West Africa. 2. Young researchers at the institute, about 70% of whom are close to earning doctorates, pursue their studies under the guidance of supervisors and fellows. 3 & 4. Dr. Hideyo Noguchi (1876–1928), despite poverty and physical impairment, became a globally renowned bacteriologist for his research on diseases including yellow fever and syphilis, and he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. His image is featured on Japan's thousand-yen note.



The number of studies conducted at NMIMR rose from 56 in 2010 to 88 in 2015. The main focus is infectious diseases, but studies have also been conducted on topics such as food safety and climate change.



5 | 6

5. On May 18, 2016, following a Japan-Ghana summit meeting in Tokyo, the two countries' leaders were present for an exchange of letters concerning grant assistance from Japan to Ghana. 6. Dr. Mitsuko Ohashi of Tokyo Medical and Dental University found the component to develop a drug effective against sleeping sickness made with Ghanaian medicinal herbs. Tokyo Medical and Dental University and NMIMR jointly applied for a patent for it in 2015. The application for an international scientific patent is a first for NMIMR.

# Supporting Kenya's Human Resource Development

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## Training Personnel for the Future from a Private-Sector Perspective

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The rapid development of African economies has created an urgent need to develop human resources with high levels of knowledge and skills in various fields. In Kenya, the long-term national strategy “Kenya Vision 2030” includes the goal of developing capacity to train global human resources.

Toyota Tsusho, a trading company that belongs to the Toyota Group, is undertaking a broad range of operations in Africa, focusing on business creation, human resource development, and social contributions. In Kenya, one of the principal countries for these operations, the company sees supporting the development of local human resources as a crucial activity for the advance of the country's economy, along with the expansion of its own business. With this in mind, in 1990 Toyota Tsusho joined with Toyota Motor in establishing the Toyota Kenya Foundation, which through fiscal 2015 has provided scholarship grants to 385 students. Some of them have gone on to take posts in Kenya's government after earning their degrees.

In addition, Toyota Tsusho has actively undertaken to provide training for local human resources; it set up a training center within its subsidiary, Toyota Kenya, to provide technical and management training for technical staff members of that company and of Toyota's official import and sales agencies and dealerships in East Africa. In July 2014, the center was moved and the program was substantially enlarged with the establishment of the Toyota Kenya Academy, a human resources training center situated within the Toyota Kenya Business Park in Nairobi, Kenya. Some of the courses have been made open to the general public. Masakazu Ohira, general manager of Toyota Tsusho's Africa Automotive Department, explains: “We thought we could contribute to Kenya's further development by providing training and education in a broad range of fields, not limited to the automotive sector.”

The Toyota Kenya Academy offers courses in four major areas. In addition to courses that the previous center had been offering to technicians in the automotive field, the academy has been receiving cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Kenyan government organs in providing courses in entrepreneurship, agri-preneurship, and agri-mechanization. In the two years following its opening in 2014, 381 students have taken courses at the academy, and this September it plans to launch courses on Toyota's “Kaizen” process of workers onsite continuously brainstorming ideas to improve productivity and on the “plan, do, check, act” (PDCA) management cycle.

“At the Toyota Kenya Academy we're working not just to teach knowledge and technical skills but to have students learn how to solve problems on their own initiative,” says Ohira. “Though it's only about two years since the academy was established, I can sense solid results, hearing from students that they have learned new ways of looking at things.” He declares, “Kenya has many highly motivated individuals, and these people are taking advantage of our programs to learn and to achieve personal growth. We hope to create a solid success story here and then extend it to other African countries.”



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1. President Uhuru Kenyatta (seated at center) and other Kenyan government officials attended the opening ceremony of the Toyota Kenya Academy in July 2014. 2. Specially certified employees of Toyota Kenya serve as instructors. 3. The academy's curriculum is oriented to practical training. This young man is enthusiastically studying to become an auto repair shop manager.

Categories and number of courses		New courses starting September
<b>Automotive: 3</b> 	<b>Agri-preneurship: 4</b> 	<b>Japanese language</b> 
<b>Entrepreneurship: 3</b> 	<b>Agri-mechanization: 4</b> 	<b>"Kaizen" &amp; PDCA training</b> 

The Toyota Kenya Academy currently offers 14 courses. This year it expects an enrollment of 750.

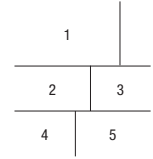
4 | 5

4. The academy is located within the 60,000-square-meter Toyota Kenya Business Park, home to many Toyota Group facilities. 5. Masakazu Ohira, general manager of Toyota Tsusho's Africa Automotive Department, praises the diligence of the academy's Kenyan students.

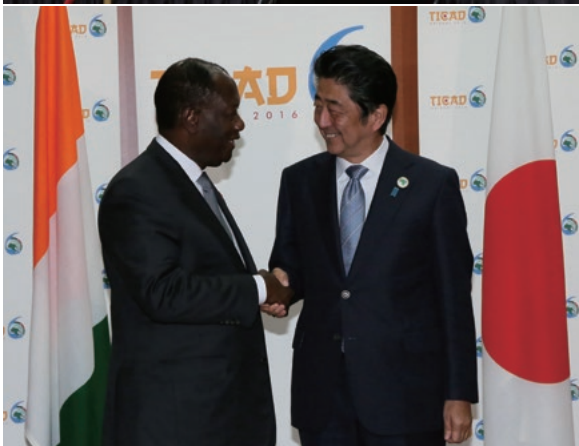
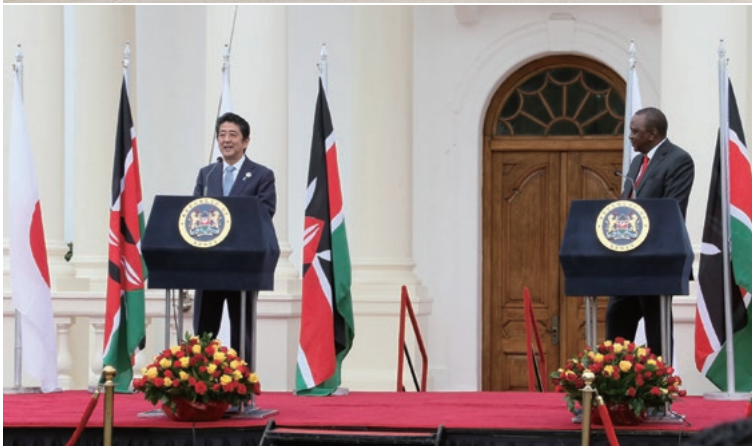


# Moments of Prime Minister Abe

## Moments at TICAD VI



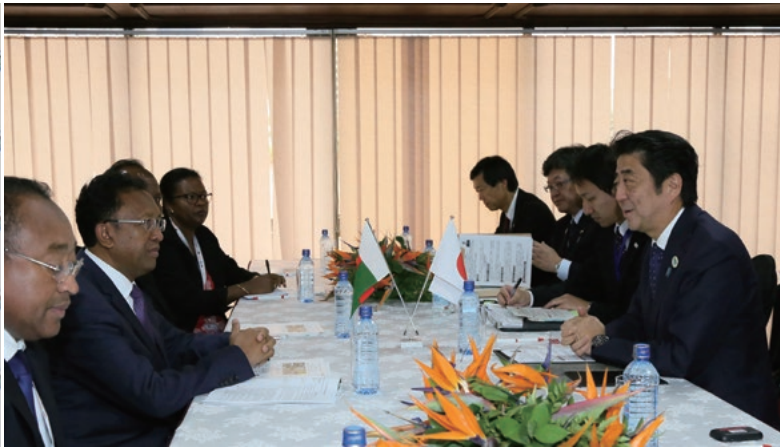
Prime Minister Abe visited Nairobi, Kenya, to attend the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), and he held meetings with leaders of other countries (August 2016).  
1. Joint photograph. 2. At a joint press conference with President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya. 3. Meeting with President Alpha Conde of Guinea. 4. With President Alassane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire. 5. Meeting with President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique.



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6. Delivering the keynote speech at the opening session of TICAD VI. 7. With President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana. 8. Meeting with President Hery Rajaonarimampianina of Madagascar. 9. Meeting with President Macky Sall of Senegal. 10. With President Jacob Zuma of South Africa.





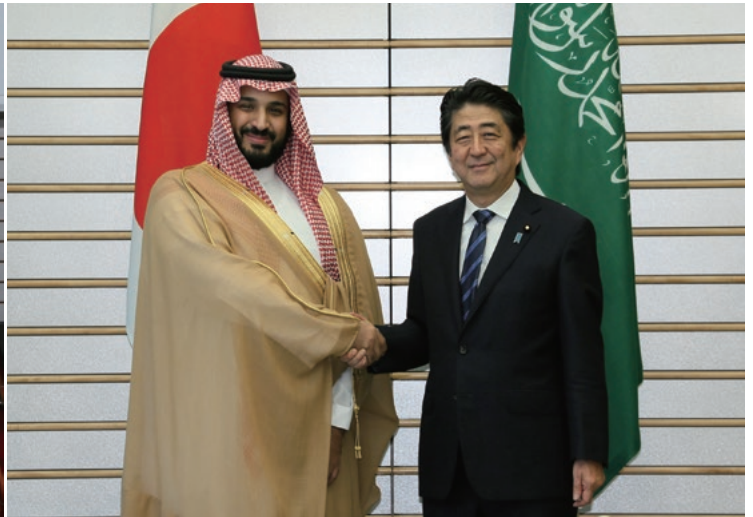
During the period of TICAD VI, Prime Minister Abe attended side events at the conference and held meetings with leaders of other countries (August 2016).  
 1. Visiting the Japan-Africa Expo. 2. Meeting with President Ismaïl Omar Guelleh of Djibouti. 3. With President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. 4. At a reception hosted by the Japanese government. 5. Attending the Japan-Africa Business Conference.

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Other Moments



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1. Commemorative photograph session following the inauguration of the second reshuffled Third Abe Cabinet (August 2016).
2. Prime Minister Abe met with Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Defense of Saudi Arabia, at the Prime Minister's Office (September 2016).
3. Prime Minister Abe attended the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony held in the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima (August 2016).
4. Prime Minister Abe attended the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony held in the Peace Park in Nagasaki (August 2016).
5. Prime Minister Abe visited Brazil to attend the closing ceremony of XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro, and he met with Japanese athletes (August 2016).

# The 60th Anniversary of Japan's Accession to the United Nations



Prime Minister Abe gives a general debate address at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly (September 29, 2015). ©UN Photo/Kim Haughton

The United Nations was founded in 1945, just after World War II, under the pledge to prevent the recurrence of war. Japan acceded to the UN 11 years later, in 1956, and has since then continued contributing internationally in various fields.

Although the Cold War structure has been dissolved, the international community now faces new challenges to deal with, such as the frequent occurrence of regional and ethnic conflicts, poverty, sustainable development, climate change, and human rights issues. The international community needs to tackle these

issues by making the best possible use of the UN with its universal character, expertise, and legitimacy.

For about 30 years, Japan has ranked as the second-largest contributor to the regular budget of the UN, after the United States. Japan's contributions are not limited to financial aspects. It has played a leading role in various UN fora and also made intellectual and personnel contributions.

The year 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of Japan's accession to the UN. Taking this opportunity, Japan will contribute even more actively in various fields centering on the UN's three pillars of peace and security, human rights, and development, in close cooperation with other countries involved.

In January 2016, Japan was elected for the 11th time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for two years. No other member state has served as many terms in this capacity. In the UNSC, Japan is actively contributing to addressing a wide range of issues concerning international peace and security, including peacebuilding in Africa, on which Japan organized an open debate as president of the UNSC in July.

The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) was held in Nairobi on August 27 and 28, 2016, led by Japan and co-organized by the UN, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, and the African Union Commission, and taking its outcomes into consideration, Japan intends to further support Africa's growth and development.



Hisanaga Shimazu, Japan's consul general in New York, submits Japan's application to the UN (June 23, 1952). ©UN Photo/Marvin Bolotsky



Japanese representatives to the UN are shown to their seats after Japan is admitted to the UN (December 18, 1956). ©UN Photo/AF

Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu observes the hoisting of the Japanese national flag to mark Japan's accession to the UN (December 19, 1956). ©UN Photo

## Japan's Contributions to the UN

Field	Examples of Japan's Contributions	
United Nations Security Council	Elected for its 11th term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC. Plays a leading role in adopting resolutions in response to global and regional security issues including nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches by North Korea.	
Conflict resolution and peacebuilding	Participation in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Haiti, South Sudan, and elsewhere.	
Disarmament and non-proliferation	As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings, Japan submits to the UN General Assembly a draft resolution on the elimination of nuclear weapons, which has been adopted every year since 1994, aimed at calling for a united action toward a world free of nuclear weapons. Also, Japan has taken a leading role in global discussions on disarmament and non-proliferation, including in the field of conventional weapons.	
Security Council reform	Formed the G4 with Brazil, Germany, and India to work toward realization of a more legitimate, representative, and effective Security Council.	
Responding to issues of global scale	Development	Placing emphasis on the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by the target year of 2015, including the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger, contributed actively to achievement of the MDGs, such as through effective use of official development assistance (ODA), both bilaterally and through international organizations. Contributes to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) domestically and internationally.
	Human security	Supports the establishment and operation of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, and cooperates with grant assistance for grass-roots human security projects.
	Humanitarian assistance	Implements humanitarian assistance for refugees, internally displaced persons, and people affected by disasters.
	Disaster relief	Dispatch of Japan Disaster Relief Teams, including Self-Defense Force units.
	Disaster risk reduction	Promotes mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) that reflects the perspective of DRR in all stages of development.
	Climate change	Announced contribution policies; devoted all-out efforts toward the adoption of the Paris Agreement.
Protection and promotion of human rights	Takes initiatives toward international human rights law including submission of the draft of the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the draft of the Resolution on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members, and the draft of the Resolution on Human Rights in Cambodia.	
Administrative and budgetary reforms	Facilitated improving efficiency of the budget as a major financial contributor through consultations in the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly.	



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1. Marcela Temple Seminario, the wife of UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, dressed in a kimono, together with the Japanese Kimono Cultural Mission members visiting the UN to introduce Japanese kimono culture (April 4, 1982). ©UN Photo/Milton Grant 2. Nagasaki City Council member Yoshiaki Fukahori (gesturing) explains an exhibit to UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar at the disarmament exhibition (far left: UN Under-Secretary-General for Public Information Yasushi Akashi and Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe) (September 28, 1983). ©UN Photo/Yutaka Nagata 3. Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida presides over the open debate of the UN Security Council on "Peacebuilding in Africa" (July 28, 2016). ©UN Photo/JC McIlwaine

# Japanese Individuals Contributing Worldwide

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## Addressing Poverty in Africa by Promoting Growth of “Miracle Rice”

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New Rice for Africa (Nerica), also called “miracle rice,” is helping to address the issue of poverty in Africa. Rice is a luxury food that people can eat only on special occasions in many African countries. It has high nutritional value, and it serves as a valuable source of income for farmers. Japanese agronomist Tatsushi Tsuboi has been working for more than 20 years to promote the spread of rice cultivation. Known as “Mr. Nerica,” he rigorously follows an approach based on going out into the field to provide guidance; so far he has trained about 50,000 local farmers.

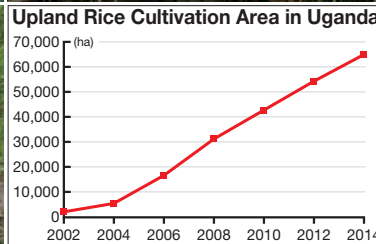
From 1981 Tsuboi worked as an agricultural specialist for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) providing guidance on rice cultivation through persistent efforts in countries including Indonesia, the Philippines, and Côte d’Ivoire. In 1992 he learned of the existence of Nerica from Dr. Monty Jones of the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA), who showed him this hybrid that he had just succeeded at producing. It is a cross between pest- and drought-resistant African rice and high-yield Asian rice, combining the strengths of both. It can be harvested twice a year under local climate conditions. Tsuboi explains, “Nerica grows even in moist lowland locations unsuited to use as fields for other crops, and it can be planted in the gaps between crops like coffee and bananas. After growing it experimentally in various locations, I became confident that this strain of rice could help resolve Africa’s poverty issues, and I decided to work at spreading the cultivation technology.”

In 2004 the Japanese government decided to dispatch an expert to Uganda to support the spread of Nerica, and Tsuboi was selected for this role, serving as a JICA expert on Nerica adaptation. Study results had indicated that among the countries of Africa, Uganda is best suited to Nerica cultivation in terms of the climate and environment of its relatively dry upland area. So the idea was to start with an initiative aimed at producing a success story there.

Tsuboi set up a rice cultivation research section to study Nerica at Uganda’s National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI), and this served as the base for guidance activities covering everything from the sowing of seeds and the care of the rice plants through the harvesting of the rice. Tsuboi developed a distinctive program to promote the spread of Nerica. He gives each farmer who participates in his training sessions 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of seed rice, enough to produce a harvest of 50 kg (110 lbs.) or more of unhulled rice. And each farmer is asked to give 2 kg (4.4 lbs.) of seed rice from what he harvests to neighboring farmers. The experience of growing rice on their own enhances farmers’ technical capabilities, thereby leading to an increase in the rice cultivation area.

The circle of Nerica-growing farmers is continuing to extend steadily, and over the 10 years after Tsuboi took his post in Uganda, the upland rice cultivation area grew from 5,500 to 65,000 hectares (13,600 to 160,000 acres). Farmers tell Tsuboi that the income from their rice sales has helped them, for example, by letting them send their children to high school or by making it possible for them to have mobile phones.

Tsuboi is optimistic that Nerica will bring a brighter future to Africa. “Over the past thirteen years I’ve trained more than 2,000 African researchers and extension workers. I want to keep up my activities until the day comes when Nerica will have spread throughout Africa and the issue of poverty is resolved.” Today he continues to work under the African sun, spreading rice cultivation technology.



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1 & 2. Tsuboi provides guidance in Uganda. In addition to guidance for farmers, Tsuboi, operating from a Nerica rice-growing test station in Uganda as his base, trains extension workers and researchers. He has trained over 2,000 such professionals in countries around Africa. 3. Tsuboi conducts a study at the experiment station. Of the 18 varieties of Nerica that have been developed, Nerica 4 is the most widely cultivated. 4. In his training for farmers, Tsuboi provides detailed instructions, such as the best depth for planting the seeds and the best amount of space between the rice plants. Proper growing techniques can increase harvests by a significant multiple. 5. When Tsuboi came to Uganda in 2004, Nerica was being grown on 5,500 hectares (13,600 acres) in upland Uganda, but the cultivation area has increased steadily and rapidly, reaching 65,000 ha (160,000 acres) in 2014.

**Tatsushi Tsuboi**

Joined the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in his twenties. Conducted activities to support rice cultivation in the Philippines and has since been involved in similar activities for over 35 years in Asia and Africa. In 2004 he was posted to Uganda, where he led the program to spread Nerica. He continues to provide guidance on rice cultivation, traveling to countries around Africa.



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## Developing “Farming as a Business” in Kenya

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Farming is the backbone of Kenya’s economy. It accounts for 65% of the country’s foreign currency earnings and employs about 80% of the population. The scale of operations remains small, however, with 75% of the marketed crops grown in smallholder family farms. Until about 10 years ago, farmers had no choice but to sell their crops to middlemen at prices set by the latter, and their incomes were inadequate. To address this issue, since 2006 Japan has been cooperating with Kenya in implementation of the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Promotion (SHEP) approach, which aims to increase farmers’ incomes.

Arisa Kikuchi, an employee of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the front lines of SHEP implementation in Kenya, explains that the approach aims to develop local farmers’ capabilities so as to transform their activities into “farming as a business.” The first key element of this approach is to hold gatherings to bring farmers together with people in the horticultural industry. Through such meetings, farmers become able to understand the market actors’ needs and expand their network. This helps them to select suitable buyers for their produce and to buy seeds and fertilizer at lower prices through group purchasing.

The second key element of the approach is to conduct market surveys by groups of farmers to determine which crops would be more marketable. Having information about demand in the market allows farmers to make more concretely informed decisions about what to plant in the next growing season. Kikuchi notes: “In other projects, market surveys are commonly conducted by consultants, but in the SHEP approach the focus is on survey activities conducted by farmers themselves. This requires the provision of detailed support, which is the core of Japan’s technical assistance, and it’s essential as a means of making the SHEP approach take root locally and become sustainable.”

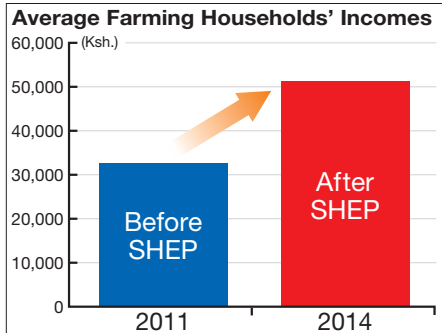
The gender training conducted as part of the SHEP approach is an important means of raising farmers’ incomes. In many Kenyan farming households, males tend to handle the decision making about what to plant and what to buy; relatively few couples discuss such matters and decide jointly. “Gender training sessions lead to more discussion between husbands and wives, with husbands becoming more likely to share the chores previously handled mainly by their wives and to consult with their wives when deciding what equipment they should buy. When a couple buys a water tank at the wife’s request, her water-drawing burden is lightened, and she can devote the saved time to farming, which leads to more income.”

These activities have been steadily producing results. From 2011 to 2014 the real horticultural incomes of the targeted farming households rose by 58%. And people report that their lives have improved, saying, for example, that they have become able to send their children to a private middle school or that they used their earnings to start a new business. Kenyan government authorities have recognized that the SHEP approach is effective in increasing farmers’ incomes, and from 2010 to 2015 it was implemented in 33 out of the nation’s 47 counties.

Africa’s population is expected to double to 2.4 billion by 2050. With the continent’s future in mind, Kikuchi expresses her determination: “Developing manufacturing industry is important in terms of creating jobs and achieving economic growth, but for many African countries farming continues to be a key sector employing the largest number of people. I hope to be involved in activities that will support the livelihoods of smallhold farmers, who account for large shares of countries’ populations, by further extending the establishment of ‘farming as a business.’”



1. Kikuchi organizes training aimed at extending the SHEP approach to various African countries, together with SHEP Team members consisting of government officials in Kenya and JICA experts. 2. A local market: Through SHEP activities farmers developed direct connections with the market and became able to choose buyers offering higher prices rather than relying just on middlemen. 3. At gender training sessions for farming couples, husbands and wives are asked to write down the contents of their spending and of their everyday chores so as to make this information visible. The attitudes of husbands reportedly change as they focus on achieving the couple's shared goal of increasing their income. 4. Real horticultural income per farmer increased by 58% from 2011 to 2014.



Source: Data collected by SHEP Team by interviewing farmers and extension officers.  
Notes: Figures have been adjusted for consumer price inflation. 10,000 Kenyan shillings = approx. USD 120 as of March 2014.

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**Arisa Kikuchi**

Completed graduate studies in agriculture. As she studied the connections between farmers and markets, she aimed to become involved in international cooperation activities based on agriculture. In 2009 she joined JICA, where she initially worked in the area of South Asian farming and rural development. From 2014 to 2016 she was stationed in Kenya, where she conducted activities as a project expert promoting the SHEP approach.



# Cutting-Edge Technologies

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## KOKO Plus: Improving the Nutritional Status of Infants in Ghana

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Malnutrition in infants can easily occur in areas where protein intake is dependent on grain. In Ghana, the traditional weaning food “koko,” a porridge made with fermented corn and sugar, tends to be deficient in nutritional elements necessary during the weaning period. For example, infants may not be able to take in enough of the essential amino acid lysine, and this lack can result in delayed growth. “The first thousand days from conception to a child’s second birthday are an extremely important time, and delay in growth due to malnutrition during this period is extremely difficult to regain later,” says Dr. Yasuhiko Toride, senior manager of the R&D Planning Department at Ajinomoto.

Ajinomoto launched its *umami* seasoning product made from glutamine acid in 1909, and since then it has accumulated expertise on amino acids. With regard to lysine, nutritional assessment tests that were commenced in 1995 confirmed that the substance has a positive effect on a person’s state of health. Ajinomoto has a 50-year history of producing lysine, and in recent years it has become able to do so more efficiently with a fermentation method based on biotechnology.

In 2009, as one of the initiatives commemorating its centenary, Ajinomoto launched the Ghana Nutrition Improvement Project, aiming to utilize its vast store of knowledge on food products and amino acids to help solve problems that developing countries are facing. This project, led by Dr. Toride, developed KOKO Plus, a supplement to be added while cooking koko. The main ingredient is soybeans, which are locally grown, together with an amino acid (lysine) and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals). Palm oil and sugar are added to get the taste just right.

Ajinomoto has positioned this project as a social business, aiming to establish it as a sustainable business in Africa, and has been advancing it based on collaboration among the government, academia, and the private sector.

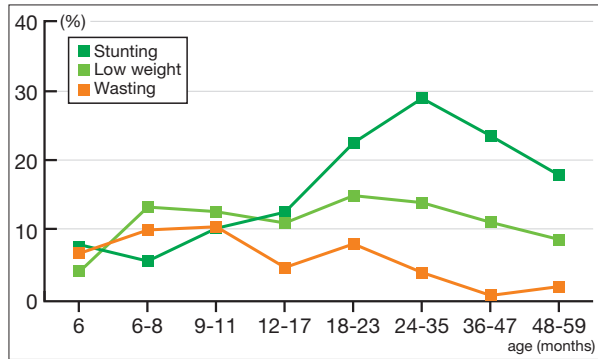
Dr. Toride explains, “Since taste is an important factor in assuring that infants will keep eating the product, we developed it in line with local needs through collaboration with the Department of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Ghana.” Production is carried out together with a local food company. For distribution, Ajinomoto teamed up with a nongovernmental organization implementing a program supporting self-reliance for women, creating a system under which saleswomen sell the product person-to-person while promoting public awareness. Dr. Toride says this has been very effective in boosting demand. Also the government of Ghana is cooperating through the provision of education on nutrition.

Over a period of three years starting in 2013, a study was conducted on 900 infants to confirm the nutritional benefits of KOKO Plus. The results suggest that the supplement can be effective against problems such as stunting and anemia.

Dr. Toride shares his hopes: “I want to quickly establish this initiative on nutrition improvement as a sustainable business model and to extend it to neighboring countries. And building on our achievements with our supplement for weaning food, I hope we can undertake a project to improve nutrition for mothers as well.”

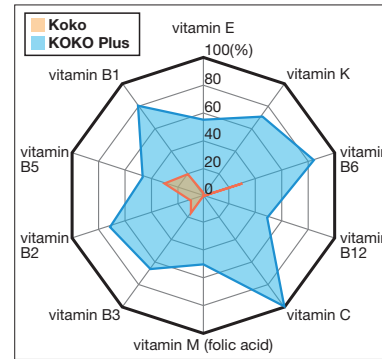


### Malnutrition in infants causes delayed growth



Malnutrition in infants being weaned at six months and up is a cause of delayed growth, with 10%–15% of those in the 6- to 11-month age group being underweight. Of toddlers in the 2- to 3-year age group, 30%–40% have stunting. Source: Ghana Health Service.

### KOKO Plus improves nutritional balance



The nutritional composition of koko and of koko supplemented with KOKO Plus, calculated as percentages of the World Health Organization's infant feeding recommendation.



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1. Thorough research on local needs.
2. Working on the production process with a local company.
3. Raising awareness among mothers with infants.
4. Sales network made up of local saleswomen. Advice from mothers who have experienced the benefits of KOKO Plus is proving effective.



5. KOKO Plus package. 6. Yasuhiko Toride, senior manager of the R&D Planning Department of Ajinomoto, with a doctorate in agricultural chemistry, has led the Ghana Nutrition Improvement Project.

# Friends of Japan



## Mansour Diagne

Born in Senegal. Majored in agricultural economics and agribusiness at the University of Jordan. Since coming to Japan in 1992, he has improved his Japanese language skills through movies, literature, and manga, to achieve Level 1, the top certification level, in the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test. Active in a wide range of fields including language teaching and business interpreting. Currently busy combining work with taking care of his children. He loves the Japanese comedy-drama movie series *Otoko wa Tsurai yo* (It's Tough Being a Man), which depicts the travels of a vagabond merchant among warm-hearted common people.

## Bringing Lights to Africa

Mansour Diagne enjoyed watching Japanese anime and reading Japanese manga as a child. Japan had always been a country that he adored and longed to visit. His wish came true when he came to Japan while his uncle was posted to the Senegal Embassy in Tokyo. Diagne is fluent in French, Arabic, and English, and has taught at language schools as well as appearing on Japanese television as a TV personality. While doing various kinds of work in Japan, he fell more and more in love with the country and its people. “Japanese people have respect for others and consider how the other person feels. I feel that they are the most mature people in the world. As I followed their example, other non-Japanese said ‘You are a black samurai!’” Diagne said, laughing.

Working as an interpreter at a show about solar power generation held in Japan in 2013 opened a door for Diagne to become an employee at a subsidiary of Koyo Corporation, a company that handles solar power generation and various other kinds of renewable energy business. The company already had a desire to contribute something to the world through business, and when Diagne entered the company, it provided a chance to turn their attention to Africa. Thus began a project to improve electrical power infrastructure in an effort to deliver lighting to all areas of Africa, which still has an electrification rate of just 30% on average. Diagne is currently actively involved in this project. “As an African person, I think that to use the natural gas in various areas across Africa for local production and local consumption to supply electricity for the entire African continent is the most wonderful idea. Originally, this plan was made by our Chairman and CEO Norio Shoji, and I totally agreed with it,” he said. Diagne is making full use of his contacts and has taken on the major role of being a guide familiar with the local environment, as well as promoter, to make this project reach fruition.

Looking back on his life in Japan, Diagne observes with a warm expression, “I’ve had to work hard at everything, but so long as I hold firm, I can make a decent living. And I’ve never run into racial discrimination.” He hopes that Japan and Africa will enjoy closer relations in the future and has great expectations for the Japanese government’s African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), which will provide opportunities for African youth to earn graduate degrees at Japanese universities and to engage in internships at Japanese companies. Koyo Corporation has accepted five interns from Burundi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Tanzania for the summer of 2016. Diagne stated, “There are many things in Japan for Africans to learn about. That includes not only the country’s advanced technologies but also its people’s management skills and habit of always being punctual. If Africans could acquire these qualities then each country in Africa would become much stronger and achieve major growth.” While dreaming of the day when each African country achieves major development, Diagne intends to spare no effort in his role as a guide to help make that dream come true.

### About the ABE Initiative

The African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), proposed by Prime Minister Abe at TICAD V in 2013, offers opportunities for 1,000 young African men and women to earn master’s degrees and undertake internships in Japan; 473 participants from 33 countries have come to Japan so far.

Participants in the ABE Initiative Master’s Degree and Internship Program at a welcome reception in 2014. (Photo: Shinichi Kuno/JICA)





## Mohamed Omer Abdin

Born in Khartoum, capital of Sudan, in 1978. Visually impaired since birth, he became legally blind at the age of 12. At the age of 19, while still enrolled at the University of Khartoum's Faculty of Law, he came to Japan to study braille, acupuncture, and moxibustion at Fukui Prefectural School for the Visually Impaired. He subsequently enrolled in the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, where he earned his doctorate in Peace and Conflict Studies and is currently a specially appointed assistant professor.

## Falling for Japan, Sight Unseen

Mohamed Omer Abdin is a specially appointed assistant professor at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies who arrived in Japan from Sudan in 1998. Legally blind, Abdin first came to Japan to study acupuncture and moxibustion at a school for the visually impaired offering courses in this field to international students.

“At that time, the civil war in Sudan was intensifying and the university I had been attending closed its doors,” Abdin recalls. “I thought of going to Japan, an advanced country that excels in manufacturing, as a way to break free of my current situation.”

After completing his studies in acupuncture and moxibustion at Fukui Prefectural School for the Visually Impaired, Abdin went on to study information processing at the Tsukuba College of Technology, a school for students with visual and hearing impairments.

“I learned how to use screen reading software and gained access to a much wider range of information. Staying in Japan, I thought, would let me broaden my studies even further.”

Hoping to study everything from politics to literature, Abdin enrolled in the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, where he has now spent more than a decade. Japan’s language and environment are very different from Sudan’s. But Abdin says that he never felt like giving up and returning to his home country.

“I was very fortunate in the families who welcomed me in for homestay and the friends I made, so I never felt lonely. I cannot see people, but I can sense the warmth in them—the leisurely, gentle feel of the Fukui dialect, for example. Most importantly, in Japan I was given a place to study and live, and new possibilities opened up for me.”

Abdin decided to take on new challenges in Japan, becoming a university instructor in order to put his knowledge to work. Currently, alongside his research into the conflict in Sudan, he teaches African politics and related subjects at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. He believes that he can make good use of his perspective as a person born in a conflict zone in teaching Japanese students about conflict resolution.

“Sudan’s civil strife is not something unrelated to life in Japan. If younger people take an interest in it, this can only influence our shared future for the better. In my lectures I make efforts to have students feel a sense of immediacy as they discuss Africa, even though it is geographically distant from Japan. And I’ve been delighted when they ask questions that even I can’t answer, because that proves that they’ve come to think deeply about the material.”

In his private life, Abdin is married to a woman also from Sudan. Together they have three children. “Her miso soup is delicious, but I was taken aback when she served it with bread,” he laughs. However, his wife has now mastered a range of Japanese dishes, from grilled fish to *ohitashi* stewed vegetables.

Living as a family has also helped him feel a sense of connection to Japanese society. “The Japan that has given me so many opportunities to thrive over the years now faces social problems of its own. I would like to contribute even in a small way to solving those problems. I also want to help create a society in which people with disabilities can make the most of their strengths.”

Abdin’s face seems to glow in anticipation of the future roles he may be able to play in Japan.



## Goodfriday Yamungo Chikwezga

Born in the Karonga district of Malawi. Became interested in environmental studies after working with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteers who were helping develop a molecular biology research center at Chancellor College in Zomba. Impressed by Japan's technological expertise, joined the ABE Initiative. Currently a master's student at the University of Tsukuba's Graduate School of Environmental Sciences.

## Partnering with Japan for Sustainable Resource Use in Malawi

“Malawi needs to implement sustainable use of the nation’s natural resources, which along with the environment have been under strain from population growth and other issues.” So explains Goodfriday Yamungo Chikwezga, a master’s student at the University of Tsukuba’s Graduate School of Environmental Sciences. Chikwezga came to Japan in October 2015 through the Japanese government-sponsored African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative). Under this initiative, Chikwezga, who in Malawi is a teacher trainer at Domasi College of Education in the southern city of Zomba, will earn an advanced degree in environmental science while developing business and marketing skills through internships at Japanese companies and by attending business seminars.

Chikwezga joined the program out of a desire to “help Malawi achieve greater sustainability.” Malawi receives development aid from various overseas sources, including the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), but Chikwezga understands the necessity of the country being able to better address sustainability issues on its own. He intends to apply the knowledge and experiences he gains in Japan toward Malawi’s national Science and Mathematics in Secondary Education Program so as to enable his homeland to more fully utilize its local human resources.

Sustainability is vital to improving the livelihood of Malawians, many of whom are heavily reliant on agriculture and fishing. Chikwezga can be expected to play a vital role in government efforts to find new techniques to help those dependent on land and water resources garner larger returns while ensuring sustainable use of these assets.

As part of his studies Chikwezga is working with Japanese researchers in Tsukuba monitoring phytoplankton in fresh water ecosystems. The approaches they are using will provide a new tool for evaluating Lake Malawi’s ecosystem beyond standard measurements. “The methods I’m learning will allow us to directly monitor the impact of external factors and provide a clear guideline for when to introduce mitigation measures,” he explains.

Chikwezga is also studying Japanese agricultural approaches for improving irrigation, production, and processing. In September he will travel to Okinawa Prefecture to study farming and agroprocessing techniques. He also has interned at a firm that manufactures pest control tape. He admits that he was unfamiliar at first with many of the methods and devices commonly used in Japanese laboratories and firms. However, he notes that his Japanese colleagues have provided assistance at every turn. “If I were to use one word to describe Japan and people here, it is just ‘friendly,’” he says with a smile.

In addition to pursuing technical and business training, Chikwezga is working to build a vibrant network of collaboration between Malawi and Japan. “Going forward, I will act as a bridge between the academic and business partnerships I am building here in Japan and smallholders, enterprises, and research institutes in Malawi.”

# The JET Programme: A Great Way to Experience Japan

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Sharing from the Heart Across Continents

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I was active in theater as a freelance actress in my hometown of Cape Town, South Africa, so it is not surprising that I was initially connected with Japan through movies. I saw my first Japanese film in 2006, and while the story was average, I was captivated by one of the actors and quickly became a fan. Yearning to learn more about Japan, I joined Nihongokai, a local language school, where I studied Japanese and participated in cultural activities.

The cultures of Japan and South Africa are different in many respects, but they both share rich culinary histories. I visited Japanese restaurants with other Nihongokai members and enjoyed different cuisine, such as sushi, and also prepared dishes for friends and family, including *agedashi tofu*, a savory, deep-fried tofu. Since arriving in the country on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme in 2012, I have sampled a wide range of Japanese dishes and have also shared South African-style fish and chips, peppermint crisp tart, and other flavors from home with those around me.

I chose to participate in the JET Programme to experience Japan firsthand. I have recently begun my fifth and final year as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) at Nabari Seiho High School in Mie Prefecture. One of the most fulfilling aspects of my job is learning how students view the world and helping them express their ideas succinctly in English.

A crucial element of this has been the introduction of debate in class. In preparing, students must consider topics from multiple angles, a task requiring them not only to stay up to date with current events but also to search for information in books and online in Japanese and English to learn how other cultures view various issues. I enjoy engaging students in their writing and have been involved in developing a writing code that enables them to hone their arguments over multiple drafts. Students have gained confidence, are better at expressing their ideas, and their worldviews have expanded. In addition, I have seen a marked improvement in writing skills and higher scores on language proficiency exams.

In my free time I enjoy exploring the beautiful countryside around Nabari on foot. As I traipse through a quiet hamlet, locals are often surprised to see me, but I relish those special moments when a person will let go of their inhibitions and interact on a one-to-one basis. During such moments I sincerely enjoy the politeness of Japanese customs and the way people consider the feelings of those around them.

I look forward to sharing my JET experience with people in my homeland as well as those from other countries. I have been impressed by the way schools in Japan look after the needs of students, with teachers forging very close bonds with their charges. I hope someday to help promote a similar system in South Africa, which due to economic and other issues suffers from a disparity in educational opportunities, and provide all schoolchildren a safe, supportive learning environment.



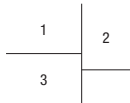
**Larissa Hughes**

Born in Cape Town, South Africa. Arrived in Japan as a JET participant in 2012. Prior to coming to Japan, she was a theater actress and toured widely throughout her home country.





Hughes helps third year students with pronunciation as they read an English text about a microcredit program.



1. Hughes poses with one of her third-year English classes. She team-teaches with another ALT and a Japanese teacher of English. 2. Hughes beams with excitement as she tries on a *yukata* for the first time. 3. Hughes talks with students during the weekly ESS club lunchtime gathering.

# Websites

## Official Websites of the Government and Related Organizations

The following websites offer information from various ministries, information for tourists, and other information relating to the contents of this magazine.

### Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet



#### Cabinet Public Relations Office, Cabinet Secretariat

Information in English about Japanese government policies, speeches and statements by the prime minister, and press conferences by the chief cabinet secretary.

**WEB** <http://japan.kantei.go.jp>

**f** <https://www.facebook.com/Japan.PMO>

**t** [https://twitter.com/JPN\\_PMO](https://twitter.com/JPN_PMO)

### Japanese Government Internet TV



#### Public Relations Office, Cabinet Office

Videos from the Japanese government relating to the prime minister, press conferences by the chief cabinet secretary, videos of the imperial family, and more.

**WEB** <http://nettv.gov-online.go.jp/eng/>

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



#### Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Information from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with links to embassies and consulates overseas.

**WEB** <http://www.mofa.go.jp>

**f** <https://www.facebook.com/Mofa.Japan.en>

**t** [https://twitter.com/MofaJapan\\_en](https://twitter.com/MofaJapan_en)

### JNTO (Japan National Tourism Organization)



#### Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO)

Information about tourism in Japan, including videos and photos. In English and many other languages, including Chinese, Korean, French, and German.

**WEB** <http://www.jnto.go.jp/>

**f** <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/fb/index.html>

**t** (US) [https://twitter.com/Visit\\_Japan](https://twitter.com/Visit_Japan)

### JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization)



#### Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

Information about how JETRO supports Japanese companies overseas, attracts foreign companies to the Japanese market, contributes to Japan's trade policy and conducts activities in developing countries.

**WEB** <http://www.jetro.go.jp/en/>

### JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Programme



#### Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)

Information about the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme.

**WEB** <http://jetprogramme.org/en/>

**f** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/JET-Programme/219440938121634>

**t** (US) <https://twitter.com/JETProgram>

# Publications

## Official Publications from the Government and Related Organizations

The government of Japan and various organizations publish the following periodicals.

### Cabinet Office

#### “Highlighting JAPAN”

Aimed at people in other countries, this regular publication introduces the latest major government policies.

<http://www.gov-online.go.jp/eng/publicity/book/hj/index.html>



Monthly



### Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### “niponica”

Using beautiful photographs, this journal illustrates the appeal of present-day Japan.

[http://web-japan.org/niponica/index\\_en.html](http://web-japan.org/niponica/index_en.html)



Three times a year



### Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

#### “METI Journal”

Explains policies being instituted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) in an easy-to-understand manner.

<http://www.meti.go.jp/english/publications/index.html>



Bimonthly



### Japan National Tourism Organization

#### “Monthly Web Magazine”

Each issue provides seasonal and updated information on three select features.

<http://japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/>



Monthly



### Nuclear Regulation Authority

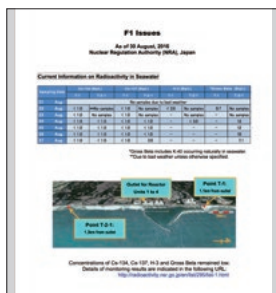
#### “F1 Issues Fukushima Daiichi NPS’s Issues”

This releases information about the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, such as details about the monitoring of seawater since the accident caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

<http://www.nsr.go.jp/english/>



About once a week



### Ministry of Defense

#### “Japan Defense Focus”

A monthly magazine that introduces various activities of the Ministry of Defense and Self-Defense Forces.

<http://www.mod.go.jp/e/jdf/index.html#sub01>



Monthly



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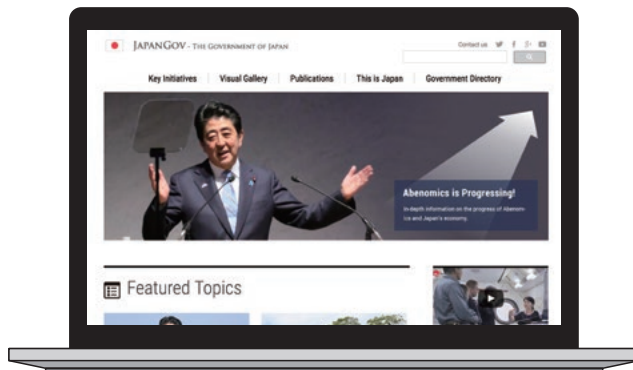
[https://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/forms/comment\\_ssl.html](https://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/forms/comment_ssl.html)

### Links to the websites of ministries

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Cabinet Office <http://www.cao.go.jp/index-e.html>  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries <http://www.maff.go.jp/e/>  
Ministry of Defense <http://www.mod.go.jp/e/>  
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry <http://www.meti.go.jp/english/>  
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Ministry of the Environment <http://www.env.go.jp/en/>  
Ministry of Finance <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/index.htm>  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.mofa.go.jp>  
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/>  
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications <http://www.soumu.go.jp/english/index.html>  
Ministry of Justice <http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/index.html>  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism <https://www.mlit.go.jp/en/>  
Reconstruction Agency <http://www.reconstruction.go.jp/english/>  
Nuclear Regulation Authority <http://www.nsr.go.jp/english/>

# The Government of Japan Website and App



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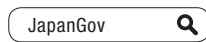
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