National Day of Uganda

Japan's support, friendship commended

By Betty Grace Akech-Okullo Ambassador of Uganda

As we celebrate Uganda's 54th Independence Day, I extend warm greetings from His Excellency the President of the Republic of

Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, and the entire Ugandan public to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Empress, the entire Imperial family,



Akech-Okullo

the Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe, and the honorable members of the Diet as well as the government and people of Japan for their continued support and friendship to the people and government of Uganda.

It was on this day, 54 years ago, in Kampala, that the Union Jack was peacefully lowered and the Ugandan flag was raised. Uganda was one of the few African nations that had a peaceful change of government from its colonial masters. Despite the fact that during its formative years, the nation suffered several setbacks, Uganda is now one of the most peaceful countries in Africa, with its last major instability being 30 years ago.

Today, we also would like to introduce to you Uganda Diaspora Japan (UDJ), an organization that brings together Ugandans in Japan for purposes of promoting its culture, its education and its development efforts. UDJ is a multi-racial organization that works in close collaboration with the Embassy of Uganda in Japan. We would like those who are our friends to consider working with the leadership of this group in promoting Uganda.

Tourism

Our nation, which is called the Pearl of Africa, a reference by Sir Winston Churchill in his book "My African Journey," is making a tenacious comeback and is re-emerging as a top tourist destination with more than 1.2 million tourists annually. Uganda boasts several world heritage sites including, the Kasubi Royal tombs, the Nyero Rock paintings and the snow-capped Mt. Rwenzori. It offers a beautiful, natural, peaceful and pristine environment for tourists. It has been ranked twice in a row as the top tour destination by well-known travel guide books. The country has everything you need for a fulfilling adventure or relaxing break.

The number of tourists from Japan to Uganda increased by about 25 percent frm July 2014 to July 2016 but we still encourage more Japanese to consider Uganda in their touristic itinerary. Uganda has been ranked second in the world in hospitality. The 54 different tribes in Uganda offer opportunities for diverse cultural tourism.

Trade and Investment

Last year, Uganda was ranked the most enterprising nation, with 28 percent of the adults in the nation owning or co-owning a business. It is therefore not a surprise that the number of Japanese small and medium enterprises in Uganda has increased from 19 to 35 in the last two years alone. We wish to encourage large corporations to look at Uganda as a potential in-



Uganda's President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, left, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hold a bilateral summit meeting during the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Nairobi on Aug. 28.

vestment destination. We thank Toshiba, Marubeni, Toyota Tsusho, Zenitaka, and Komatsu and Sumitomo Corp. for realizing this potential and investing in Uganda already.

Uganda has made significant progress socially, economically and politically. We have just had successful parliamentary, presidential and local government elections. In this new tenure, the Uganda government has committed itself to fighting corruption and improving the business environment in order to attract foreign direct investment. Currently, the investment climate is positive and the government of Uganda continues to assure investors of security and good returns on their investment. Uganda is a hub for business transactions in the East African region.

Infrastructure development

To lift the country to a middle-income economy, our priority continues to be infrastructure development, trade and investment, tourism and human resource development. The government of Japan has continued to support these priorities in the areas of Kampala metropolitan traffic management through the Japan International Cooperation

Agency (JICA). In the just concluded sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) and during a bilateral summit meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President Museveni, which was very cordial, Japan promised to continue to support Uganda's infrastructure devel-

opment efforts. This partnership between the government of Uganda and the government of Japan through JICA has already started to bear fruit.

As a land-locked country, Uganda has achieved a dramatic decrease in the number of hours commodities spend at the border post due to the newly created One-Stop Border Post system. We have completed a number of road infrastructure projects with Japanese assistance and the country has been connected to the electricity grid through this same support. We are grateful for this support.

Education

Human resource development is one of the key pillars in our National Development Plan and Japan has continued to support Uganda in this area through the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry, the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), JICA, respective universities and foundations. The number of students from Uganda to Japan has continued to increase and we look forward to more especially in the field of science and technology. Research collaboration programs and vocational training exchanges have continued to grow and for this we commend the people and government of Japan.

Uganda, a hub of education in East Africa — it draws students from all over the Great Lakes Region — has seen the education sector experience tremendous growth in recent years. A Japanese education system and expertise especially in science and technology and vocational technical training are provided at Kampala's Nakawa

Educational Institute. We welcome the interest by the government of Japan to raise this institute into one of Africa's 10 Centers of Excellence. We also continue to invite private investors to take advantage of massive investment opportunities that exist in the education sector in Uganda.

We would not have come this far without our partners, both government and private, such as the Sasakawa Foundation, the Ashinaga Foundation, Japan Millenium Promise, Terra Renaissance and the many Japanese NPOs and overseas volunteers who have selflessly committed to our social and economic well-being.

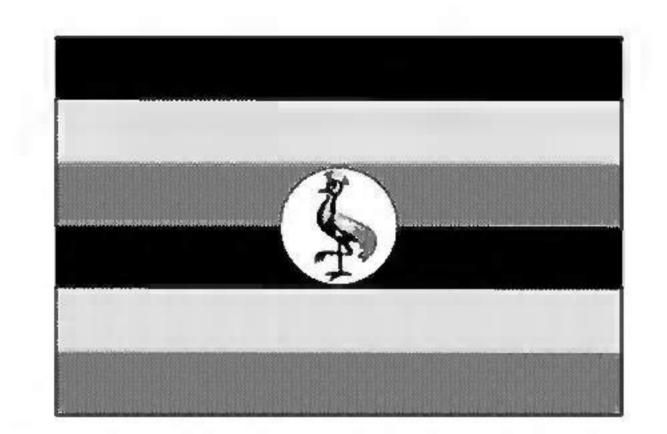
And so, as this young nation emerges as a middle-income economy, we commit ourselves to continue to promote cordial bilateral relations between Uganda and Japan and all our partners in development. We believe that the relationship between us and our partners will continue to grow from strength to strength.

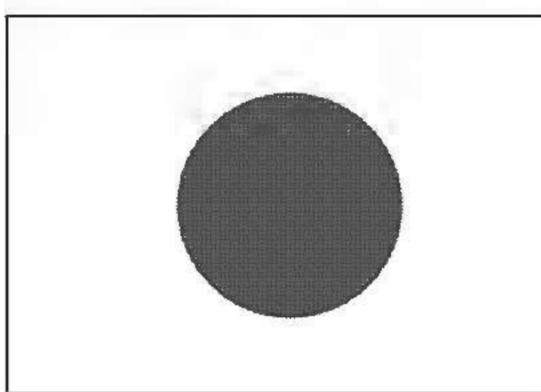
Fellow Ugandans, as we launch Uganda Diaspora Japan today, I urge you to support it as well as continue to be ambassadors of Uganda wherever you are by promoting our good culture, our warmth and friendship. Please also continue to network with other organizations in order to support not only your families but our communities back home.

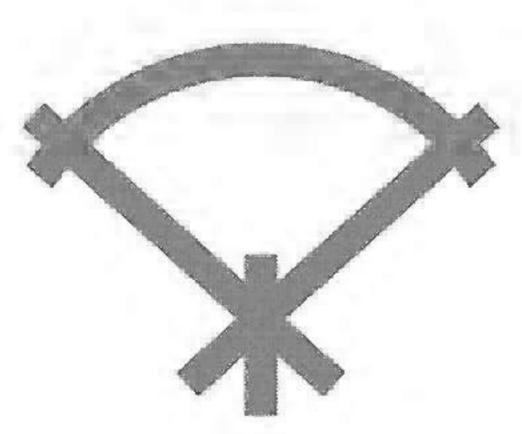
I thank all organizations that supported the publication of this supplement. May God bless you abun-

Thank you for your kind attention. I say all these in accordance with our motto, "For God and my coun-

The city of Izumisano, Osaka Prefecture, known as the birthplace of towel production in Japan, congratulates the Republic of Uganda on the 54th anniversary of its independence in 1962.







Gulu City, Uganda x Izumisano City, Japan

The municipal government of Izumisano has been promoting public-private cooperation with Smileyearth Corporation, an Izumisano-based manufacturer of towels made from organic cotton produced in northern Uganda, to develop genuine friendship with the African country. The city regards its close relationship with Uganda as an important part of its quest of global partnerships.

The municipal government believes the use of Uganda's organic cotton in producing high-quality towels contributes to the easing of the strains on the Earth's environment; alleviates poverty and builds peace in northern Uganda; creates a new stable

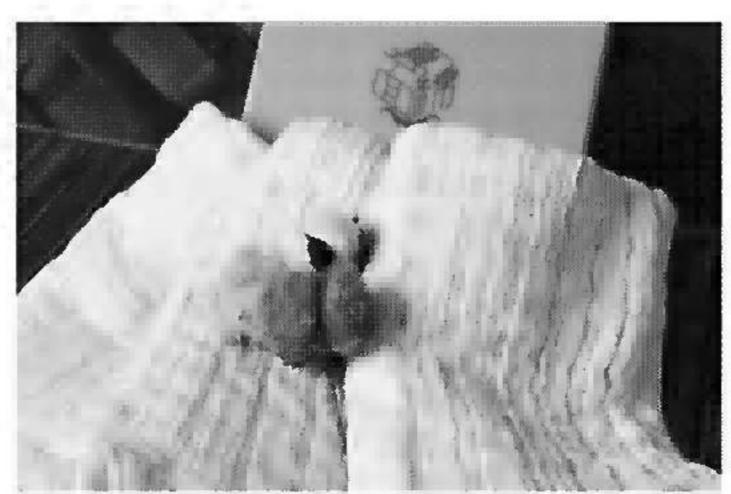
and sustainable industry and increases employment opportunities in Uganda; and develops and globalizes Izumisano's textile industry.



Major 'furusato' donations-

In fiscal 2015, Izumisano collected a total of \fmathbb{\franch\franch\franch\franch{\franch\franch{\franch\cmathbb{\fmathbb{\franch{\franch\franch{\franch{\franch{\franch\cmathbb{\franch{\franch{\franch\franch{\franch{\franch\cmathbb{\franch donations under the "furusato nozei" system in which people make charitable donations to local municipalities of their choice. The city has become the largest recipient of such donations among municipalities in Osaka Prefecture and six neighboring prefectures for the second consecutive year.

The system allows each municipality to send return gifts to each donor. Izumisano presents furusato nozei donors with 100-percent organic cotton towels provided by Smileyearth. Under the city's gift program, it offers a 65x115-centimeter gauze blanket for donations of \{\fmathbf{1}0,000\) and either a 37x120centimeter sports bath towel, a set of three 30x90-centimeter workers' towels or a set of three 27x27-centimeter hand



(Donation of ¥10,000)



(Donation of \$20,000)

For more details please visit our website: https://furusato-izumisano.jp/

During the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in Nairobi, Kenya, in late August, His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda held a summit meeting. On that occasion, Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to facilitate direct investment in Uganda by Japanese businesses, while President Museveni said he wanted sustainable busines cooperation promoted between their two countries.

For its part, the city of Izumisano has launched a crowdfunding project in public-private cooperation with Smileyearth Corporation to promote assistance to Uganda on its own. The project is aimed specifically at helping farmers in northern Uganda buy oxen and ox ploughs to cultivate soil for organic farming, as well as build warehouse facilities that are essential to keeping the quality of organic cotton crops intact until shipment.





and ox ploughs for organic cotton cultivation.

Largest towel supplier

Izumisano is a city with a population of about 100,000 located in southern Osaka Prefecture. Kansai International Airport and Inunakiyama Onsen — the only hot spring resort in the prefecture are within the city. As the birthplace of towel production in Japan, Izumisano manufactures about 40 percent of the country's total output of towels.

Izumisano is also accessible, as it has three expressways with interchanges in the city. If you take the train, you can travel to downtown Osaka in about 30 minutes. Furthermore, the city is demographically balanced by generation.

http://www.city.izumisano.lg.jp/



The Japan News by The Yomiuri Shimbun

National Day of Uganda

Uganda's 'Pearl of Africa' scenery

Photos courtesy of the Embassy of Uganda



Acholi people living in northern Uganda performing a traditional dance.

Murchison Falls National Park, located at the northern end of the Albertine Rift Valley, is Uganda's largest and oldest conservation area.

Promoting bilateral collaboration

By Koichi Obata President, JUSEDA

The Japan-Uganda Social and Economic Development Association (JUSEDA) would like to convey its earnest, sincere congratulations to the government and people of Uganda on the 54th anniversary of the independence of their country.

JUSEDA was formed in 2013 to promote and contribute to the wellbeing of the people of Uganda and Japan through conservation of the social environment and stable busi-

ness collaboration. We strongly desire to deepen relations between both countries and to serve as an instrument for trade and research in Uganda based on the challenging vision endorsed at the recent TICAD VI held in Nairobi.

Projects will be carried out in relation to infrastructure, hygiene, water purification and sanitationa, pharmaceuticals and educational sys-

For further expansion of diplomatic activities, H.E. Betty Grace Akech-Okullo, the Ambassador of the

Republic of Uganda to Japan, is considering opening a new embassy building in Tokyo. JUSEDA is happy to look for candidate properties in appropriate areas, in keeping the Embassy's requirements in mind.

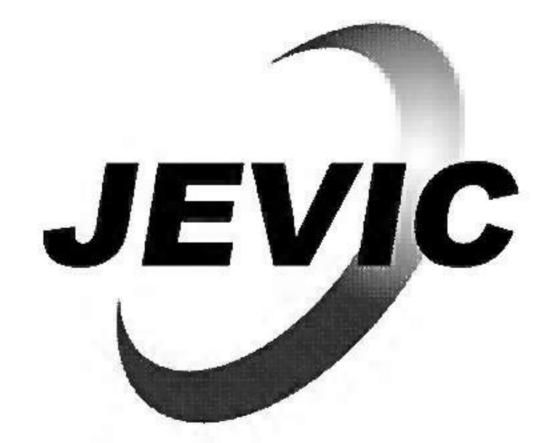
Lastly, we are proud to work with Uganda and to express our sincere appreciation for the great support of the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda here in Tokyo. Its help has enabled us to communicate with many Japanese and Ugandan enterprises that are interested in the other country.



A giraffe at the Nile River

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Uganda on the 54th Anniversary of Their Independence



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The snow-capped Rwenzori Moutains with a summit height of 5,109 meters

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to the People of the Republic of Uganda on the 54th Anniversary of Their Independence





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Smileyearth

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On the occasion of the 54th Independence Day, we the Uganda Diaspora Japan (UDJ) congratulate our nation Uganda and celebrate together.



UDJ, a registered NPO, works to promote the image and visibility of Ugandans and Uganda in Japan. We aim to foster bilateral relations and develop commerce, tourism and investment opportunities between Japan and Uganda.

United we stand, divided we fall.

http://ugadiaspora.jpn.org/