

NEWSLETTER



JICA South Africa Office

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Itsukushima, also known as Miyajima, is a small island in Hiroshima Bay in western Japan. It's known for its forests and ancient temples. Just offshore, the giant orange Great Torii Gate is partially submerged at high tide. It marks the entrance to the Itsukushima Shrine, which was first built in the 12th Century. Nearby, the Museum of History and Folklore has cultural artifacts in a 19th Century merchant's home.



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- Reflecting on the G20 so far
- Celebrating Kaizen successes
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Dear Readers,

July 2019 has arrived.

We're half-way through the year!

Editor's Note

Brigette Kgaphola

In April 2019, H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama, Ambassador of Japan to South Africa, presented his credentials to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Amb Maruyama has an impeccable resume and, amongst others, has worked as an Advisor to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The JICA South Africa Office is gearing up for the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), scheduled for 28 to 30 August 2019 in Yokohama, Japan. We're looking forward to the conference outcomes as our local projects are based on the TICAD agenda.

As the Employability Improvement Project came to an end, the Artisans Project was launched. This Project is focusing on the scarce trade of Fitting and Turning at two South African colleges – Tshwane South in Centurion (Gauteng) and Northlink in Cape Town (Western Cape).

In May 2019, the five-year iDEWS Project, which fused weather patterns with diseases like malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea, was successfully completed. Going forward, plans are underway to operationalise the iDEWS Bureau.

We're looking forward to South Africa's Science Week, scheduled for August 2019. Once again, teachers from Saitama Prefecture will be visiting various South African schools to exchange views on Science (including experiments, of course!) and culture.

I encourage you to share your views or to make contributions.

until next time – happy reading!

Yokohama

TICAD 7 Host City



Yokohama offers a number of attractions unique to its port-town identity. These include the city's symbolic tower, which was once Japan's tallest lighthouse and has watched over the city for the past half a century. If you look out to the sparkling harbour, you'll see Osanbashi Pier, where you can see people relaxing on the rooftop park and taking in the grand sight of huge ocean-liners docked there. Yokohama's nightscapes are also second-to-none. Both professional and amateur photographers alike flock here to capture the dazzling display of lights on one of the world's largest ferris wheels and the stunning panoramas from the 69th floor of the Landmark Tower. If you head a little further south to the Kanazawa area, you'll find a huge theme park built atop an artificial island that houses Japan's largest aquarium, a lagoon teeming with marine life, as well as roller coasters and other exciting attractions.



Tokyo, etc.

Chulu makes headlines in Japan



Ms Chulumanco (“Chulu”) Mahamba, Content Producer of The Star, one of South Africa’s mainstream newspapers, was afforded the opportunity to participate in a JICA-facilitated media tour to Japan, scheduled for early July 2019. The talented Chulu, with degrees in Journalism, Media Studies and English Literature, is the perfect candidate to showcase JICA’s work to the South African public.

The tour, targeting media representatives (editors, journalists and reporters) in Africa, aims to share experiences of Japan’s solutions against the backdrop of Africa’s challenges, with special focus on TICAD 7. (See below.) The tour touches on Japan’s development cooperation globally, Africa-Japan dynamics, JICA’s activities, Japan’s approach to (inter alia) education, health and agriculture, and Japan’s culture. One of the highlights of the tour includes an interview with Dr Shinichi Kitaoka, JICA President.

South Africa is one of ten participating countries – the others being Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and Malawi from English-speaking countries, and Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Senegal and Tunisia from French-speaking countries.

TICAD – 26 years in the making!

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was initiated by the Japanese Government in 1993 to afford itself, African leaders and global partners an opportunity to discuss Africa’s development challenges, to explore solutions to address them, and to make resolutions and mobilise resources accordingly. TICAD, held every three years, with the venue rotating between Africa and Japan, is jointly hosted and organised by the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the African Union Commission.



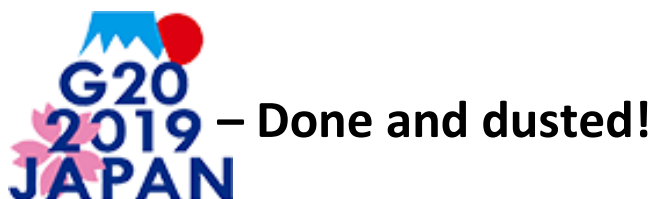
TICAD I	5 – 6 October 1993	Tokyo, Japan	5 heads of state
TICAD II	19 – 20 October 1998	Tokyo, Japan	12 heads of state
TICAD III	29 September 2003 – 1 October 2003	Tokyo, Japan	24 heads-of-state
TICAD IV	28 – 30 May 2008	Yokohama, Japan	41 heads-of-state
TICAD V	1 – 3 June 2013	Yokohama, Japan	39 heads-of-state
TICAD VI	27 – 28 August 2016	Nairobi, Kenya	32 heads-of-state
TICAD 7	28 – 30 August 2019	Yokohama, Japan	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

1,000 participants



18,000 participants

The theme for TICAD 7 is “Africa and Yokohama, Sharing Passion for the Future”. The theme expresses Yokohama’s determination to create a future where it grows together with Africa through cooperation with the public and private sectors, as well as academia, using the opportunities offered by TICAD 7. “Passion” refers to the driving force of Africa’s remarkable growth and development – an encouragement to the young people of Yokohama, whose potential, too, is unlimited.



The G20, also known as the **Group of Twenty**, is an international platform founded in 1999 with 19 countries as well as the EU participating. The G20 aims to discuss policy regulations that endorse the promotion of international financial stability.

The G20 Summit took place from 28 to 29 June 2019 in Osaka, Japan, and saw various heads of state in attendance to tackle issues presented by the global economy, trade and geopolitical tensions. Leaders committed to contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, was also in attendance. President Ramaphosa commended the G20 Summit, saying that the collaboration between the participating countries would achieve global economic growth with a focus on technological innovations birthed by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. He also added that the platform provided South Africa the opportunity to impress and attract Japanese investment, which would contribute to the country's economic growth and competitiveness.

G20 OSAKA LEADERS DECLARATION (Preamble to the 31-page Declaration)

1. We, the Leaders of the G20, met in Osaka, Japan on 28-29 June 2019 to make united efforts to address major global economic challenges. We will work together to foster global economic growth, while harnessing the power of technological innovation, in particular digitalization, and its application for the benefit of all.
2. Building on work done by previous presidencies, we will strive to create a virtuous cycle of growth by addressing inequalities and realize a society where all individuals can make use of their full potential. We are resolved to build a society capable of seizing opportunities, and tackling economic, social and environmental challenges, presented today and in the future, including those of demographic change.
3. We will further lead efforts to foster development and address other global challenges to pave the way toward an inclusive and sustainable world, as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Photo Courtesy: <https://g20.org/en/photos/>





Japanese philosophy impacts positively in South Africa



“Kaizen” is Japanese for “continuous improvement”, achieved through introducing simple yet significant initiatives that add value to the workplace. The philosophy originated in Japan’s Meiji Era when the country reconsidered its political and economic status. At this time, the Japanese found it imperative to cooperate with foreign nations for skills exchange in especially the automotive industry to achieve economic stability and competitiveness. Today, countries across the globe have achieved success through Kaizen.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been collaborating with the Automotive Industry Development Centre (AIDC) under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on the National Automotive Industry Human Capital Development Programme aimed at capacitating local automotive suppliers. Under the Programme, JICA dispatched two Japanese experts as Automotive Human Resource Development Advisors, Messrs Kazunori Hayashi and Michiharu Suzuki, retirees from Toyota. The experts have worked closely with the AIDC and have thus far been able to train nine suppliers.

Baires Plastics, which produces plastic components for Nissan and Isuzu, is one such supplier. Baires Plastics experienced challenges such as stagnation due to unprocessed tasks. However, through the implementation of “5S”, the workplace and factory became more functional. Another success story is Q-Plas, which produces interior and exterior plastic components. Q-Plas faced excess stock in storage, irregular stock in temporary storage areas, and delayed assembly stations. After implementing Kaizen, they were able to improve production by minimizing the time from one station to the next in their assembly lines from 73 to 42 seconds.

On 13 June 2019, AIDC and JICA celebrated their partnership by reflecting on the Programme, and by recognising and rewarding individuals who excelled. The event outlined achievements of the nine suppliers who have consistently implemented Kaizen in their production lines to reduce waste, minimize clutter, improve production, monitor improvement, support competitiveness, and increase sales and revenue.



Initially, Kaizen was considered Japanese terminology, but today it’s being adopted all over the world. The collaboration between AIDC and JICA on Kaizen has been very successful, and I’d like to encourage JICA to expand this Programme. *H.E. Mr Norio Maruyama, Ambassador of Japan to South Africa*

We’re here to celebrate our milestone in aiding the economy and to thank Japan for their assistance as none of this would’ve been possible without them.” *Mr Lance Shultz, Chief Executive Officer, AIDC*

Kaizen Awards



The first “Africa Kaizen Awards Ceremony” was held from 24 to 26 June 2019 in at the picturesque Ramada Hotel located on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea in Tunis, Tunisia. Sixteen candidates were nominated for various categories, and winners were as follows:

- MOST OUTSTANDING AWARD:** ● A to Z Textile Mills Ltd. (Tanzania)
 ● MAA Garment and Textiles PLC (Ethiopia)
- EXCELLENCE AWARD:** ● **Lumen Special Cables (South Africa)**
 ● SOMEF TUNISIE (Tunisia)
- EXEMPLARY AWARD:** ● Water Well Drilling Enterprise (Ethiopia)
 ● Kanyama First Level Hospital from Zambia

Masahiro Murakami's Memoires Reflection from JICA Senior Volunteer

Thank You!

“From 11 July 2017 to 25 June 2019, I was working as PC Instructor at Elim Care for the Aged in Elim, Limpopo. I successfully completed my two-year tenure in South Africa and returned to Japan on 2 July 2019. I enjoyed scenery that most Japanese never get to see – rainbows at the foot of Victoria Falls, views of Cape Town from Lion’s Head, the red sand of the Namib Desert, amazing starry skies, wildlife in the Kruger National Park, the Blyde River and the Golden Gate Canyon. I’ll always cherish these memories!”



These are some of my observations over the past two years:

①	When people, animals and even plants associate, their thoughts and actions change in their natural environment.
②	No matter how poor – or culturally poor – people are, there are always talented individuals who are trying to lead others.
③	People who have an advanced way of thinking and try to lead the masses, are oppressed by those who don’t understand their plight.
④	Someone who has made a name in history is a person who overcomes adversity and has persuasive words and a caring personality.
⑤	Harsh environments make people and animals stronger. Protected environments are safe, but the ability to live, is weaker.
⑥	If there’s no desire to learn, people will fall behind. Falling behind doesn’t necessarily cause unhappiness, but suffering in terms of no advancement.
⑦	Experience depends on the manner in which you capture things. Do you want a good experience? Or, do you want to end up with a bad experience?
⑧	By thinking carefully about someone else’s time, you’ll gain valuable time for yourself.

Discovering Japan – Volcanoes, Castles & I

JICA Trainee visits Japan during Cherry Blossom Season



In Gifu Prefecture, I saw mountains covered in snow, a sight I've never seen in my own country. In Kagoshima Prefecture, I saw smoke slowly billowing from an active volcano called "Sakurajima". Since (and despite) Geography lessons in high school, I always believed volcanoes to be a myth.



Mthayiphi Dlamini, Assistant Industrial Officer at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade in eSwatini, participated in the JICA course titled "Branding and Marketing of Products utilising Local Resources", held from 3 to 27 April 2019 in Nagoya Chubu in the Aichi Prefecture in Japan.



Japan has ancient buildings and national treasures of historic importance. Some of these, such as the Inuyama Castle, are over 400 years old. Being the adventurer I am, I visited Inuyama Castle during the annual Inuyama Festival, and was allowed to take photos at the Shirakawa-go Lookout.

"Japan is a developed country attributable to the industriousness of its citizens. My admiration for Japan and curiosity to discover their secret to success was satisfied when I heard about philosophies embedded in their very being – "Kaizen" and "Equal Opportunity". Whilst projects have life spans, Kaizen speaks to continuous improvement in every undertaking, which is perpetual. Equal Opportunity speaks to honesty. Through the effective implementation of both these philosophies, the country has achieved a reputation second to none.

The Japanese take work very seriously. However, they stay exuberant, which makes this attitude towards work and life in general, quite intriguing. When it comes to dress code, you can't distinguish chief executive officers from public transport drivers as they're equally well-dressed. I'm still wondering if this is a cultural or constitutional norm.

The Japanese are renowned for their punctuality, and with me being inherently punctual, I didn't feel too challenged. However, the first-hand experience taught me to be at least five minutes early as being late is taboo.

It's also a very clean country, with no dustbins visible in its busy streets. Despite being densely populated, I never witnessed any form of unbecoming behavior amongst the locals. Also, despite the heavy traffic, I never saw traffic accidents as the Japanese respect each other and always obey traffic signs.

Maneuvering around Japan was easy due to the efficient public transport network in metropolitan areas and cities. The country's mountainous landscape led to the construction of hundreds of tunnels, which makes travelling to other cities very interesting as you cruise through one tunnel after another.

Being Roman Catholic, I was fortunate to attend an English Mass at Hisaya-odori on Easter Sunday. The Priest, Fr. Keith Humphries, warmly welcomed the congregation, which made me feel content on founding a space to practice my faith with fellow parishioners.

I felt really fortunate to have experienced Japan – dining, bathing and sleeping in authentic Japanese settings, even attending a tea ceremony with cake."