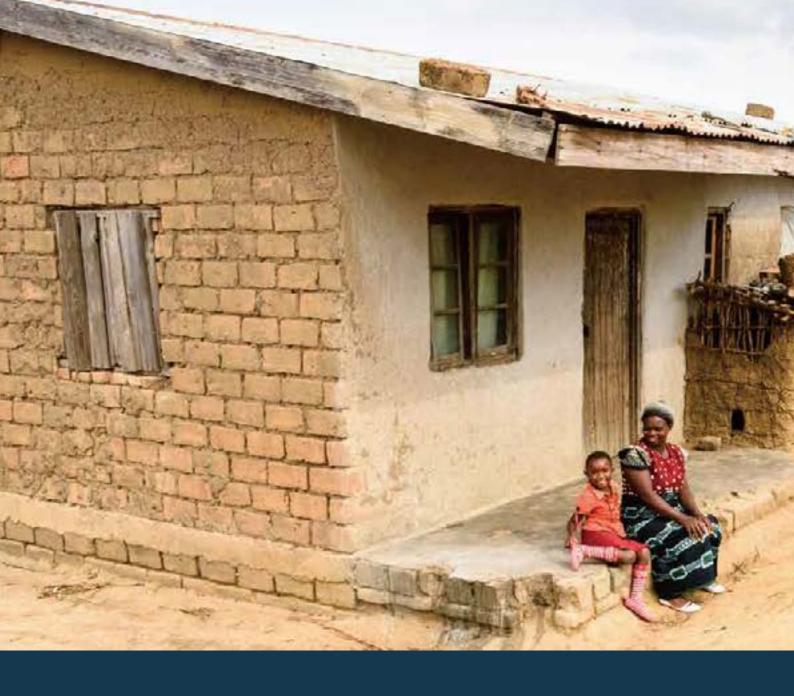
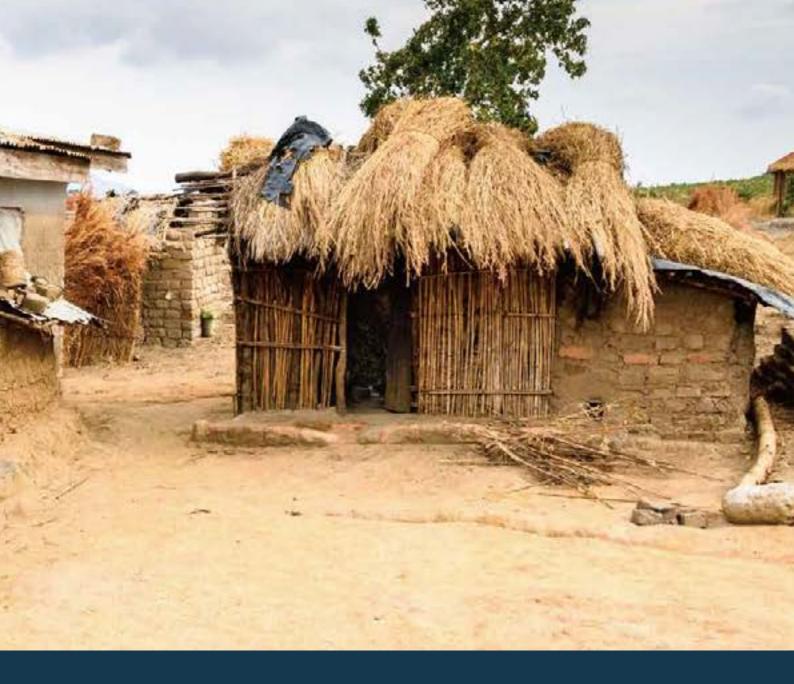


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Congratulatory Messages



Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera President of the Republic of Malawi

Jagon Aly

The formation of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in 1965 by the Government of Japan was a bold statement to the global community that cooperation and partnership were prerequisites for achieving sustainable development and maintenance of international peace and security.

I would, therefore, like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Government of Japan on the 50th Anniversary for the establishment of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Malawi in 1971. It is undeniable that this program has not only made significant milestones and deliverables in many countries across the world, including Malawi, but also left a legacy of Japan in the communities.

On the part of Malawi, my country has derived meaningful benefits from this program through various sectors ranging from agriculture; health; education; infrastructural development; energy; trade construction; community development; environment and climate change management; broadcasting; culture; water supply and sanitation; to Information, Communication and Technology (ICT); in line with our national development program titled the Malawi Growth Development Strategy (MGDS).

It is on this basis that my Government looks forward to the sustenance and longevity of this program as a vehicle for sharing best practices, technical assistance, skills and capacity building in pursuit of the socio-economic transformative agenda.

Let me seize this opportunity to pay tribute and homage to the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) who lost their lives while serving in Malawi. We will forever cherish and remember their works and sacrifices for the cause of these two great nations.

I am also very proud to note that Malawi remains the largest recipient of JOCVs in the world numbering 1,897 so far. As Malawi, commonly known as, the Warm of Heart of Africa, we will continue receiving JOCVs with open arms and provide them with conducive environment to undertake their assigned roles and responsibilities seamlessly and safely. I am hoping that my country shall continue to be at the pinnacle of JOCV for the mutual benefits of our two countries.

In this regard, this partnership will be at the centre of the developmental agenda of the Government of Malawi as we embark on the implementation of the Malawi2063 Vision launched in January, 2021, and its upcoming short-term and medium-term programs.

My government also attaches greater importance to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) established in 1993. The TICAD platform is potentially used as a multilateral forum to highlight Africa's needs and promote mobilization of financial resources and technical assistance for the development of the continent, including Malawi.

In summing up, I wish to reaffirm my Government's firm commitment to JOCV program as a framework of enhancing and buttressing collaboration and cooperation with the Government of Japan for the betterment of our peoples at the grassroots level.



IWAKIRI Satoshi Ambassador of Japan to Malawi

I sincerely congratulate the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and wholeheartedly celebrate the programme for 50 years of service to Malawi.

I heard that the first volunteers were warmly welcomed at Chileka International Airport in Blantyre with much pomp, including transportation that was arranged by the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC); VIP services at the airport; and the red carpet treatment. I was still in the final grade of primary school at that time. I am therefore filled with so much awe and deep respect for such a longstanding and brilliant tradition in Malawi. I also celebrate and appreciate Malawi for being home to countless volunteers for the past 50 years and for rewardingly accepting the highest number of JOCVs around the world.

Malawi has a large population of the youth and we can feel the presence and power of the youth every single day. Although Malawi is still in its developing stage, it is rich in resources and tradition. The country boasts of beautiful and unique culture, a favourable climate and an impressive biodiversity. Most importantly, the country is at peace. Such attributes make Malawi attractive to the volunteers and should be effectively utilised to leverage the country to great heights through the JOCV programme and other means of cooperation.

We take pride in the JOCVs as our grassroots Ambassadors who support development and cooperation at the grassroots level. We also prize the volunteers for promoting Japan's visibility in Malawi through their interaction with the locals in their various host communities. As such, the image of Japan that is impressed in such communities is from stories that the JOCVs share with the people; through lessons taught by JOCV teachers in schools; and skills and knowledge which the JOCVs impart to the communities. Interestingly, these stories and skills are passed on from generation to generation. That is the power of cooperation at the communal level.

Japan and Malawi have maintained close cooperation since Malawi's independence and the JOCV scheme is one of the crucial pillars of our international cooperation with Malawi as well as Technical Cooperation and Grant Aid projects. Compared with the Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects, JOCV has an edge in terms of the one-on-one interaction between the JOCVs and the locals, which is the unique and special aspect of the programme, making this cooperation highly impactful and beneficial. JOCVs have brought the light of hope even to those local people.

Last but not least, I wish to celebrate and honour the lives of 12 JOCVs who lost their lives during their mission in Malawi. We salute the deceased whilst we mourn their untimely deaths caused by traffic accidents and illnesses such as malaria. The successes that we are celebrating today could not have been registered without their efforts and contributions even though they passed away halfway through their mission. I extend my deepest sympathies to their families and colleagues.

I have a request to the present and future JOCVs. Please do not forget the history, achievements and the spirit of your predecessors mentioned above. As we embark on a new chapter of the programme, we reflect on the 50-year history and anticipate greater achievements in the next chapter.



NISHIOKA Shuichiro

Chairperson of the Malawi Society of Japan (Former Ambassador of Japan to Malawi)

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the 50th anniversary of dispatching Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to Malawi.

In autumn of 2013, as part of the briefings I received before taking my post as Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, I learned that it was the country with the largest number of volunteers from Japan, and many of the Japanese people there were volunteers. I took up my post thinking about the JOCV programme in Malawi.

In 2015, I met Mr. Kasaila, Minister of Transport and Public Works. He told me, "In the 80's, I learned science and math from two volunteers at Nsanje Secondary School, in the southernmost part of the country. You almost never see foreigners in the Malawi countryside, and the living environment was tough, but these Japanese people lived the same lives as us, and taught us passionately. It left a strong impression on me." I heard about his experiences at that time and his memories of the volunteers, and we spoke for a long time about international cooperation. I promised him at that time that I would like to arrange for him a meeting with the volunteers if he ever visited Japan, but I returned to Japan before I could make that happen. Luckily, in 2019, Mr. Kasaila, who was then Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, was able to come to Japan for the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), and there, he was able to meet his two former Japanese teachers (Mr. Tsukada and Mr. Matsuoka) again for the first time in 36 years.

It was good fortune that someone who best understands the JOCV programme could become the foreign affairs minister for a counterpart country. However, I heard similar experiences from many people in the fields of politics, government, and academia during my time as Ambassador, and I felt that the JOCV programme was something close to the people of Malawi.

During my three years in Malawi, I often visited the volunteers at their workplaces, and felt very reassured as I watched them blending into the community as they faced various issues and grew more confident. Over these 50 years, more than 1,800 volunteers have worked far and wide throughout the country. By seeing their work and meeting with them, the people of Malawi have gained a deeper understanding of Japanese people and learned about Japan. That, truly, is international exchange with a face and meaningful grassroots diplomacy, and the impact is immeasurable.

These results are true milestones in the relationship between Japan and Malawi, and it is no exaggeration to say that Malawi is a special country in the JOCV programme.

I hope that you take this 50th anniversary as a chance to reaffirm the value of the JOCV programme, and that you continue to improve and expand the programme as we face the future.

Foreword



KITAOKA Shinichi

President Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

I am glad to publish this magazine, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program in Malawi. Firstly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those involved in JOCVs' activities in Malawi over these 50 years.

The JOCV program in Malawi began in August 1971, seven years after Malawi gained its independence in 1964. Since the first seven volunteers disembarked at Chileka International Airport, the total number of JOCVs dispatched reached 1,897 as of October 2021. This number is the largest among the 92 countries to which JICA has dispatched volunteers. Throughout the years, volunteers have walked alongside Malawi's history, devoting themselves to working together with the local people to build Malawi. The bonds of trust and friendship between our two countries have become priceless treasures created by the steady efforts of each individual. Those volunteers have stayed connected with Malawi even after returning to Japan, deepening friendship among the people of the two countries.

In August 2018, I became the first JICA President to make an official visit to Malawi. I recognized that the volunteers sometimes had lived in harsh environments without water or electricity, moving away from the comfortable lifestyle in Japan, and that such experience had deep significance in growing them to be invaluable assets to Japanese society. The transition of the fields of activities also tells the long history of the program. On a sad note, over these 50 years, 12 volunteers lost their lives before fulfilling their ambitions. They were all young, and most of them died in traffic accidents. During my visit, I had an opportunity to lay flowers at the memorial stone for the departed at the JOCV dormitory in the capital city, Lilongwe. I prayed for the repose of their souls and renewed our commitment that these tragic accidents would never happen again. I also prayed for good health and safety of volunteers and the further success of the JOCV program in Malawi.

Malawi has not experienced civil wars and has long maintained peace. Therefore, we have been able to dispatch volunteers to Malawi without interruption since its inception. In March 2020, however, the spread of COVID-19 forced us to bring all of our volunteers back to Japan. After this interruption that lasted over a year, JOCVs have come back to Malawi in June 2021, meaning that we have started anew in this memorable year marking the 50th anniversary.

JICA's vision is: "Leading the world with trust". It means that we will overcome difficulties by joining forces with each partner country, thus strengthening the bonds between our partner countries. With more restrictions on travel and interaction among people, the roles filled by JOCV who live and work with people from the local communities have become even more important than before. I would like to sincerely ask all the individuals involved in the JOCV program both in Malawi and in Japan to continue understanding and supporting the program.

On the 50th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation



On the 50th Anniversary of **JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Dispatches**

It was shortly after I joined JICA that I first learned the name of Malawi. When I first joined JICA, there were two Malawian Old Volunteers (OVs) in the section of about 30 people (one of them was Mr. Murakami, who later became the Director of the Malawi Office). Although I was employed by JICA, I had almost no knowledge about Africa. Through conversations with these two seniors, I learned that there is a cool climate in Africa and that although Malawi does not have an embassy, JICA is very active in the country, mainly through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

However, for over 30 years until I was appointed as the ambassador to Malawi, I did not have much of a relationship with Malawi, so I hurriedly looked at the map to confirm the location when I heard that the country I was assigned to was Malawi. In retrospect, I came to realize that many of the people I met through my career in JICA and those who I remembered as "OVs dispatched to southern Africa" were actually OVs dispatched to Malawi.

During my term in Malawi, I made an effort to have three opportunities to meet with all members of the JOCV at the time of their arrival, interim reporting, and departure. During the interim reporting, I followed the example of my predecessor, Ambassador Nishioka, by inviting the JOCV members to my residence and treating them to Japanese food, while they gave their reports. There were some who did well and some who did not with their activities, but I believe that all of them returned home with something in their hearts.

What impressed me in Malawi was the presence of people who vividly remembered their relationship with the JOCV members during their childhood. Former Minister Kasaila's story is well known, but I was also impressed by the fact that there are others who have vivid memories of their involvement with the JOCV members from their youth, including Dr. Mwansambo (Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Health at the time of writing the article), who is considered one of the best doctors in Malawi, former Minister Mhango, who is the President of the Malawi Olympic Committee, and Professor Kaunda of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and that they still remembered the names of the JOCV members with whom they interacted more than 30 years ago.

Mr. Mhango, who is also the president of the Volleyball Association of Malawi, said that he started playing volleyball because he met and learned from the JOCV members through club activities. Professor Kaunda also said that it was the JOCV members who led him to the field of science.

Such stories should be widely available in Malawian society. Malawi today is probably a much different place than it was 50 years ago. However, compared to other countries, the pace of development is extremely slow. I hope that the JOCV will continue to have an impact on the people of Malawi.

YANAGISAWA Kae

Vice Chairperson of the Malawi Society of Japan

Volunteers (JOCV) program in Malawi



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of **JOCV Dispatches to Malawi**

As I joined the Supporting Organization of JOCV, I had more opportunities to interact with the JOCV members. I have long been interested in the way the members of the JOCV talk about Malawi with joy, even though they were assigned to one of the poorest countries in the world. Since then, by chance, I had the opportunity to visit Malawi in February 2019.

It was a pleasure meeting again with (then) Ambassador Kae Yanagisawa, with whom I worked together on the establishment of the Japan Disaster Relief Team, as both in a position to watch over the JOCV members.

Although I was only there for four days, I met with nearly 20 JOCV members and visited the house of one of the members who worked as an primary school teacher. I was impressed by the fact that despite the harsh environment, where they had to carry their own water, build their own fires, and cook their own meals every day, and where even the toilets could collapse in a torrential downpour, the JOCV members were enjoying their inconvenient lives and living robustly, and I realized the essence of the field-oriented principle of the JOCV members.

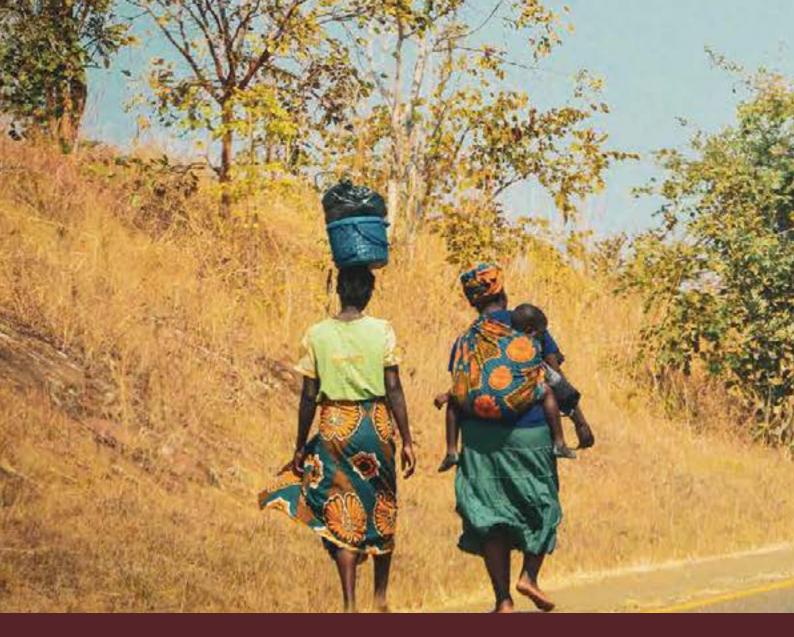
In Kasungu and Mzuzu, I had the opportunity to observe the activities of medical personnel such as nutritionists, public health workers, and physical therapist. As a Japanese person who is also involved in the medical field, I was very happy to see that the health passport (specifically, the maternal and child health handbook) and other programs built by previous generations of JOCV members are beginning to show results. As a side note, the roof of the health post (a venue for infant health checkups) that we visited at that time was blown off by a storm, and it was an unexpected pleasure to be able to help rebuild it through our "Small Heart Project."

I have heard that many Old Volunteers (alumni) from the JOCV dispatched to Malawi were active in Japan during the Tokyo 2020 games, serving as volunteer staff and promoting their hometowns. At the 2019 Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in Japan, the visiting Malawian Foreign Minister requested and was able to reunite with JOCV members who had once mentored him. This became a hot topic.

I would like to express my congratulations on this 50th anniversary celebration with confidence that the achievements of the 50 years of JOCV dispatches to Malawi will bear fruit in the future.

YAMAMOTO Yasuhiro

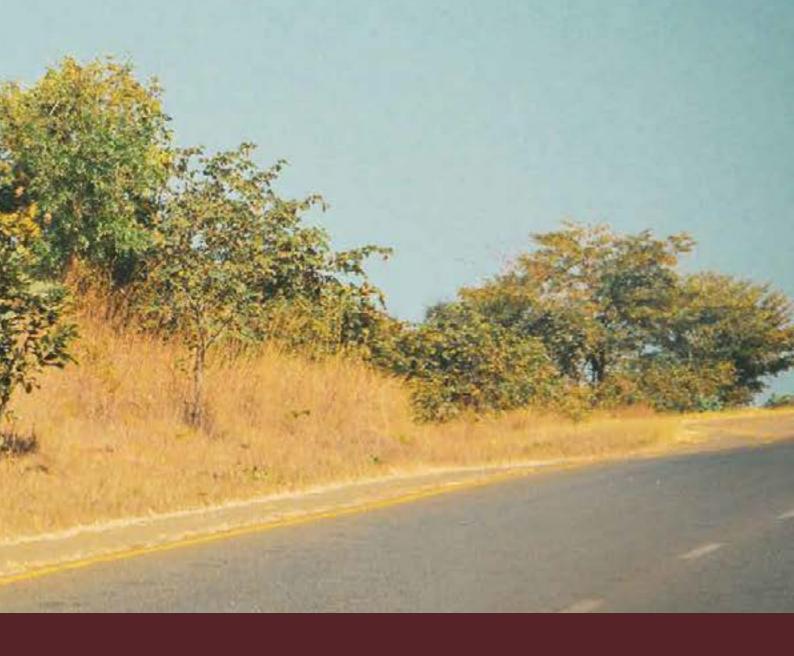
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KAIZUKA Mitsumune

Batch FY1971-1



On the 50th Anniversary of the Dispatch

It has been half a century since the first seven members, including myself, set foot on the Republic of Malawi. This is the 50th anniversary of our dispatch, and these years are a history of Japanese youth.

As I recall, after completing the training at the end of July and returning home, there was a send-off party at the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Office auditorium on August 13. On August 16, 85 of my colleagues in the same batch departed Haneda in three different directions. We arrived at Chileka Airport on August 19. We were warmly welcomed by government officials and divided into groups according to the ministry to which we were assigned to travel to the capital city of Zomba. The next day, we went sightseeing in the city, including Mount Zomba, and on the 21st, we drove along a gravel road to Lilongwe, where we were assigned.

Fifty years have passed since then, and following my return visit in 1998, I was planning to return in August this year, but had to give up due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After returning to Japan, we formed an alumni association, the "Muli Bwanji Group" in 1974, and in 1983, we established the Malawi Society of Japan to "aim for world peace, actively respond to the strengthening and expansion of mutual relations with developing countries, and to serve as a foundation for true friendship through humanistic exchange and mutual understanding." The alumni association was later dissolved and merged with the Malawi Society of Japan.

Although each of us has different feelings about the 50th anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, we, the returnees, who have left our passionate and hardworking footprints of 730 days of youthhood in Malawi and the hearts of Malawians, have heard many voices wishing that the 50th anniversary would not be a mere "celebration." The significance of this program, which was established as a government project, will become clear only when the activities of these "aspiring" young people over the past 50 years are carefully and rigorously examined, not only for themselves and the

people who sent them back, but also for the Japanese society and the relationship between North and South countries, where the gap is said to be widening. This will also lead to an evaluation of the "actions" of the young people who participated.

In this commemorative year, we should take a fresh look at the JOCV program in Malawi, and remember that the international society is changing in various ways, based on the concept of coexistence and co-prosperity of the earth and humanity, and take sincere actions in the future.

I think it is important to think about "how the 'Republic of Malawi,' with whom we have been promoting this program, has changed over the past 50 years" by accepting JOCV members, "what the actual situation is," and "how the program ought to be" to respond to Malawi in the future. As I believe that it is time to gather the wisdom of the JOCV members who were dispatched to Malawi and others who have cultivated their experiences over the years, I would like to ask each of the sages who have contributed to the progress of this project to reflect on the "past" and talk about the "future" of the new era, and I sincerely hope for further progress.



TSURITA Kaoru

Batch FY1974-2



A Message for the Magazine Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Dispatch of JOCV to Malawi

I would like to express my sincere congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi. I am delighted to see that over the past half century, Japan and Malawi have developed countless cases of mutual understanding and deepened exchanges.

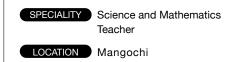
One of the reasons that I fell in love with Malawi was the following experience. As street children came to me begging for money in front of a stationery and book store in a shopping arcade on a slope in Blantyre, an old man scolded the children saying, "Don't do such a shameful thing as begging mzungu (foreigners) for money." Seeing this made me think that the future of this country must be bright.

Looking back over the past 50 years, the biggest crisis was the evacuation of the dispatched JOCV members back to Japan due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic, which will be etched in the history of mankind, forced us to temporarily suspend JOCV dispatches, and I am concerned that this may have stalled the mutual exchanges that had been going on for a long time.

In order to promote further friendship and understanding between the two countries, as it is said that "continuity is the father of success," I hope that the JOCV program will continue steadily in the future.

TSURUTA Shinsuke

Batch FY1976-2



What Malawi Reminds Me of

was assigned to Mangochi Secondary School as a science and mathematics teacher, but one day at a teachers' meeting, the principal asked two female teachers if they would be willing to supervise the girls' folk dance. Both of them simply refused, saying, "We have chores to do. You can't be serious!" Then, in a panic, the principal said, "Mr. Tsuruta, you do it." I objected saying, "No way! I don't even know how to dance." But he said, "Don't worry. The students know how to dance. You just have to supervise." I certainly didn't do anything. On another occasion, the Physical Education teacher's post became vacant, so I was assigned to be the substitute P.E. teacher. (Not to brag, I never got a 1 (the lowest) out of 5 in P.E., but I usually got a 2 during my school years.) I had no choice, so I turned the class into a soccer game, and I participated in it. As you may know, Malawian students are very good at soccer. However, when we actually played a game, I realized that I was surprisingly good at it. Whether it was dribbling or shooting, I was unbeatable. In fact, I thought I had a talent for soccer, but in retrospect, I realized that the students had given consideration to this novice foreign teacher and had kindly fallen for my feints. This is the "Warm Heart of Africa." (As a side note, when I said "Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa" in Malawi, they just looked at me puzzled as if they were saying, "What's that?")

It is fun to recall things, but in reality, I struggled a great deal on a daily basis to teach about 30 hours a week, not only because of my poor ability in science and mathematics (especially experiments), but also because of my lack of experience as a teacher.

Malawians should be proud to say that there has been no war in the country since its independence in 1964, but I am not sure if the country has developed very much socio-economically. The average annual growth rate of

GDP for 56 years from 1964 to 2020 is about 4.3 %, but if we break down the GDP growth rate into the GDP per capita growth rate and the population growth rate based on statistics, (1 + GDP growth rate) = (1 + GDP per capita)growth rate) \times (1 + population growth rate) is 1.0429 = 1.0143×1.0282 , the population growth rate is large, about 2.8%, and the GDP per capita growth rate is only about 1.4% (2010 real prices in US dollars. Source: https://data.worldbank.org/country/malawi). Of course, per capita GDP is not everything, but it is still per capita GDP.

I hope that all of you in the JOCV are doing well and contributing to the independence of our friends in Malawi. Please be careful of accidents (especially traffic accidents as well as personal relationship failures), incidents, and illnesses (including but not limited to COVID-19).

The first time I heard the word "Malawi" back when I applied for the JOCV program, I thought I was talking about the Malay Peninsula because I did not know that word. But 45 years later, I still say things like "Zikomo (thank you)" and "Ujeni (a universal pronoun (?) used when you can't come up with the word you intend to use)" on a daily basis in my house.



Girl students' folk dance

YOSHIDA Hitoshi

Batch FY1977-2



My Warm Heart Project

Today, as always, the sound of motorcycles brought children to my doorstep. Most of them are children who are children of houseboys living in the neighborhood of my dormitory. The dormitory is a two-story flat (housing complex) in Lilongwe's Area 11, and the first floor is open to the children. These children are between 5 and 7 years

"Now, is everyone here? We're going to start our sandwich class of music and reading and writing as usual!" I checked each child's beautiful, sparkling eyes.

"Oh, where is Zakeyu?" One of the children replied, "His father's job changed so he moved away." "Oh, that's sad. He was working so hard to read and write."

Their father has to find a new job to support family when their job as houseboy is over.

The children have a great sense of rhythm in music and can usually express themselves physically. In order to show the children that music does not only consist of rhythm but there are also scales, I had them perform vocal exercises to chords such as "do, mi, sol" "do, fa, la" "ti, re, sol" and the scale "do, re, mi, fa...do," using a pianica that I brought from Japan. We tried to do that scale with

various notes. At one point, I would ask the children to sing, and also let them listen to some Japanese songs that I would sing.

The latter half hour is reading and writing time. I set up a sunoko (slatted wood) on the wall and we sang the alphabet, which I had written in large letters using magic markers on the back of drawing sheets, with the verses we had done in music. The drawing sheets are those using the backside of drawing sheets left over from work, and the paper the children use is also cut from the drawing sheets.

While many of the children had never used a pencil before, they were all very interested in writing the alphabet. For those who cannot write, I took their hands from behind and tried to write with them.

Every day, I would say, "See, you can write. It's okay, it's okay." And this phrase that I repeated gradually led the children to gain confidence. Seeing the smiles on their faces when they were able to write was my motivation.

One time, I had a "nsima-eating party" with the children, and of course, I sat down and ate ndiwo (* a side dish of greens, beans, etc.) and nsima with them, having a good

I wondered if these children would have their own families and live happily together 40 years from then. At the same time, I wondered if I would still be working, enjoying the bliss of seeing my grandchildren's faces.

In 1977, at the age of 24, I was assigned to the Malawi Water Supply, where I stayed for five years and a month to promote local public water supply projects throughout Malawi. The time I spent with the children was one of my most important "Warm Heart Project." This was 23 years before the start of the Warm Heart Project (*The support scheme for JOCV members by the Malawi Society of Japan).



KANAMORI Hideyuki

Batch FY1978-1

SPECIALITY Agricultural Civil Engineering Lilongwe ACE OF ASSIGNMENT Irrigation Department HOMETOWN Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture

The Achievements Seen by Three OVs in Their Malawi Sentimental Trip 40 Years Later

Mr. Nasu, Mr. Yoshida, and I, who were JOCV members in the agricultural civil engineering field about 40 years ago, met again at Haneda Airport on August 22, 2018, and left for a sentimental trip to Malawi. Mr. Nasu had taken a leave of absence from the local city office to become a JOCV in 1977, and after returning to Japan, he returned to work and retired in 2012. Mr. Yoshida had resigned from a local consulting company and joined the JOCV in 1978. After returning to Japan, he worked for another company before returning to his original company and changed his job in 2009 to manage a farm. I had resigned from the prefectural government and joined JOCV in 1978, and after returning to Japan, I studied in the United States, after which I was hired as a JICA Senior Advisor, and subsequently returned to my hometown after retiring in 2015. At that time, Malawi had an even greater shortage of human resources than it does now, and about half of the irrigation engineers at headquarters, including the Director of the Irrigation Department, were "hired foreigners." The main activity of the JOCV was to provide construction management and technical advice at local sites that were directly operated by the Irrigation Department, in place of the Malawian engineers who were in short supply. Thus, our achievement was to build structures and get people to use them. We traveled to see how they are now.

In Malawi, the three of us visited the sites where each of us had worked and looked around to see the results of our work, which we returned home without feeling sufficiently satisfied. Mr. Nasu spent most of his JOCV term working on the construction of a concrete headwork (about 4 m high x 8 m wide x 35 m long) in the Hara Irrigation Area in northern Malawi. A headwork is a structure that is installed across a river to raise the water level and take water into a canal. After about 70% of the work was completed, the project was cancelled due to lack of funds, and he left Japan without completing the project. For the first time in 40 years, I saw that the headworks had been completed with foreign aid and were supplying water to about 240 hectares of rice paddies and being used by farmers. During the first half of his term, Mr. Yoshida worked on the construction of terminal facilities in the Chikwawa Irrigation Area in southern Malawi, and in the second half, he worked on the construction of headworks (about 2 m high x 12 m wide x 20 m long) in the Limphasa Irrigation Area in northern Malawi. Due to a shortage of materials and equipment, concrete could not be used for the headworks, so he returned to Japan after completing the headworks built by piling up

futon baskets (wire mesh boxes filled with stones). After 40 years, I found that the structures in the Chikwawa Irrigation Area had deteriorated considerably, but were still functioning. The headworks in the Limphasa Irrigation Area were reinforced by successor JOCV members by piling up futon baskets and covering them with concrete, and the dysfunction caused by the subsequent scouring of the bottom was repaired by foreign aid, after which water was supplied to 500 ha of paddy fields and used by farmers. In the first half of my term, I was engaged in surveying and designing a project to expand the Wovwe Irrigation Area in northern Malawi, but the construction work was not started due to lack of funds. In the latter half, I was transferred to the Water Board and worked on the construction of several facilities in the Chirumba Region Waterworks project in northern Malawi, but returned home, leaving a part of the project unfinished. After 40 years, I found that the project to expand the Wovwe Irrigation Area had been completed with foreign aid, but my design was not used. The facilities in Chirumba had been updated and very little was left, except for a concrete crossing culvert (a replacement for a bridge, about 3 m high x 4 m wide x 5 m long) that was still being used for transportation by the residents.

Looking back, all three of us were not able to accomplish much during our term due to the short period of about two years and limitations including the lack of funds and lack of materials and equipment, but we were able to leave behind structures of the highest possible quality using the skills we learned from our predecessors in Japan and our capabilities as young men. Looking back after 40 years, at least some of them were completed, maintained, and used by people with the help of foreign aid and other good fortune and the cooperation of local people. In particular, the headworks were used to intake water for 240 ha + 500 ha of paddy fields, and based on the data from other irrigation areas, it was estimated that the headworks were helping about 1,800 farmers to earn a living. As for his impressions after the trip, Mr. Nasu said, "I was thrilled to see that the structures (the headworks) were still there. The paddy fields downstream were lush and green with their function fully demonstrated, and when I saw the farmers working hard to cut the grass, I realized that 'it was a good thing I did it." Mr. Yoshida and I felt the same way.

Lastly, thanks to JICA experts, we were able to visit and take photos of the irrigation sites with the permission of the Irrigation Department and the local officials. I would like to thank all of them once again.

NOMURA Kazumasa

Batch FY1978-3



Memories at an ADMARC Farm

I was assigned to ADMARC (Agriculture Development and Marketing Corporation) in Thyolo. The locals used to called Thyolo by its former name Cholo. Moving a little further on, there is a tea field. ADMARC is the largest parastatal organization in Malawi, and its chairman, Mr. Tembo, was the second in command after President Banda. There, I was assigned to be in charge of two poultry farms in the area: the Chirambe farm for meat-type chicken and the Kwenengwe farm for egg-type chicken. I was later assigned to the Lunzu poultry farm for eggs as well, but the reason for my assignment was that Mr. Huang, a Taiwanese horticultural expert, requested that Resident Representative Inada and Volunteer Coordinator Sasako dispatch a JOCV member to the farm because he was always in need of chicken manure, which is important as fertilizer for vegetable cultivation. I had raised about 100 chicken as a child at my home, but before being assigned to Malawi, I had worked on dairy cattle farms in Hokkaido and Iwate Prefecture. I was accepted by the JOCV as a livestock breeder, but when they asked me to change my occupation, I changed it to poultry farming and received training at the Kumamoto Prefectural Poultry Farming Experiment Station for six months before being dispatched. I went on to an agricultural high school and then to the faculty of agriculture at my university, and from the time I was a student, I spent my vacations looking for farmers and practicing agriculture. Most of my agricultural knowledge is based on the wisdom I learned from farmers. Most of the farm workers in Malawi did not graduate from school, but they had a lot of knowledge about agriculture that they

learned through experience. Malawi is a vertical society where education is a big factor. Therefore, I acted on their behalf to advise the top management on their wisdom. And thanks to the advice, farm operations became more efficient, and although their salary would not increase, they would become more confident. I feel that that was the best part. After returning home, the ambassador came to a nsima-eating party. He asked me where I used to live. As soon as I mentioned that I had lived in Byumbwe, Thyolo, the ambassador told me that there used to be an excellent JOVC poultry farmer, and that made me very happy. That farm was also closed down by order of the President after embezzlement by the staff was discovered, and now the land has been cleared.

At that time, ADMARC was the largest organization in Malawi, collecting rice and distributing fertilizer. It also had cattle and sheep farms in various places. The poultry farm was the largest in Malawi. Egg market vehicles came from Blantyre to collect eggs every day on unpaved roads, making sure they would not crack. Broilers process 500 birds daily and blood is free. I directed the processing method here, too. The staff took them home to use for meals. The junior staff divided internal organs among themselves and took them home. Fat, legs, and heads were taken home by senior staff. The employees get free side dishes, so when we recruit, we get people right away. Also, executives from the HQ in Limbe come to get fat, legs, and heads. The legs were given to people from the Taiwanese PR department, and the fat was cooked to be used as cooking oil.

WATANABE Yoshimi

Batch FY1978-3

SPECIALITY Science and Mathematics teacher Karonga Chaminade Secondary School

As the small plane took off from the airport in Karonga in northern Malawi, I suddenly burst into tears and could not stop. I couldn't figure out why. It was about 40 years ago. When I think about it now, I think it was a release from the pressure of cultural differences and a sense of fulfillment that I had done my best.

was supposed to teach mathematics physics/chemistry, but as soon as I arrived at the school, the principal told me, "If you don't teach biology, we don't need you." I fondly remember frantically preparing for the next class every night. The students were positive and easy to teach. It was refreshing to see the naturalness of both the students on wheelchair and the students pushing it. I also made some mistakes. When I went into the forest to collect plant specimens, I got a rash all over my body and had to rest in bed. In class, when I mentioned UFOs in reference to life, a student said, "Aliens are rich, aren't they? They can come on an airplane." For the university entrance exam, I was instructed to grow peas and let the students sketch them on the day of the exam. If I leaked the information to others, I would go to jail. I panicked when a cat dug up the seeds that were planted.

As I became accustomed to living at a school with a house on the premises, I wanted to know more about local life. I had colleague of mine build a straw hut beside his parents' house about 10 miles away. Life there was also a learning experience. Gratitude is to be expressed to God, not man. It is natural for the haves to share with the have-nots. But it is rather impolite for a man to pay all the marriage money to his fiance's parents. When they go to bathe, the adult males look away and let the children confirm that the women are done bathing. Part of my life here was published in the Asahi Shimbun's AERA, which I joined as an employee after returning to Japan.



Article on AERA, issued on April 21, 1992



The old lady (center) and her two daughters, who lived next door to my hut in the village, whom I visited in March 2019

Ten years after returning to Japan, I visited Malawi and became aware of the changes I had undergone during this time. In 2019, after leaving Asahi, I headed to Malawi to do some reporting, mainly in Africa. Airplanes only fly from Blantyre to Lilongwe. Now they don't fly to Mzuzu and Karonga. However, traveling on a bus was comfortable. I came to realize the age of digital money with the widespread use of cell phones. When I visited the place where my hut was located, the lady next door was 85 years old and in good health. The grave of her husband, who died in his 90s, is also on the premises. The hut had been replaced by a peanut field, the leaves swaying in the wind. This is a place I would like to visit again when the COVID-19 pandemic is over.



The town may have changed, but the susa (grilled meat stuck in bicycle spokes) that I was familiar with 40 years ago in Karonga and bananas that are not sweet are still there.

UEDA Hideatsu

Batch FY1978-4



LOCATION Zomba

Recollections: Participating in JOCV Dispatched to Malawi



A scene of my engaging in activities

Because I had been interested in English since I was in junior high and high school, and worked for a telecommunication company as an instructor for JICA training participants, I began to think that I would like to visit a country of such people someday, so I applied for JOCV after acquiring the necessary radio communication license that took me five years.

The pre-dispatch training that started in December 1978 was a long one, lasting slightly less than four months at the Hiroo and Yoyogi training centers in Tokyo. I was 24 years old at the time, and this training had a great impact on me.

I was able to make friends and talk with people from all walks of life, and I realized how insignificant my own experience was.

In April 1979, I went to Malawi with 15 of my colleagues in the same batch. The place of assignment and workplace was the Calibration Center of the Post and Telecommunications Department in Zomba (later relocated to Blantyre before 2000). They had a lot of nice measuring instruments for a developing country with aid from the U.K., but the staff was not able to make full use of them. The only deliverable outcome was the completion of a procedure manual for one instrument in March 1981, near

the end of my term. However, I was unable to write a repair report in English immediately after arriving at the station, but after asking my counterparts to teach me many things, I was able to write it by myself by the end of my term. It was a real learning experience for me.

After returning to Japan, I worked for the Malawi Society of Japan, a group of Malawi OBs/OG, from June 1983 to March 2015, editing newsletters and producing a Chichewa dictionary to promote Malawi. During this time, I revisited Malawi in September 2000 and met my counterpart once again.

After retirement, I re-entered a community FM station, and during the recruitment period for JICA volunteers, I made a radio program related to the program by inviting OGs and JICA people as guests. Such times make it easy for OBs/OGs to talk with each other.

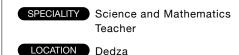
What makes me happy these days is that my counterpart at the time, who will turn 72 this year, writes comments on my Facebook. No matter how long it takes, the connection with the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers is unbreakable.



At a farewell party before the end of my term

ASO Manabu

Batch FY1979-2



After Returning to Japan and Returning Home After 40 Years



Memorial service for Mr. Yanagawa, a member of the same JOCV batch (at the Great Zimbabwe ruins)

In the fall of 2019, Masanobu and Makiko Ishii and I made our first "homecoming" in about 40 years. We were dispatched in the fall of 1979, when the jacarandas were in full bloom. We chose this time of the year for our trip also because we wanted to see jacarandas in full bloom.

Mr. Masanobu Ishii worked as a car mechanic (in Blantyre), Makiko-san as a midwife (in Blantyre), and I was assigned to Dedza Secondary School. The school was located at the foot of Mount Dedza, at 2,198 meters above sea level, and about an hour's walk from the town of Dedza. The area around the school was a dense forest (plantation) of blue gum and cedar trees, and hyenas used to come close to our house and bark at us at night. Every day after school, we played soccer with the students.

Our trip was a 15-day journey, en route from Zimbabwe to Botswana to Malawi. We arrived in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe on September 26 and hired a taxi to go to Great Zimbabwe, which means "stone palace" in the local language, and it is where the name of the country comes from. It is about 1.5 km in size from east to west, north to south, and is built of large and small rocks piled up on a small hill. It is said that a fairly advanced culture flourished there. Our friend Mr. Yanagawa passed away the previous year in Zimbabwe. We burned incense in the grasslands of Great Zimbabwe and prayed for the soul of our old friend who had died away from his home country.

We entered Lilongwe on the 30th via Harare, Chobe National Park in Botswana, and Victoria Falls. I was deeply moved by the view of the savannah of Malawi from the descending airplane. After leaving the airport, we looked for a taxi. The success or failure of our trip depended on the personality of the taxi driver. We had to choose someone we could trust since we would need the driver to accompany us from now until we left the country. Although we had to rely on 100% "luck," but we were fortunate enough to find a good driver, so we were able to continue our journey with peace of mind until we left Malawi.

From Lilongwe, we drove south on national route M1 through the same beautiful savannah as 40 years ago, and reached Dedza in about two hours. At a sawmill, we took the road on the left, and after a while, we saw the house where I used to live. The house had three rooms and its cross section was shaped like a track on an athletics field. Traditional Malawian houses are circular in cross section, so the shape of the house is based on that traditional style. The house had not changed except for the garden, which is now a field. A hundred-meter walk from the house takes us to a school. I knocked on the staff room and when I told a teacher, who looked at me suspiciously, that I used to teach here 40 years ago, he took me to the principal's office for a chat. However, there was no way of knowing what



At the dormitory adjacent to the Dedza Sec School The current janitor and his wife, Elliot, the author and Mr. Ishii

had happened to the principal who worked here 40 years ago. I took a commemorative photo with the students and hurried on my way.

In Zomba, we used Ku Chawe Inn as a base for sightseeing in the Monkey Bay area, where the baobab trees were beautiful. The vegetation was quite different from that of Dedza, which is at a higher altitude. There is a market at one of the settlements and it is crowded with people. It used to be a challenge to find a place to eat, but now there are cafes with Wi-Fi access. Incidentally, many of the students also had smartphones.

In Blantyre, I visited the PVHO (Plant and Vehicle Hire Organization) where Mr. Ishii used to work, the QE (Queen Elizabeth Hospital) where Mrs. Ishii used to work, and the apartment where she used to live. Forty years! It was a visit that made me feel the weight and length of time. I could see many changes, but I was happy to see that the friendly and kind nature of the Malawian people had not changed.

My dispatch to Malawi had a great impact on my life after I returned to Japan. After returning home, I was fortunate enough to find a job at a social corporation in Beppu City, Oita Prefecture, that supports the independence and social participation of people with disabilities. The founder of the corporation is the late Dr. Hiroshi Nakamura, who also drew attention at this year's Paralympic Games. Dr. Nakamura was instrumental in organizing the 1964 Tokyo Paralympic Games. At that time, some people had the opinion that "Sports are bad for people with disabilities." The situation of people with disabilities in developing countries was even more severe. Dr. Nakamura worked hard to organize the Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled (FESPIC Games) to promote independence and social participation of people with disabilities in the Asia and South Pacific regions through sports. In 1975, the first FESPIC Games were held in Oita and Beppu City, and since then, it was held nine times until the last one held in 2006 in Malaysia.

My experience as a member of JOCV led to my appointment as the Secretary General of the FESPIC Federation (an organization with more than 40 member countries in Asia and the South Pacific) in 1992, and I was involved in organizing FESPIC Beijing (1994), FESPIC Bangkok (1999), FESPIC Busan (2002), and FESPIC Malaysia (2006) until the Federation was dissolved in 2006.

Prior to the FESPIC Malaysia, a decision was made to implement a project to "transfer wheelchair manufacturing technology" through JICA's Grassroots Partner Program, and I established a wheelchair manufacturing skills training course at the National Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Center for the Disabled in Malaysia. Even today, the wheelchairs manufactured in the training program are sold by catalog.

The Paralympic Games are a place of self-realization for elite athletes. On the other hand, there are many people in developing countries who do not have access to the fundamental benefits of sports: "people who like to do what they like to do." There is a great need for activities that promote the independence and social participation of social minorities through sports. Activities to promote para-sports at the grassroots level will likely be even more necessary in the future.



With the students of Dedza Sec School Mr. and Mrs. Ishii

ISHII Masanobu

Batch FY1979-2



40th Anniversary of Assignment in Africa and Memorial Tour for Mr. Yamagawa

September-October 2019

(* Section on visit to Malawi excerpted from trip memo) Members: Assan (Manabu Aso), To-chan (Masanobu Ishii), and Makiko Relax, aka Guruguru Makiko (Makiko Ishii)

Arrival in Lilongwe at 15:30 on 9/30 (Monday)

I arrived in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. The airport was built with aid from Japan, so I felt a little good. At the airport, I exchanged currency and obtained a Malawi visa (\$75 US). 1 US dollar = 745 Kwacha = 110 yen. I exchanged 300 US dollars = 223,500 Kwacha. Largest Malawi bill: 2,000 kwacha, so about 300 yen. At the airport, Assan negotiated with the taxi driver and we got in. The driver's name was Elliot; he looked just like "Kaaru Ojisan (Uncle Curl, the name of the character that appears in commercials for a Japanese snack food called "Kaaru ('Curl,' because each piece is curly) and was very charming. I've had good luck with drivers like Fedelice in Bulawayo and Elliot this time. I admire Assan's shrewd eyes and bargaining power!

We stayed at Sunbird Lilongwe

Departure from Sunbird Lilongwe on 10/1 (Tue)

At breakfast, the fire alarm suddenly went off, and we all evacuated to an open space outside. Apparently, there was a minor fire in the kitchen. Elliot picked us up at 08:30, and we set off for Dedza, Assan's hometown. We drove off the M1 road and took a rough road for several tens of minutes. Soon, we came upon a house that used to be in the middle of a eucalyptus forest 40 years ago. The forest had been cut down and a Malawian lumber jack was sawing lumber with a large saw. The old house was still intact, and a Malawian teacher was apparently living there now. I took a photo with the servant couple and headed to a school that was about a five-minute walk away. The school was a boarding school, and as I looked around, friendly students gathered around for a photo. I greeted the principal who happened to walk by, and he led me to the principal's office where we



Scene of lunch on the way to Mangochi with our driver, Elliot

talked for a while. We left the school and had lunch in Ntcheu. We passed through Balaka and entered Zomba. As expected of a former capital city, the atmosphere was a bit different from that of a rural town. At the top of the Zomba Plateau mountain road was our lodging for the day, Ku Chawe Inn! The temperature was a chilly 16 degrees Celsius due to the high altitude of about 900 meters above sea level. It was raining at night...

We stayed at Ku Chawe Inn

Departure from Ku Chawe Inn at 08:30 on 10/2 (Wed)

In the light rain, we set off for Monkey Bay. On the way, we saw more and more baobab trees. The rain stopped during the day and the temperature rose quickly to 33 \square. We headed north along Lake Malawi, passed through the army base gate, and arrived at the shore of Lake Malawi. We had chicken curry and beer for lunch. Delicious! Our next stop was Club Makokola! It is one of the most luxurious resort hotels in Malawi. There was a big baobab tree with a big fruit that had fallen below the tree; Assan spotted it and picked it up! I'm hoping it will sprout in Japan. On the way back to the hotel, Makiko dropped her cell phone while taking a picture, and Elliott stopped the car in a hurry. Makiko jumped out of the car and picked up her phone, but to no avail, the screen was cracked. As we started to climb the mountain road to Zomba Plateau, the fog got so deep that we couldn't see beyond the headlights. We finally arrived at the hotel. There was a red flame

burning in the fireplace of the restaurant during dinner. The temperature was 16 degrees Celsius.

We stayed at Ku Chawe Inn

Departure from Ku Chawe Inn on 10/3 (Thu)

It was 08:30, and Elliot will be coming to pick us up. The car (a Honda minivan) was cleaned up nicely. From Zomba, we finally set off for Blantyre, our final destination. As we entered the town, there was a huge traffic jam... We arrived at Makiko Relax's old workplace: QECH (Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital). Jacaranda trees were in full bloom and very beautiful. The wards seem to be the same as in the past, so we slowly made our way into the familiar maternity ward. The Malawians were very friendly, and we were suddenly transported back to 40 years ago! We seemed to be welcomed very well. I'm really glad we came here... Our next stop was To-chan's workplace: PVHO (Plant Vehicle and Hire Organization). It was right at lunch time, but the lady in charge of the office took us to the person in charge and showed us around together. The building hadn't changed in 40 years, but the factory appeared dull and lacking vibrancy. They said there were no Japanese working there. We left PVHO, checked in at Mt. Soche, our lodging for the day, thanked Elliot, and parted ways. The hotel looked like how it was 40 years

ago, and there was a lot of dilapidation here and there... For dinner, we thought of having Chinese food for the first time in a while and went to a Hong Kong restaurant nearby. While drinking beer, I was surprised to see the food that came out, but disappointed when I ate it... Yakisoba, sweet and sour pork, and what was that one other dish... Anyway, it was bad.

We stayed at Mt. Soche Hotel

Departure from Mt. Soche Hotel on 10/4 (Fri)

We asked the front desk to call a taxi and we went to St. Michael's, one of the oldest churches in Malawi. The church had a solemn atmosphere. After leaving the church, we walked to Nyambadwe, where the old JOCV office was located. "I think it's around here," said the sensible Guruguru Makiko, who saw a sign with fading letters that read <JAPAN · · · · OFFICE>! We were all thrilled... After that, we searched for Sunnyside and Dharap to take pictures. On the street, when I pointed my camera to a cute baby to take a picture with the mother's consent, the people around me who wanted money started to make a fuss. They flinched when Assan said, "Iwe!" and we ran away from there in a hurry. We can't let our guards down to the Malawians who live in the city.

We stayed at Mt. Soche Hotel



Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital with jacaranda in full bloom

Departure from Mt. Soche Hotel at 05:00 on 10/5 (Sat)

We were picked up at 05:00 by Abudu, the driver we had booked yesterday. After 20 minutes of driving on Chileka Road before dawn, we arrived at Chileka Airport. This is exactly the airport where I arrived in Malawi 40 years ago. All the immigration procedures were done by hand, so all the suitcases I had packed were opened and it was messy inside...

On time, we flew to Johannesburg by Ethiopian Airlines.

Departure from Blantyre at 07:20

SAKAKI Michihiko

Batch FY1980-3



< What I think Now >



1981: Children during Halloween

I had the privilege of working in Malawi as a JOCV member for two years from 1981 and as a JICA expert for three years each from 2011 and 2017, for a total of eight years in the same field and with the same organization. At the time I was a JOCV member, the organizational structure of the Irrigation Department was such that it was under the direct control of the President's Office, with an Israeli serving as the Director, a Malawian as the Deputy Director, and with only British, Dutch and other foreign engineers working in the main office, as well as Malawians serving as field supervisors in the regions. While I was a young man, I was in the same third-ranking positions as other foreign engineers below the Director and Deputy Director. Since the dispatch of the JOCV to Malawi started in 1971, many senior JOCV members had already been working in the Irrigation Department alone, and I was expected to perform as well as my predecessors, but since I could not speak English well and had no social experience, I was almost useless as an engineer. Still, I wanted to work in a developing country again someday, so after returning to Japan, I got a job at a construction consulting company, and after going through the bubble economy, I was fortunate enough to become a JICA expert. About 30

years after my dispatch as a JOCV member, I was able to participate in an irrigation project in Malawi.

Over the past 30 years, Malawi's streets and people's living standards had changed to a certain extent. The Irrigation Department was located on the same site as before, the work style was still very donor-dependent, and there were many things to be improved, but Malawians were in charge of everything from the main office to the regional offices, and I felt the changes that had occurred over the years.

My work has taken me to many rural areas, and during my six years as an expert, I had many opportunities to meet members of the JOCV. I was repeatedly impressed by their passion for their work, language skills, etc., even though

their living environment was as harsh as it had been in the past. Each time, I was reminded of my initial intentions by various matters such as living in Malawi more than 30 years ago without electricity or water supply, traveling on laterite roads, being chased by elephants while surveying, suffering from malaria, and meeting various people.

I believe that every JOCV member of who has been dispatched to Malawi has had an impact on the people of Malawi in no small way. Malawi will continue to develop, but I wonder whether it a selfish thought for me to hope that Malawi will always be known as the Warm Heart of Africa?



2014, Machinga: Sign board installation by senior village officials at Wenzide Irrigation Project site

SOBASHIMA Yasuhiro

Batch FY1980-4



Two Years in Chaminade, Karonga, Northern Malawi, which Built My Framework

About 40 years ago (April 1981), I was sent as a JOCV science and math teacher to a mission school called Chaminade Secondary School near Karonga bordering Lake Malawi in northern Malawi. For two years, I lived in a house on the school grounds (first with Mr. Yoshimi Watanabe and later with Mr. Takashi Amemiya) and taught mathematics (algebra and geometry), physics, and chemistry to the boarding school boys.

It was hectic every day, teaching 30 hours a week (6 hours a day x 5 days), grading homework, making mock exam questions, and conducting experiments, but I was able to spend many fulfilling days singing with the students by establishing a music club, watching movies shown by the brothers of Chaminade in the school, enjoying soccer games, and dancing at festivals.

It has been a very valuable experience for me to participate in grassroots activities supported by the government called the JOCV and to go beyond mere experience to

participate in human resource development and nation-building activities involving myself and those in their places of assignment, and I am very grateful for that. While thinking that I would like to return to Malawi someday, I have continued to be patient, but now 40 years have passed.

Finally, I would like to share with you a poem (written almost 40 years ago) that describes what "Africa," "Malawi," and "Karonga" mean to me.

Clean air and the shining sun Savannah land spreading out in full view Baobab trees, colorful grass and flowers A boy chasing a cow along the side of a road stretching in a straight line From the radio in the grocery store, plays a slow African rumba Girls follow their mothers, carrying water and firewood. For me, Africa is a strong ray of light and vivid colors, the melody of the rumba, the smell of cows, and the taste of sweet mango and papaya

1982, Karonga: Children, who gathered to watch a festival, and

MIZUTANI Kyoji

Batch FY1981-1



50 Years is a Long Time! Memories of Nine and a Half Years

Congratulating the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi. The activities of our predecessors were highly evaluated, and in response to many requests, the JOCV has been dispatched without interruption. The people of Malawi – not only the colleagues at work, but also people in the open-air markets and on the streets - they all warmly welcomed the "hard-working" members of JOCV and SVs (Senior Volunteers). I believe that "people to people" is the foundation of a good relationship between two countries.

I joined the JOCV after graduating from university, thinking that I would be able to find a regular job by the time I was 30 years old, but this led me to find a job. I have nothing but gratitude for the JOCV and Malawi. I hope that the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi will continue for a long time until it is no longer necessary, even if fewer members are dispatched, and that more people will make Malawi their second home. Here is a brief account of my three

JOCV (August 1981 – August 1984)

I departed Narita on July 30, 1981 and arrived at Chileka Airport on August 3, 1981 via Hong Kong, Colombo, Seychelles, and Nairobi. I wish I had worked harder during the on-site training at the office/dormitory in Nyambadwe and studied Chichewa harder with Dr. Kavalo.

I was supposed to be assigned to Chikangawa but ended up working in Blantyre, so I commuted by bicycle from my flat in Dharap (living with a colleague) to the forestry station near Kamuzu Stadium in Chichiri, watching people sweeping the road with brooms. At an intersection, I purchased mandazi for 5 tambala (12 yen) and the Times for 15 tambala and rode for 20 minutes under the eucalyptus trees on the road to Limbe. Beyond the water supply company's reservoir is the lush green Mt.

> Ndirande. The plantation located here was my workplace.

The job was to estimate the volume of timber for each forest group for the 30-year logging plan, and report the tables we had asked the typists to prepare to our British supervisor in Lilongwe. Entertainment in Blantyre was the Apollo Cinema, a 10-minute walk away, where it was customary to play the national anthem before the screening, and have the audience stand up to honor the president. After Blantyre, I was transferred to Dedza

Chongoni and then to Lilongwe.

Coordinator (November 1984 – August 1987)

I departed Narita and arrived in Blantyre the next day via Hong Kong, (Bangkok) Bombay, Nairobi, and Lilongwe. The office was a detached house in Nyambadwe (later the dormitory in Blantyre), staffed by a total of eight people: the resident representative, a senior coordinator, a medical coordinator, a secretary, and three local personnel. I was in charge of general affairs, accounting, and miscellaneous tasks.

During my tenure, I had three sad farewells, to the volunteers who died in a bus accident in Tanzania, a local staff and a JOCV member who passed away due to malaria.

I would like to thank all of you for your support. Rest in peace.

Resident Representative (March 2005 – October 2008)

I departed Narita and arrived in Lilongwe the next day via Hong Kong and Johannesburg.

I arrived in my second hometown for the first time in 18 years. The city has developed a lot, but the village is still the same as before, and the gap has widened. I marveled at the large number of minibuses, potato chip shops all over the country, and the fact that JOCV members have been dispatched deep into the countryside. In the past, I was the only one out of 130 dispatched members who had no electricity, no piped water, and no flush toilets.

I can only thank all the people who supported the novice director of the office, which had grown into a large office and handled JICA operations in general. I was able to travel from Chitipa to Nsanje and to Lusaka to submit reports on operations of the office to the Embassy, as well as to places where JOCV members were assigned. I enjoyed chikande and chikanda during these trips.

We cleaned the cenotaph, Kendo practice (serving as a driver), and took the retired supervisor of Dedza forest station to Lipunga, a village located in the remote regions of Mchinji. I was also able to visit various hospitals with my eldest daughter born in Blantyre (who later became a JOCV in Kyrgyz as PT) for research for her thesis, "Rehabilitation in the Pediatric Field and International Cooperation in Malawi."

I am also grateful to have had the opportunity to show the Nippon Foundation's delegation to Africa (headed by Ayako Sono), OVOP, and former Governor Hiramatsu around the "field." Zikomo Kwambiri!

INOUE Yasuko

Batch FY1982-3



Toward the 50th Anniversary of the Dispatch of JOCV to Malawi

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi.

I am honored to have been one of the 1,897 people who have been dispatched to Malawi.

I served as a nurse for two years at St. Luke's Hospital, a mission hospital in Malosa, as a member of Batch FY1982-3. Using that experience as an opportunity, I am still working as a health administrator of JICA office in A frica!

Malawi was the place where I went for my first time abroad, my first time in Africa.

It was all new to me. When the on-site training was over and I was about to be transferred to my place of assignment, it was quite uneasy to see the coordinator leave me with my luggage and drive away.

As the only registered nurse in the pediatric ward where I was assigned, I was expected to manage the ward, but I

had never seen most of the diseases, and couldn't decipher the medical records written by the doctors. However, thanks to the help of many people, including the assistant nurses in the wards, the nursing students who were assigned to the wards for training, and the doctors and nurses who were dispatched from overseas, I was able to successfully complete the two years of my assignment.

couldn't speak the language,

During that time, I came into contact with many sick children and their families, and was often bewildered by the harsh reality of medical care that does not exist in Japan. I still cannot forget that "in a hospital with a small number of oxygen cylinders, patients are naturally prioritized," that "artificial respiration by pushing the bag by hand cannot be continued indefinitely," that "there are days when three or four people die in a single day," that "even if there are only 30 beds, it is possible to accommodate 100 sick children if mats are laid on the floor," and so on.

The two years I spent as a JOCV member at the hospital were the best two years of my life so far, even though I was busy performing the various duties required of me.

Last but not least, I sincerely hope that the JOCV dispatch program in Malawi will continue to grow and that all the dispatched members will have a healthy and fruitful two years.



Worked in many African countries as a health administrator. This photo was taken at the time I worked in Zambia.

YAMAGAMI Shingo

Batch FY1985-2

Automobile Maintenance Karonga Karonga ADD, December 1985 -November 1987 Air Malawi, December 1987 -November 1988 Hiroshima Prefecture HOMETOWN

I landed at Airport in Blantyre, which looked like a train station, at the end of 1985 on a southbound British Airways flight via Hong Kong, Seychelles, and Nairobi.

Despite my anxiety, there was still an office and dormitory in Blantyre at that time, and after training in the Chichewa language, my place of assignment was finalized, and I was assigned to Karonga ADD.

There, I was mainly responsible for the maintenance of the 100 cc Yamaha motorcycles used by the agricultural development extension workers. As might be expected, there were no replacement parts for repairs, and the factory was full of broken down motorcycles. I tried to get through the situation by repairing the parts I could use, but after a few months, I ran out of ideas. Then, I tried to create a training course to prevent breakage, but I could not find the budget to neither purchase the parts nor create the training course.

Since I had no choice, I decided to enjoy life there to the fullest.

The northern part of the country is known for its rice production, and during the harvest season, my local friend and I would go around to the farmers and purchase two tons of unhulled Kilombelo. We would have an Isuzu pickup truck come to pick these up around the time that the drying, hulling, and milling was finished. We would make whole roasted pork and mpasa croquettes, judging the time that the truck would arrive, and look forward to talking and drinking with Japanese people whom I had not seen for a long time.

The end of my term of service was quickly approaching, and I was unsatisfied with the results in my original job, so after consulting with the office, I was granted a one-year extension of my term of service if I could find a place of assignment on my own.

From a JOCV dispatch request that had been filed, I made appointments, researched the background of the request, and conducted negotiations on the treatment of the requested volunteer on my own. I was able to secure a new dispatch contract with Air Malawi, moved to Lumbadzi, where KIA (Kamuzu International Airport) is located, and began my third year as a JOCV member.

At Air Malawi, I gave instructions on the maintenance of aircraft ground support equipment, and since this was a national commercial enterprise, there was a budget for purchasing parts. Although it was a short period lasting

only one year, I think I was able to do a satisfactory job as the first JOCV member dispatched to Air Malawi.

When I returned home, Japan was in the midst of a bubble economy, and fortunately I was able to find a job at Yamaha Motor Company.

After that, I was stationed overseas for 15 years in three countries, and last year I reached retirement age, but I have been rehired and am now living in Shanghai.





Scene of my activities in Karonga



At a dormitory in Blantyre

HISADA Morio

Batch FY1986-1

Water Supply and SPECIALITY Sewerage Design Lilongwe

HOMETOWN Mito City

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi, I would like to reminisce about my time as a member of the JOCV. Due to back pain, my departure was delayed and I left Japan alone, although it was about two weeks earlier than the second dispatch team.

I received local language training together with the second dispatch team and was assigned to the Water Board in Lilongwe. On the first day of work, I was told, "It's taken too long for you to assume your post after our dispatch request. We don't need you." So, I ended up being assigned to work with an assistant engineer in the same room. This person had experience working for a private design consultant, and there were many engineers who had graduated from the University of Malawi in a large room next to ours. I understood why they said they didn't need me.

I was put in charge of designing the Kasungu Water Treatment Plant. Actually, I had no experience in water accounting and structural calculations for water purification plants in Japan. I looked for books on water accounting and structural calculations for water treatment plants at bookstores in Tokyo, but I could not find any, so I was in trouble even though I had prepared for it to some extent. So, I studied the basic design document my supervisor showed me. I managed to complete the water accounting and structural calculations and submitted the design drawings to my supervisor. More problems arose. He asked me to explain the design. I said, "I can't explain because I don't speak English, but my design is the same as the basic design, so if you follow the numbers in my design, you will understand." Next, he instructed me to estimate the construction cost. I thought I could do it since I had experienced it in Japan. However, unlike as in Japan, there were no materials to use for cost estimation, and I was helpless. When I explained why I couldn't estimate the construction cost, my immediate supervisor did it for me. During the last six months of my term, I studied water accounting for pipe networks by manual calculation, created a textbook, and held study sessions for those who wanted to participate. Although I was only one among many workers in the designing of the water purification plant, the study sessions on the pipe network made me feel that I had finally become a JOCV member.



Engaged in design and drafting of a water purification plant, Water Board. photographed on April 30, 1987

TAMURA Hiroko

(Maiden Name: Tajima) Batch FY1986-3



Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi. It was April 1987 when I first stepped on Malawi soil as a secretary among the members in Batch FY1986-3. The fact that 34 years have passed has amazed me once again and moved me very deeply. However, when I close my eyes, I can recall it as if it had happened only yesterday, probably because I had so many strong impressions from the days I spent there.

I was dispatched to JICA's Malawi office as a secretary, being different from the members with specialized skills who were dispatched to the local government, I worked at the office, providing logistical support for the activities of JOCV members. I was determined to be a "behind-the-scenes person," but instead of providing support, I was always being supported and helped by the people around me. Even now, more than 30 years later, I sometimes feel as if I were in Malawi in my normal daily life or when I least expected it. For example, on the expressway between mountains where there is little oncoming traffic, I feel as if I am riding on a coach line

traveling on the M1 road in Malawi. Among other things, seeing the clear blue sky and double rainbows after a rainstorm reminds me of Malawi. Although Malawi is very far away, I always feel close to it in my heart.

The two years I was dispatched as a JOCV member was like a fleeting moment. Although I made many mistakes and had many regrets, the various things I experienced as a member of the JOCV have become treasures for the rest of my life. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people I met in Malawi. Since the beginning of 2020, the world has been hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and extraordinary things have become the norm, but I feel that we need to think and act from a different perspective. I believe that this is exactly what the members of the JOCV are good at. To all the current and future members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, I hope that you will enjoy Malawi, "The Warm Heart of Africa," and step on Japanese soil once again in good health, both physically and mentally.

KUDO Tomoko

Batch FY1987-3



"An Encounter with a Country Can Change Your Life"



"Namitete: In front of the store that hadn't changed." When I was a JOCV member in 1988

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi!

I had a fiancé when I was assigned to Malawi, and he promised me that he would pick me up in his Porsche when I returned home two years later.

Strangely enough, as I started my activities at the place of my assignment, I faced questions and difficulties, and every time that happened, my feelings for my fiancé changed at the same time. I met new people, but it was not the same as if my feelings for him were fading away. My way of thinking had changed, and I began to think that I was not worthy of him.

The place I was assigned at Namitete had prepared for me a magnificent four-bedroom house. From the first night, I had frequent nightmares of bandits attacking the house. When I was woken up by a voice shouting "Who is it!" in the dream and my sleep-talking became English, the frequency of nightmares began to decrease.

Whenever I got stuck with my work, I went on a trip all alone. I went out to Lilongwe and took an express bus to Mzuzu. On the way, I stayed at the houses of JOCV members in Salima and Nkhotakota. After a series of breakdowns, I got off at a bus stop near Chintheche in the middle of the night and camped alone at a bus stop in the midst of flying ngumbi until dawn. In the morning, I was told that it was just around the corner, so I ended up walking for two hours and stayed overnight at a hotel by a lake. On the way back, I changed buses at Matola, went to Mzuzu, said hello to the JOCV members, and sat on the hard bench seat on the bus for hours before returning to Namitete. I wondered how many days it took me to get back to Namitete, but by that time, the worries I had been thinking so deeply about had become something else.

The three years I spent in Malawi changed my sense of values. And I was given a mission. What was it about Malawi that caused this to happen? There are many children born in the hospital, but funerals are held every day. Although they are living in the poorest country in the world and may have some grief, the people of Malawi are clearly more resilient, tolerant and cheerful than us Japanese. The problems of poverty, refugees, infectious diseases, and low school attendance are all serious. The cause of these problems is not because they are lazy or lack resources. I can understand that now. It was Malawi that ignited this for me.

On my return, I arrived at Narita Airport alone, perceiving Japan for the first time in three years. After picking up my large luggage and leaving Narita Airport, I made my way to the passenger loading dock and confirmed that the Porsche was not parked there. I wanted to get the last bit of humanity through. I had drunk the water of Africa, and now my new life was about to begin, and somehow my steps were light. That was something that happened 30 years ago. If I hadn't encountered Malawi, I can say for sure that I wouldn't be here today. Every day is a perfect score of 100!



When I revisited in 2007

KUROIWA Chushi

Batch FY1988-3



Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital: Pediatrician Crossing the Sea



Pediatric ward, Queen Elizabeth Central

I worked in the Pediatrics Department of Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QE) for two years from April 1989. The induction ceremony at Hiroo Training Center was held on January 6.

1989. The first person I exchanged words with was Kobayashi-kun (nicknamed "taisho (general)") who was also assigned to QE. -Taisho often sang Takuro (popular Japanese singer Takuro Yoshida) in a husky voice while playing his guitar in the village of Dowa, where he received his Chichewa language training. His voice flowing under the African night sky where countless stars twinkled filled the hearts of people like us who had left our hometown behind.

During the training period, the Showa Emperor passed away and the era changed to Heisei. His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince, who had supported the JOCV, became the emperor, and the customary meeting with the Crown Prince was canceled, but the next day, at the request of the new emperor, an audience was arranged.

My family saw me off at Narita and I left for Africa via London and Kenya, where I was surprised to see the lush greenery of the land from the airspace over Malawi. After the Chichewa language training and trip within the country, the 18 of us belonging to the same batch went to our respective workplaces. Four were assigned to the QE. Mr. Hara, an oral surgeon, sighed that there was so much violence that his gloves were torn by wires, while Taisho, who is in charge of medical equipment, lamented that the equipment was disparate and parts were not available, and Ms. Kokubo, a midwife, raised her eyebrows as babies who could be saved in Japan were dying one after another. In my pediatric ward, children died every day, and not a day went by that I did not hear a mother cry. Although my frustration was directed at the country's dependence on aid, Mr. Yoshihide Nakai, the office manager, said, "What will come from hating the country?" His words touched my heart. My days in Malawi were like a dream, and two years passed in the blink of an eve.

I visited Malawi again in March 2013. It had been 22 years since I left Chileka International Airport with my junior JOCV members seeing me off. It was to see Dr. Borgstein, my boss at the pediatrics

department, and hand her the book I wrote. My colleague, Mr. Hara, accompanied me to Malawi to visit the grave of his friend who died of cancer. In Lilongwe, Eiko Oshima, who had cared of me when I was a JOCV, was reassigned as a health coordinator, and we drove south in her car. The three of us visited the 87-year-old Borgstein at her home on a hillside in the suburbs of Blantyre. Saying, "Dr. Kuroiwa," the lady who had grown small greeted us with a big smile on her face. I wrote the following message to her in English on the title page of the book: "I wrote a book about my experiences at QE. It's in Japanese, but I've put a marker on the conversation I had with you." With her eyes squinting, she was reading the message joyfully. The cookies on the table were the same as the ones she had made for us at the QE during tea breaks, and we talked about them while savoring the nostalgic taste.

The next day, I excitedly went to the QE pediatric department by myself, but the head nurse had retired and none of my former colleagues were there. I walked through the hospital that was full of memories. I went to Mr. Hara's dental clinic, Ms. Kokubo's obstetrics clinic, and walked east down the long corridor to the canteen near Taisho's office. I often drank Coke here. Suddenly, a feeling of intense loneliness came over me and I couldn't move. I felt like my heart was going to collapse, and I even wished I hadn't come. ---- There were no people here. The memories were not of the buildings I missed, but of the people I had spent time with.

As I read "Pediatrician Crossing the Sea" once again, I realized how wonderful the members of the JOCV were. They were young, pure, hardworking, and hopeful. From the bottom of my heart, let me say

- Biography -

After returning to Japan, I joined the polio eradication project as an expert. I served as an associate professor in the Department of International Health Planning at the University of Tokyo in 2002-2010. In 2008, I wrote "Pediatrician Crossing the Sea." In 2010, I resumed clinical practice and came to be involved in remote island medicine.



2013: Reunion with Borgstein



Book: "Pediatrician Crossing the Sea"

TSUJIMOTO Michiko

(Maiden Name: Fukuda) Batch FY1988-3



Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary

I have so many memories of my time as a JOCV member, including the training center, that it is hard to decide where to begin.

On the second day after I entered the training center, the era changed from Showa to Heisei, and I had an audience with the Emperor. At the Kenyan airport, I was told that I was no longer requested to go to Malawi, which made me wonder if I should go to Malawi. I stayed in a dormitory for three months until my destination was decided, and then my place of assignment was changed from Blantyre to Lilongwe and to work as the Central Region Athletic Coach to watch over practices of club teams, because the request had changed. However, they do not practice every day, so I was playing with the kids whenever there was no practice. In those days, every time the President passed through Lilongwe, the citizens were sent out to see him off along the road, so work was forced to stop. There was no place to go for a drink, so we often drank at home. There was a track and field meet, and I was called to go to a rural region. In the 100-meter race, there was a child who could not run straight, whether the child's eyes were closed or whatever, and I was surprised that the instructor did not know the rules that the athletes would be disqualified if they strayed off from the course, and I thought that the

instructors should be trained first. A year after I was assigned to Lilongwe, I organized a field day with the JOCV members in Lilongwe with competition among teams divided according to the place of assignment. The event was held on the field at my workplace, the Kamuzu Institute for Youth, and we came up with events that both children and adults could enjoy, and of course the prize was nsima. What I remember now is the balloon blowing game. The most memorable part was that they couldn't inflate the balloon anyway, probably due to lack of experience, so they would try to expand the mouth of the balloon to fill it with air, and in the end, it was so funny that they couldn't inflate it. I was happy to hear them say "thank you" at the end.

I read over my report to see if I had been able to do anything as the first Physical Education teacher, but I could only see my inadequate activities. But I am glad to have been assigned to Malawi and I think it was a turning point for me now.

Fifteen years ago, when I was able to return to Malawi for my husband's work, I was delighted to have a miraculous reunion with Isaac Phiri, who used to be my counterpart, at an airport in South Africa. I guess I could say that Malawi is my second home.



Athletes!! The numbers were stapled together, and the next athlete used the same



Cross-country race started. This was the uniform. Due to the policy of the time, women were not allowed to wear pants or



Introducing Japanese tea ceremony, moderated by Mr. Mmanga (who has moved to the Japanese Embassy). Since there was no Japanese Embassy at that time, the event was held at Kamuzu Institute for Youth.

YOSHIDA Osamu

Batch FY1988-3



Life after serving as a Surgeon in Malawi

Since then, I have been continuously involved in Africa. I opened the "Sakura Clinic" in Tokushima with a group of doctors whose life's work is international cooperation, and while contributing to local medical care with a system to handle anything, I am also running an NGO called TICO, and by chance I am supporting Zambia and Cambodia. The Executive Director is my former colleague, Mr. Youji Fukushi. In Zambia, many things have happened, including the establishment of the Lusaka Emergency Rescue Team, three terms of JICA Grassroots Partner Projects, construction of schools, digging of wells, model projects for environment-friendly agriculture, and emergency support for droughts.

For the past three years, we have been working with the University Teaching Hospital of Zambia to train a cardiac surgery team. An estimated 6,000 children alone need cardiac surgery every year, but nothing has been done yet. The Zambian team was just about to perform the first 10 cardiac surgeries using artificial heart lungs, but unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted the project. We will resume our work once the vaccinations in Japan have been completed and the restrictions on entry and exit have been relaxed.

I feel that the disadvantage of NGOs is that they lack economic (managerial) strategies. I have tried to take into account the sustainability of projects, but it is always difficult. From now on, I would like to develop a business like an association that can improve in the community while generating profits. We have also entered an era where both Japan and Africa will be greatly affected by climate change. We are pursuing a new lifestyle based on sustainable agriculture and forestry. For starters, we have started planting cashew nuts and other trees as well as apiculture.



Fruits we frequently ate in Zomba



Surgeon's office



Cardiac surgery team at the University Training Hospital in Zambia



Cashew nut seedlings

NAKAGAWA Satoshi

Batch FY1991-3



Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of JOCV Dispatches



1992: Scene of training in a vacant lot behind the hospital

Even though it was only two years of the 50-year-long dispatch to Malawi, it was full of unforgettable experiences for me to have been allowed to work in that country.

I was dispatched to one of the largest hospitals in Malawi, but the kendo club I started with the children in my spare time in the vacant lot behind the hospital turned out to be a much more meaningful part of my service.

At the time, martial arts were banned in Malawi, but government officials came to inspect the practices. Since

then, however, thanks to the enthusiasm of the children, kendo was later recognized as a government-sanctioned sport, which is a very happy memory for me because I was able to experience with the children that "if you work hard seriously, you will be rewarded."

Even after returning to Japan, I have kept in touch with the Malawian kendo athletes and continue to do what I can to help them.

The children back then have grown up and the old Blantyre Kendo Club has become the Kendo Association of Malawi, and they have continued their activities in their own way despite the fact that no real JOVC member kendoists were dispatched and they had no money or supplies. In 2013, the Association was honored to receive the Foreign Minister's Award for the first time in Malawi (in recognition of the promotion of Kendo in Malawi for more than 20 years). I am aware that this is due to the cooperation of many JICA/JOCV members who sympathized with the activities and supported them even after I returned to Japan. I can't thank them enough for their support.

As for myself, at the age of 57, I am now working as a nutritionist at a hospital, and I feel that my experience as a member of the JOCV has been useful in my work today. I would like to thank the JICA Malawi Office and all the JOCV members for their continued understanding, support, and cooperation with the Kendo Association of Malawi and the Malawi kendo athletes.



2013: Participating in the award ceremony for the Foreign Minister's Award

KURATA Madoka

Batch FY1993-3



In Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Dispatch of JOCV to Malawi

I have heard that 50 years has passed since the JOCV were dispatched to Malawi, and I am keenly aware of how fast time flies, especially in the past 20 years. I am also very grateful that I, who happened to be back in Malawi, have been asked to be part of the publication of the commemorative magazine.

It was 25 years ago that I set foot on the red earth of Kamuzu International Airport, out of sheer curiosity to see a domestic animal disease (overseas malignant infection) that had not occurred in Japan at that time, and decided to set foot on Malawi, a country I had never heard of in Japan. It was when women were just allowed to wear pants and the long-running administration of Kamuzu Banda, who had proclaimed himself president for life, was coming to an end. According to the results of the general election, which was to be held immediately after I was assigned, there was a possibility that I would have to leave the country, and I remember talking with my colleagues from the same batch at our dormitory about expecting to evacuate to Paris, considering the flight schedules of British Air and Air France, which were still in service at the time. In the end, despite the fact that considering the characteristics of the people of this country, its government was going to change to the Bakili Muluzi administration, we were a little disappointed that there

Blantyre:Dormitory (5-3 Farewell party, costume contest)

was no riot, now a memory that makes us smile wryly.

The first thing that surprised me when I arrived in Lilongwe as a project coordinator for the first time in more than 20 years was that Lilongwe now has a bypass and more traffic lights. The city of Lilongwe has also changed a lot, with more shopping malls and high-rise buildings. However, for JOCV members assigned to southern Malawi at the time, there was no need to go to Lilongwe unless there was something serious happening, so it is true that not much was known about Lilongwe at the time. Nevertheless, I remember about the only traffic light that was installed because of a traffic accident involving a JOCV member, so it is definitely true that more traffic lights have been installed.

I am now in Zomba, the former capital of Malawi, and this is one of the places of nostalgia. Back then, the contact point and dormitory for the JOCV members assigned to southern Malawi was in Blantyre, so the welcome and farewell parties and traffic safety seminars were held at the dormitory in Blantyre, and as you can imagine, banquets were held every time. In the south, Zomba had the second largest number of JOCV members after Blantyre, and there were always about 10 members in total, led by Zomba Central Hospital. From Thyolo, where I was assigned, I often went to bring back Thyolo



Parents who came on a trip. The members received the parents, on their way back to Lilongwe, looks all tired. Toward the end, they somehow start thinking "hurry up and go home." Dedza Pottery



The flat, where one of the members of the same batch assigned to Zomba used to live, was still there

specialties, such as macadamia nuts, Cholo coffee, and delicious fresh cream, from the estate where I was working. The flat where my colleagues lived (I think the now famous Dr. Sugishita lived there) still exists on the commuting route to Chancellor College, where I work now, and I go to work every day feeling nostalgic passing in front of it. The exchange of information between Zomba team members using handheld radios after daily radio communication seemed to make it impossible to hold the radios due to the heat of the handheld radios, and I used to enjoy it from the countryside in Thyolo.

I was the third veterinarian to be assigned to Thyolo, but to

my surprise, more than half of the medical care was for the guard dogs and pets of the Azungu people in the surrounding estates, and I spent my days struggling with the field hospital-like facilities. On the other hand, when I went to treat a neighboring Malawian's dairy cow, he welcomed me with open arms, offering me a lot of dried ngumbi. After wondering what to do with it, I would use them like locusts to make tsukudani (food boiled down in soy sauce) and bring it to the office, where the staff would recommend that I sell it at the bus depot. I will never forget the day when I was on call early in the morning to treat a white man's horse, and the sarin gas incident in Japan occurred on the subway, and I was

astonished at the images reported on BBC News while I was having breakfast at the white man's house.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the only livestock diseases I encountered were African swine fever and rabies, but I gained more valuable experience than that. During my two-year term, three of the 10 staff members died of AIDS, for which there was no effective treatment at the time. After I returned to Japan, I sent my excellent staff to Japan for counterpart training, but they also died about two years after returning from the training. It was such a time.

My life as a member of the JOCV in Malawi, which led me to the path of international cooperation, was full of sorrows and joys, and I was often frustrated and angry at the Malawians who were in a daze, but even now, when former colleagues get together, we laugh about it.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those who are working on the commemorative projects and the compilation of the commemorative magazine for the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi. Congratulations on the 50th anniversary.

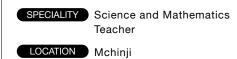


Blantyre: The flat that was the closest to the dormitory Where Carlsberg Green and Brown were always stocked, JOCV members gathered like hyenas. Pulling off the caps on beer bottles with the corners of the beer cases was easy, and sitting on a beer case and drinking a cañaña was one of the things we enjoyed. Carlsberg and box wine were the standard banquet at the dormitory. We also enjoyed the homemade

food prepared by JOCV members and the croquettes made by the bambos in the members' homes.

ONISHI Hiroshi

Batch FY1994-1



Letters from Malawi









SUGISHITA Tomohiko

Batch FY1995-2



"My Favorite Spiritual Landscape"

There is a landscape that I always remember when I close my

The main road from Zomba to Liwonde National Park...there are rarely any cars on this road. On the way up the hill, I park my motorcycle on the side of the reddish-brown road and look out at the horizon below. The sunlight reflected off the majestic flow of the Shire River...as I listen closely, I can hear the sound of a boy's drumming and singing through the expanse of green carpet. The sound is faint, but it is a vibrant rhythm and powerful melody that comes from within the earth. This is the Warm Heart of Africa. Whenever I close my eyes in times of hardship and distress, this scenery always comes back to me. For me, this is a scenic treasure that I will never forget.

I spent my time in the Republic of Malawi from December 1995 to March 1998 as a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. As the only surgeon at the National Zomba Central Hospital, I spent my days on surgery every day. I was on the front lines of clinical practice at a time when HIV and AIDS were rampant. During my two and a half years at the hospital, I performed more than 3,000 surgeries, including peritonitis, pyothorax, Kaposi's sarcoma, and limb amputation, and took care of more than 10,000 people in the final stages of HIV. We improvised our own surgical instruments, used the limited amount of medicines carefully, introduced autologous blood transfusions, taught clinical medicine at the staff study sessions every morning, and spent most of our days sleeping in the hospital without even going home. It was the busiest and most fulfilling time of my life so far.

Once we stepped out of the hospital, I found myself in a world

of evil spirits, full of traditional Malawian culture. On weekends, I spent my time visiting traditional medical practitioners, herbalists, and cult leaders. In the evenings, masked dances would begin, and the rites of passage performed in the moonlit night were mystical. The "secret society" of Malawi was visible only because it was rooted in the area. Every day was a discovery, a challenge, a joy, and a regret.

Why was I born? I think the days I spent in Malawi were the brightest of my life. The day I left Zomba...in the car on the way to the airport, I couldn't stop crying. I was convinced that I was born to come here and meet these people. That experience in Malawi, which I will never get to have again, is what keeps me going today.

Biography -

Department of International Environmental and Tropical Medicine, Tokyo Women's Medical University (Professor / Chair)

Master of Medicine (Tohoku University), Master of Public Health (Harvard Graduate School), Master of Medical Anthropology (London Graduate School), and Doctor of Community Health (Great University of Kisumu Graduate School). In 1995, as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) member (surgeon), I was involved in medical treatment in the Republic of Malawi for three years, and have since been involved in planning health system projects and providing technical guidance in more than 30 countries, mainly in Africa.

I am a member of the International Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulated by the United Nations in 2015, the winner of the 2014 Social Business Grand Prix, and the recipient of the 2016 Medical Achievement Award.







NIWA Katsusuke

Batch FY1996-3



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Dispatch of JOCV to Malawi

I learned about the JOCV from a hanging advertisement on Kintetsu Nara Line. I learned about Malawi through my third notice. Twenty-four years ago, I landed at Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe in early April when the rainy season had just ended. Two years later, when I left the airport, I had a feeling that I would come back here someday. Since then, I have been in Malawi for a total of 17 years. I would like to express my gratitude to Malawi, Japan, and the many people who have cared for me, whom I caused trouble, and who nurtured me during this time. I hope you will forgive my lack of words in the following prose.

Lobi, a village near the Mozambique border, is about an hour's drive from Lilongwe, the capital city. There was no electricity or running water, and the life I had imagined for myself as a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. On the first day of my work, I went on a motorcycle tour of a group of farmers with a senior JOCV member, and in the evening when I returned, I developed malaria. In order to secure drinking water, I drew water from a well, boiled it, and went to bed. In the middle of the night, I woke up with a high fever and sweating profusely. On my way to the toilet, I was greeted by countless stars I have never seen in my life.Malaria and stars in the sky made me realize that I had arrived in Malawi. Africa. The experience of the first two years in Malawi became the foundation of what I am doing now. I went by starlight to the only bottle store in Lobi, the Chewa language night school (?); there was an incident where a mango branch planted by a farmer was broken due to jealousy; and I also met some colleagues who cheated a young naive Japanese man. In the year of a famine, I saw the faces of the farmers as they lost weight, and saw the harshness of rural Malawi



1997: Providing guidance on kneaded nursery beds for nursing seedlings at exhibition fields of the Lobi Extension Office in Dedza District

as well as the strength of the farmers. I felt like I was being told that I was just a patsy. At the same time, I imagined what it would be like if I had been born as this woman's child, and I felt grateful to have been born in Japan and recognized the beauty of Japan. Through living in Lobi, I realized the "Warm heart of Africa" of Malawians and learned to forgive. I learned a little about the dynamics of the village.

In Mzimba in the northern part of Malawi, I was involved in a project to support farmers to achieve self-reliance for about eight years from 2005, from the very beginning of the project. This was my first time living in Malawi with my family, and I named my son Kaishin after "Warm heart of Africa." Thanks to the generosity of the rural town of Mzimba, my son grew up to the age of five. A delegation from Maore Village came to our house with chickens and a lot of produce from the fields to see our son, who was less than one year old, and Grandma Moyo walked 10 km to see us.

During the mid-term evaluation of the project, Grandma Moyo responded that her income had increased and her life had become better, but she wanted not more because

she had less time to chat. Meanwhile, there was a farmer who built a tomato palace, pointing to his own field, saying, "My John is here," while many rural people go to Johannesburg (commonly called John), South Africa, to work to make money. Mzombe Village, an impoverished village that is recognized both officially and privately, has seen the most change; when I left Malawi in 2013 and returned three years later, the village chief had purchased a car and had electricity installed in every household. This year, he had also purchased a motorcycle for commuting. The village chief's daughter, Kokoro, whom I named, is now 13 years old.

Soon after I returned to Japan, I received tragic news. Omoni (Korean term for mother) of Korea Garden, who had been a great help since I was a JOCV member, Mr. Chongwe, Chief Officer of Mzimba District Agriculture Development Office, and Temba, a local staff member, had passed away. Temba's son, who was considered a promising child, is now eight years old and living with his grandmother. As we walked around the village, we saw tree branches indicating funerals crossing the road every

day. Since the widespread use of cell phones, I often get calls just saying hello, "Muli bwanji (How are you)?" I have come to understand the gravity of the meaning of this short call.

It has been five years since I started working with JICA's agricultural project named "Project for Market-Oriented Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Promotion (MA-SHEP)", which local farmers call "Masshepi". This project is based on the concept of "Let's see the market before we make produce." Masshepi is spreading all over Malawi, and the changes in the farmers' awareness and lifestyle can be seen in their new homes and the

livestock they have purchased. I was reminded of the high potential of my colleagues and farmers in Malawi. Malawi may not have underground resources, but it has human resources.

We will never fully know how difficult it is for the Malawian farmers who live here. Only the people themselves know how happy they are. However, I feel happy now that the picture I vaguely had in my mind when I saw the hanging advertisement on the Kintetsu Nara Line has become a reality. An outsider cannot decide how happy Malawians are or how they will develop. I will always remain humble and continue to help Malawians to move forward on the path they decide.

The image of Japanese people held by the Malawians is based on the more than 1,800 JICA volunteers. I hope that JICA will continue to dispatch volunteers to Malawi.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family, who have made Malawi their second home despite the many difficulties they have faced. Thank you. At the end of this year, I plan to submit an application for our trip to Mzimba.



2007: A scene from a garlic planting exercise in Kamatang'ombe Village, Mzimba District: 10 balls of garlic loaned out transformed into a new home a few years later.

KUSAKARI Yasuko

Batch FY1997-3



Reflecting on My Precious Experiences in and with Malawi

A long relationship with Malawi that continues even after the end of my term as a JICA volunteer

To what extent could I have imagined that Malawi would become such a special country in my life before I left for Malawi as a JICA volunteer? Beyond my initial anticipation, Malawi has always been very close to me, even after the end of my term. For instance, I have encountered and shared good moments with a number of Malawians and those who have lived in Malawi, conducted field research in Malawi for my Master's and Doctoral theses, and participated in activities of the Malawi Society of Japan and A-GOAL project. I have also started a joint research project on JICA volunteers in Malawi in collaboration with Dr. Louis Nthenda, a Malawian researcher based in Japan, as we had aspired for the theme considering the occasion of the 50th year since the first dispatch of JICA volunteers to Malawi.

Furthermore, I came back to Malawi in June 2021. Currently, I work with a SATREPS project titled "Establishment of a Sustainable Community Development Model based on Integrated Natural Resource Management Systems in Lake Malawi National Park (IntNRMS Project)" as a long-term researcher. I am based in Chembe village (Cape Maclear), which offers a spectacular view of Lake Malawi, and I have started fieldwork and dialogues with local people.

I have encountered and experienced "diverse Africa" through living and working in Central Africa (Cameroon), East Africa (Eritrea), and West Africa (Ghana) after my term as a JICA volunteer. Now, I am grateful for this occasion which has brought me back to Malawi, Southern Africa, in the year which coincides with the 50th anniversary of JICA volunteers in Malawi.

Reflection of my days as a JICA volunteer

As a JICA volunteer, I lived in Malawi for three years (April 1998-April 2001), during a period through which Malawi continued to undergo various changes after "democratization." I somewhat heard that there had been

no request or dispatch of volunteers in the field of "Rural Community Development" during the time of the long one-party dictatorship, and I turned to be the first Japanese volunteer in this field in Malawi.

The Magomero Community Development Training College, to which I was assigned, is an institute that trains field workers for community development and social welfare. While working on delivering "social research methods" classes, facilitating "field research programs," and compiling a resource book (Resource Book for Rural Development in Malawi), I embarked on fieldwork when there was no course in progress at the college. I usually spent one week or two in each district participating in various field activities. At the same time, I also stayed at the homes of field workers or community members to better understand communities. Through the fieldwork and local homestays, I had invaluable opportunities to learn about not only people's daily lives but also their cultures, local languages, the reality and challenges on the ground, and the strengths and potentials of people. Eventually, I have received various local names such as "Nambewe," a Chewa name in Southern and Central Regions, as well as other local names in Tumbuka, Tonga, and Yao, among others.

In Malawi, I often feel that we tend to be welcomed as "one of the members of their community," rather than as a mere "stranger/foreigner," primarily due to the exceptional hospitality of Malawian people. While I somehow take it granted as their considerable cordiality, I also intend to interact with a broader range of Malawians in both rural and urban areas and enjoy and immerse myself in local lives and languages. Through such interactions and experiences, I have been developing and nurturing my identity as a local in Malawi, deserving my local name -

In addition, I have made a lot of lifetime friends with JICA volunteers and other international volunteers, regardless of differences in the fields of expertise and duty stations. We shared memorable moments through organizing sports festivals, 'ekiden' relay races, technical committee meetings, annual general meetings, exchange visits, among many other occasions.

Reflection as being back in Malawi in 2021

For the sake of the prevention of COVID-19, which has spread worldwide since 2020, various changes have occurred in multiple scenes of Malawi as of 2021. Now, it is even advisable not to shake hands tightly or not to enjoy chatting in large gatherings, all of which used to be very common everywhere in the country. However, despite maintaining certain "social distance," Malawian people have remained friendly, cheerful, and warm-hearted, recognizing that both changed and unchanged natures co-exist in this society.

In the past 50 years, the JICA volunteer program has dispatched more than 1,800 volunteers to Malawi. Furthermore, this program has brought about some changes - to either a large or small extent - to both Japanese volunteers and Malawians who have worked and interacted with the volunteers. Certainly, the 50th anniversary is a significant milestone; yet, I believe that the JICA volunteer program shall continue to impact the bilateral relationship between Malawi and Japan and the lives of people of both countries.

I feel honoured to be part of this history and appreciate the fact that I have been fortunate enough to have acquired precious experiences as a JICA volunteer in Malawi. Now, I would like to make a toast (remotely) to all those whom I have encountered through Malawi while remembering them as I enjoy the beautiful sunset here at Lake Malawi with a cold "Green" in my hand.

Zikomo kwambiri ndi cheers, anzathu onse!





Along the Lakeshore in Chembe Village (Cape Maclear), Malawi, in 2021

KINOSHITA Hidetoshi

Batch FY2003-0



What I Left in Malawi

In Blantyre, the volunteers finished playing tennis and split into groups to help with cooking, get drunk, and sleep around at our house. Some of you may remember that we had two big dogs, Panip and Sunny. After I moved to Lilongwe, JOCV members, people from JICA and the Embassy and their families, and people from the Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi, came to enjoy the meals prepared by my helper and my wife. The results of my cooperation activities are questionable, but the transfer of skills from my wife to the maid was perfect and she is still making a living with tofu making and other skills after we left Malawi.

I have been here for about seven years in four terms from 2003-2010. In the first half, I was assigned alone in Blantyre, working at the Mikolongwe Ranch, Department of Livestock, producing frozen semen for use in artificial insemination of cattle. In the second half, my wife and two children also came from Japan to help with a project to promote artificial insemination at the Livestock Department in Lilongwe. I was able to work with about 20 livestock breeding and other team members in the project. and it was a very fulfilling experience. Based in Karonga, Mzuzu, Kasungu, Lilongwe, and Bumbwe, everyone was working hard to spread artificial insemination and transfer livestock breeding techniques. I have fond memories of driving dozens of times back and forth between Lilongwe and Mikolongwe, spending every day with boiled eggs and milk tea at the farmer's insemination training program with the volunteers at Thuchila Farm, where electricity and running water were scarce, and going to South Africa to buy a bull.

Many things have happened: Rusaka was bullied at Bishop McKenzie for being a child from Asia who didn't understand English, Shin broke his wrist and was forcefully reset without anesthesia at the hospital, Miho was bitten all over by a tick and was unable to sleep due to itching. Miho was bitten by a mite(?) all over her body and had trouble sleeping because of the itchiness, I was trying to vaccinate my dog for rabies, but the dog bit me and I had to get the vaccine. However, I am very grateful to the interesting volunteers, the mysterious experts and people in the office, and most of all the Malawian people who were both annoying and funny. It was quite humorous to see a certain minister lounging on our couch with our children. Chameleons whose tongues could not return to their mouths, wounded hedgehogs, tortoises picked up from the road, goats that survived, fish, fish, fish, fish from Lake Malawi, hummingbirds that told us it was morning, rabbits, dogs, and many other creatures also healed us

I had a detached retina in Malawi and had to have surgery in South Africa. I couldn't go back to Malawi because of this, my work was half done, my dogs and family belongings were still intact, and my children were not able to say farewell to their friends. The Dedza Pottery plates that the JOCV members made for me with the names of the four members of my family are still sitting on our bookshelf. The pair of haniwa (clay figurines) I bought in Magomero are quietly soaking in the rain in a planter outside. Vitamin, the dog who came to Japan from Malawi after us, passed away the year before last.

I still have not been able to say "Thank you. Goodbye." to Malawi and the people of Malawi, who helped raise our family.

2003-2010

Senior Veterinary Officer, Field Coordinator, Planning and Research Officer (volunteer)

Mikolongwe Ranch, Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary Corps Member, Zambia, 1989



Farewell party for Chief Representative Retraining of independent farmers as Mizutani. Lilongwe, 2008



cattle inseminators, Lilongwe, 2010

NOMOTO Akitoshi

Batch FY2003-1



With the "Spirit of the JOCV" I Learned in Malawi in My Mind

I was 30 years old when I took the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers exam. At the time, I was working for a building management company, doing facility inspections and security work, and on my way to work on the Yamanote Line, I saw an advertisement for the JOCV and applied. I attended a recruitment briefing for the JOCV, listened to a talk by an OV member, worked on test preparation, and was able to pass the exam as a candidate for dispatch to the Republic of Malawi.

I was not good at English, and even though I was sent as a science and math teacher, I had no teaching experience. I was under a lot of pressure, but during my language training at the NTC (Nihonmatsu Training Center), I learned that I could compensate for my weakness in English by using effective communication aids such as illustrations, taking all possible measures to prepare for classes, and devising ways to organize lessons.

In Malawi, I was in charge of teaching science and math classes at the Community Day Secondary School in Chitedze, about a 30-minute drive from Lilongwe. The photo shows a classroom of first-year secondary students.

The students were sitting in a classroom full of students, and very few of them had textbooks. Students were dropping out of school one after another because they could not afford the tuition. Even in such a difficult learning environment, the students were working hard to learn. I will never forget the loud laughter and good singing voices of the students. I faced many difficulties in my activities, but with the cooperation of my colleagues, I was able to successfully complete my term of two years. After returning to Japan in August 2005, I was fortunate enough to be elected to the Shinjuku City Assembly for the first time in April 2007, and I am now in my fourth term. There are many foreign residents living in the Okubo area of Shinjuku City. I am working in this area with the "spirit of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers" that I learned in Malawi.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of JOCV dispatches to Malawi, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the senior members of the JOCV, the OVs in Malawi, the dispatched members, and everyone involved in Malawi



classroom of first-year junior secondary students around September

FURUKAWA Norihide

Batch FY2005-2



I applied to become a member of the JOCV program for Venezuela, thinking lightly that "it might be useful in the future if I could speak Spanish," but the acceptance letter said "Malawi." I had a vague image of a country in the area near Ghana, but it was in a completely different place. When I called my mother to tell her that I had been accepted, she disagreed with my decision for the first time. My grandfather who passed away had told my mother, "You have to be prepared." Perhaps she was feeling as if she was sending her son to war. My family, including my mother, came all the way to Malawi to visit me during my term.

My relationship with Malawi has been a deep and long one. I was sent to Cape Maclear on the shores of Lake Malawi, as one of Malawi's first three JOVC members in charge of youth activities; I worked in an orphanage and school. I lived in a house where I could hear the sound of waves on the lake. The organization I was supposed to work for had disappeared by the time I arrived, and I was at a loss. It was two years of creating my own workplace and job. While almost getting entangled in a conflict with a powerful family in the village, listening to stories of

witches flying in baskets, and eating nsima under the starry sky, I learned that Japan and I were not the center of the world.

In addition to the JOCV, I also had the opportunity to work as a project formulation advisor at the JICA office for three years. Although I was not directly involved in the JOCV project when I was working at the JICA office, I felt that the JOCV was definitely JICA's flagship project and I wanted Japan to remain a country that actively encourages the development of young people.

Malawi is also the place where my wife and I met. My wife was a senior JOCV member. During my term as a coordinator, I had the opportunity to take my daughter, who was still small at the time, to visit the place where my wife had served as a member of the JOCV. I believe that my daughter and my son will one day know that their parents participated in the JOCV and met in Malawi. If they think that the JOCV will be beneficial to the life they want to live, I will push them to do so. At that time, my wife and I plan to join the trip to see them working on the ground.

KIBUKAWA Yutaka

Batch FY2005-3





September 2006: Activities at the workplace (TV Malawi)





February 2008: I was practicing with them every Saturday in Blantyre. Not teaching.



March 2008

YAMAMOTO Sakuma

Batch FY2005-3

Vegetable Growing LOCATION Mpemba

Ten years after completing my term as a member of the JOCV, I returned to Malawi as a staff member of ISAPH, an NPO. As a member of the JOCV, I taught vegetable cultivation at a youth rehabilitation center in Blantyre and spent two fruitful years with my sincere counterpart.

After returning home, I worked in Japan, but when I heard that ISAPH, a health-related organization, was looking for an agricultural engineer, I thought my experience would be useful, so I returned to Malawi and have been working here ever since. Currently, ISAPH Malawi is working to improve the nutrition of mothers and children in Mzimba under JICA's Grassroots Technical Cooperation Project. ISAPH aims to improve the nutritional status of mothers and children by producing a variety of food ingredients, as health guidance alone is not enough to improve their nutritional status in rural areas where food ingredients are limited.

Many Old Volunteers from the JOCV in Malawi have been involved in ISAPH, including Dr. Tomohiko Sugishita (Batch FY1995-2, medicine), and Ms. Kaoru Kusama (Batch FY1997-2, nutrition), who is supervising the current project. The following is a list of the staff up to the present (honorifics omitted): Ms. Tomoko Saito (Batch FY1988-2, midwifery), Mr. Hiroaki Yamazaki (Batch FY1989-2, laboratory technology), Ms. Erika Kataoka (Batch FY2006-2, nursing), Ms. Ai Okamoto (Batch FY2011-1, public health), Mr. Kiyohito Shoda (Batch FY2014-2, community development), and Ms. Kaori Ikebe (Batch FY2014-3, public health); as such, many names can be cited. We have also been working with people who have recently returned to Japan, such as Ms. Ai Yasudomi (Batch FY2017-2, nutrition) as a graduate student researcher and Ms. Mari Nobuoka (Batch FY2018-2, laboratory technology) as an intern.

It is said that Malawi is a country where people often return to after completing their term of service as a JOCV member.

ISAPH staff and related people have been working based on their experiences in the JOCV. We are very happy to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of the JOCV to Malawi as a first step to continue the relationship with Malawi even after their term of service as a member is over. I hope that the dispatch of the JOCV will continue to provide opportunities for Japanese people to deepen their relationship with Malawi.



Through agricultural technical guidance, we cultivated crops that have not been grown in the past.

About the NPO ISAPH Health for All

Aiming for a world where everyone can take care of their own health by themselves, their families, and their communities ISAPH is a non-profit organization (NPO) established in 2004 to promote international cooperation at the grassroots level based

on the rich experience of the St. Mary Group, which is centered on St. Mary's Hospital, a social medical corporation in Kurume City, Fukuoka Prefecture.



Although children in Malawi are not emaciated or suffering from hunger, 39% of the children under the age of five are stunted (chronically malnourished). They are able to eat enough to fill their stomachs, but the limited availability of food due to their self-sufficient lifestyle is causing their malnutrition.



first time as a result of receiving technical guidance.



have never grown before, we also teach them recipes motivated to continue their activities. in cooking class.



We were able to harvest crops we have grown for the Since they do not know how to eat the crops they Seeing their children eat with joy, parents are

AKINO Kazuyuki

Batch FY2006-2



For two years from January 2007, I worked as the first Computer Studies teacher at Domasi Demonstration Secondary School, which was established with Japan's ODA. It was there that I learned the value of a second, which is different from that in Japan, and it still forms the basis of my way of life.

When I was first dispatched, there was no electricity for about three months, so I had to figure out how to teach computer skills with only a blackboard! That was the beginning of my life in JOCV. As the first computer technology JOCV member in Malawi to be assigned to a secondary school, I visited schools in the southeast to collect information on computer subjects one by one. There were no barriers to my activities, and I was able to feel the breeze of Malawi with my whole body, cherishing every second of it, such as cleaning activities and environmental education in Zomba in cooperation with other JOCV members in the neighborhood, and organizing sports events and kendo tournaments. Among them, exploring Lake Chilwa (Chisi Island), which is the second largest lake in Malawi but not yet a tourist site, is one of my most cherished memories. The islanders who warmly welcomed us with their territories even though we were sudden Azungus (foreign visitors), the children who followed us around the island with curious eyes, and the one-hour boat trip to the island where we kept praying that the wooden boat would not sink...

Also, as a teacher, I faced various social issues, but I

learned a lot about the "meaning of happiness" from the smiles of my colleagues, students, and the people of

There is no right answer in international cooperation, and even though you can evaluate it later, at that time, you have to believe in yourself and do your best. Immediately after I finished my term and returned to Japan, I received the news that my counterpart, to whom I had entrusted everything, had passed away, and I was filled with regret. The fact that I did not place a successor with my own volition, whether I was able to face the reality in Malawi, whether there were any other way, etc... Entering the age of social networking, the fact that I am still able to communicate with my students and colleagues is a footprint of 1 out of 1,897 and a valuable asset for me. I dream that one day I will be able to stand on the red earth again and return their

I am currently in charge of a non-profit educational corporation in Hawaii (established and supported by a Japanese company as a part of its international social contribution activities). Coincidentally, it is the same 50-year-old project as the JOCV project in Malawi, and I am keenly aware of the significance and difficulty of continuing a project for half a century. I believe that the value of the JOCV is infinite in building a nation together with the people of Malawi, and I hope that the JOCV project in Malawi will continue to "shine on each second of the lives of the people of Malawi."







Sports Festival

KATSUYAMA Yuko

(Maiden Name: Komatsubara) Batch FY2006-3



Even though it is small, I am very honored to have been able to leave my own footprints in the 50-year history of JOCV activities.

When I look back on the two years I worked in Malawi, countless memories came back to me. Immediately after arriving in Malawi, I was despaired that I would not be able to express myself because I could not speak the language, and my counterpart was always at home and did not even come to work, so I was pessimistic that my two years would end without accompllishing anything. Not all of the experiences were painful; I still remember the fluffy nsima that we ate in the village and the smell of ngumbi

(winged ants) that I loved. As a matter of fact, immediately after returning to Japan, I commented on my two years in Malawi saying, "It certainly increased my experience, but it was not shocking enough to turn my sense of values upside down." More than 10 years have passed since then. I have encountered many difficulties at work. My life stage has changed rapidly and I am now raising a child. I cannot devote 200% of my time to myself as I used to do, and I am required to achieve results as a businesswoman, wife, and mother within a limited time frame. Whenever I am troubled by my relationship with others, I try to remember that I have built up my network and activities from scratch. Whenever I have trouble with my child, I remember the smiles on the faces of the children in the village who play skillfully with scrap wood even if they have nothing else to play with. I could not have imagined this when I returned to Japan, but because of those two years of experience in my late twenties, I think I am now able to stop and think that I should not impose my norm on others, that I should accept diversity, and that I should be



Location: Dedza This is when we taught how to make candles using the beeswax that was discarded after squeezing honey in the village.

more tolerant. I believe that my sense of values have broadened. More than anything else, the treasure I have gained from participating in the JOCV is the relationships with the people I have met and the people who have cared for and supported me. I cannot even count how many people I was involved with in Malawi: the people I have spent time with at the training center, the volunteers I have worked with in Malawi, the volunteer coordinators, the staff, families, others who were involved, and the alumni I have met since returning to Japan. If you look at social media, you can see that many people are active all over the country and all over the world. Although I am not in direct contact with as many people as I used to, I still have many different advisors whom I can consult at any time. I am so grateful for these relationships that will last forever. Not only the two years I spent in Malawi, but also the relationships I have made through my participation in the JOCV program will be my lifelong treasure. Thank you for everything, everyone!

NAKAMURA Yuya

Batch FY2007-1



「"Living in Shinshu Pachoko Pachoko"」

It has been more than 10 years since I returned to Japan, but I still lead a life having contact with the Chitumbuka language on a daily basis. This is because the name of the restaurant I currently run in Ogawa-mura, Nagano Prefecture, is called "Daizu Shokudo Pachoko." This comes from "pachoko pachoko (meaning little by little, slowly, etc. in Chitumbuka)," which you may know well if you were a JOCV member in northern Malawi. People in the village used to call me "pachoko-san" on a daily basis, so it is a strange feeling.

After returning to Japan in 2009, I studied rural development at a graduate school in the UK and engaged in reconstruction support in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. Then, in 2016, I moved to Ogawa-mura in Shinshu as a member of a community development cooperation team. When I first came to Ogawa-mura and learned that the village was famous for its soybeans, I felt strongly that this was my destiny. This is because I used to work as a member of an AIDS task force in Malawi, promoting soybean dishes to improve the nutrition of HIV-positive people. As you know, animal protein-rich foods such as meat and fish were expensive in Malawi, so

soybeans, which are easy to grow and rich in vegetable protein, were chosen as an alternative food. We developed a dish called "Nyama ya soya" (soybean meat), in which soybeans are cooked in the form of a hamburger, and held cooking classes in a village in Mzimba District in northern Malawi. I also performed a play to raise awareness of soybean cuisine to the local residents with a group called "Pepani Theater Company" made up of fellow JOCV members.

I never dreamed that I would be involved with soybeans again in Shinshu after about 10 years. I am currently working to revitalize the region with the theme of promoting locally grown soybeans. In addition to running a soy food restaurant, I also run a food education program called "Daizu no Gakko (meaning is Soybean Fun School)," and my life is 100% soy-centered. If I had not been dispatched to Malawi, this would not have been possible, and it is truly an odd coincidence. For the time being, I am aiming to develop the soybean business in Ogawa-mura, but my dream is to return to Malawi as a soybean expert and work on improving the nutrition of the local people. I am now looking forward to that day.



KIDA Hiroko

(Maiden Name: Ogata) Batch FY2007-4



I was 24 years old at the time when I quit my job to go to Africa, a place I had longed to go to since I was a little girl. I felt like I couldn't die if I didn't go now, so I applied for the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers without consulting anyone. I can still clearly remember the excitement I felt when I stepped on the red soil of Africa, which had always been my dream, and stood under the wide open sky.

The first thing you notice about Malawi is that when you see a brand new car on a paved road, 80% of the time it is a car with the logo of the United Nations or other aid agencies. Most of the local people are on foot. The big supermarkets and daily necessities are those owned by South Africa, China and India, and I was surprised that colonization is not over yet.

Malawians, despite their poverty, are cheerful and laugh a lot. Both men and women are talkative, and they sing and dance to songs and music. Whenever there is misfortune among relatives or neighbors, Malawians sing for them throughout the night, cry together, pray, and live by supporting each other.

Children help out at home from a young age, chopping firewood when they are about four years old, and anyone can plow a field and make good rows as a matter of course. At mealtime, they quickly build a fire and skillfully wash dishes with little water. Adults feed and take care of their own children and their neighbors' children equally. I was often approached by strangers as I passed by homes asking, "Karibu (would you like to have some food)?" "If you fight over it, there is not enough; if you share it, there

is enough." This is what I felt, and it made me think about what wealth is.

At first, the people in the country where I was assigned were soaked in aid, so they expected many things from me as a foreigner, but as a member of the JOCV, I had no money, no goods, and as far as I was concerned, no skills. However, by not having any vested interest in each other, looking at them from the same perspective, eating the same food, wearing the same clothes, speaking the same language, and singing and dancing the same songs as much as possible, I think I was able to get as close to them as possible, understand their thoughts, and have them solve their problems on their own as much as possible. And that was exactly the kind of work I had in mind. The only work I was able to accomplish was to create a framework and network that would allow them to materialize their ideas, even if only slightly.

I had criticized self-satisfied JOCV members who selfishly leave their country of assignment after two years, but when I actually went there, I found very talented senior team members who were struggling every day to make sure that those two years would remain rooted there for a long time to come. Seeing these seniors made me want to work as hard as they had been doing. Work that is hundreds of times faster if done by one person is done by having people in the country of assignment involved. If they do it, they can continue to do it by themselves.

I hope that support can be provided to these people continuously through JICA and JOCV projects so that they can become self-reliant.

SEIKE Oki

Batch FY2008-4





A farewell party held by my friends when I left Dedza in 2011.



Children in the neighborhood photographed in 2010







Gulewamkulu for inviting tourists organized by the Tourism Association of Mpalale Village, which we supported through our activities in 2010.

ARIHARA Michiko

Batch FY2010-3

SPECIALITY HIV/AIDS Control LOCATION Rumphi



Ten years ago, in January 2011, I was assigned to Malawi for the first time as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) member. The land of Malawi, seen from an airplane, is an endless patch of brown soil and deep green trees. I fondly remember landing with JOCV members belonging to the same batch as mine, wondering if it was safe to land in such a place. Despite my worries, the daily activities and life of the JOCV members were very fulfilling, and I was healed by the carefree smiles and the kindness of the Malawian people who were so kind even to the extent of being considered meddlesome. Senior JOCV members used to say, "Those who drank the water of Africa will go back to Africa again." At that time, however, I thought it was not about me. During my time as a JOCV member working at a hospital, I learned about infectious diseases that you don't see in Japan and how Malawian people behave, which is completely different from Japanese people. The livelihood of people who lose their lives to diseases from which they do not need to die, and the cultural background behind it...I could not stop wondering about them, so I went to graduate school to study public health after completing my activities as a JOCV member.

In graduate school, I created a research plan related to the

prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, which was the main focus of my work as a JOCV member, and once again set foot on Malawi soil. And through my research, I was completely hooked on the deepness of Malawian culture once again. After working for an NGO, I applied to work as a volunteer coordinator because I wanted to be involved once again in a program where I could work with local people through trial and error, but to my surprise, I was dispatched to Malawi! I was very surprised to find out that it was not water of Africa, but water of Malawi.

Upon becoming a coordinator in

Malawi, I watched closely as the JOCV members struggled to breakthrough in the local situation through trial and error, and I was impressed by the latent strength of the JOCV members...then came the evacuation of all members due to the spread of COVID-19 infections in March 2020. It was a very painful experience for those who were there at the time. However, it has been one year since then. I am very happy to see them return to the brown and green land on this 50th anniversary. Although it is still too early to tell, I look forward to seeing JOCV members and the people of Malawi continue to work together to improve by learning from each other.



AOKI Michihiro

Batch FY2012-1



「My Sixth Year in Malawi」

I am currently working as a Project Formulation Advisor at the JICA Malawi Office, and this is my third time working in Malawi, entering my sixth year. I feel that this is not a result of my own wishes, but rather a result of a combination of various encounters and timing that have occurred over the years.

Before joining the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), I was working in an accounting department of a private organization in Japan, doing a job that had nothing to do with international cooperation. My motivation for applying to the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers was also a light-hearted one. Although I was interested in international volunteering, I wanted to live abroad for a long period of time, and if I had to go overseas, I wanted to go to Africa, which I would never have done on my own. However, as I actually lived with the local people in Malawi and engaged in activities at my place of assignment (business support for agricultural cooperatives at the district agricultural office), I realized how unaware I was of the current global situation and how much I had taken the Japanese environment for granted. At the same time, I was fascinated by the strength of the people living in developing countries and began to focus on activities to make their lives better.

By the end of the two years of activities, I saw the smiling faces of the farmers who had acquired bedding and bicycles, and the hard-working mothers who proudly told me that they were now able to pay their children's school fees without borrowing from anyone. Soon, I was hooked on the appeal of international cooperation.

After returning to Japan, I enrolled in a graduate school to study development studies properly while working at JICA's domestic operations department. When I visited Malawi for research for my dissertation, I encountered an NPO that was planning to develop a new business in Malawi. That led me to change jobs, and I took charge of project management for three years. Since then, I worked to become a project formulation advisor for JICA, and was originally offered a position in another country, but due to various reasons, I had no choice but to turn it down. Just at that time, the recruitment process for the current position started, and I was successfully accepted and am now writing this document in Malawi. At this point, I cannot help but feel that I have a deep connection with this country. I would like to cherish this relationship and continue to do my best for the development of Malawi even if only slightly.



Palm soap for which we provided marketing support



Scene of training at the support association



Scene of training at the support association

HOSHI Hiroyuki

Batch FY2012-3



Five years ago, I returned to my hometown in Fujieda City, Shizuoka Prefecture, where I am currently running a hands-on experience business, "Mukashi Inaka Taiken Suisha-mura (Old Rural Experience Program): Waterwheel Village)." Through making meals and playing games, participants will experience with their five senses life in the countryside where nature is nearby. They will chop firewood, start a fire in the kamado (furnace) and cook rice, grab yamame (cherry trout), process them and grill them on skewers, and sit around the hearth. The experience program, which is popular among families and foreigners, and the tent accommodation program that I recently started have been well received.

During my dispatch in Malawi, I was an incumbent participant registered with a chemical manufacturer. Living in the countryside in Champhira, where there is no electricity, gas, or water; working together with colleagues in activities to improve the lives of local residents; the environment that allowed me to take on challenges, the way I was able to express my delight, anger, sadness, and joy honestly, and the way I interacted with these people who tolerated me, all led to a major change in my sense of values. What I learned from Malawi was how to create new values by rethinking the resources that are available in the countryside from "what is not there" to "what is there."

While promoting the project, I am also conducting volunteer activities together with fellow volunteers at the same time. Originally, this was an effort to revive an aging waterwheel. In order to raise funds, we tried a crowdfunding campaign, and last year we were able to revive the waterwheel for the first time in about 10 years. This year, we are continuing to enjoy our activities including the replacement of the thatched roof together with more than 80 friends now. Recently, we have been providing support for proactive participation of the members in the project based on the policy of utilizing the Suisha-mura and the human resources of the members as a "place for self-realization." This is another example of how the way I interacted with local people in Malawi is being put to good use

So far, several OVs from the JOCV dispatched to Malawi and other JOCV members have visited us every year and we have enjoyed exchanges with them. At the same time, I would be happy if I could provide support to help the returnees give back to society what they have acquired, such as how to return home and start a business after leaving the workforce, how to address and make efforts to resolve local issues, and how to create a livelihood by utilizing their own strengths and experiences. I am looking forward to meeting more Ex-JOCVs.



TERASAKI Kazuo

Batch FY2013-3

SPECIALITY Quality Management and **Productivity Improvement** LOCATION Lilongwe

I was assigned to Malawi as a coordinator in November 2019. My term will soon end, but looking back, I really feel that it has been a turbulent two years. One of the most memorable moments was on June 12, 2021, when the three members of Batch FY2019-3 arrived. On March 24, 2020, the 29 JOCV members who were here at that time were evacuated back to Japan, and the excitement of the members returning to Malawi after 445 days was the most joyful moment for me as a coordinator.

At the time that the 29 members evacuated and returned to Japan in March 2020, no cases of COVID-19 infection had been found in Malawi, so I thought their return would be

delayed. However, as other countries around Malawi locked down one after another, they were forced to rearrange their flight schedules several times until they could not leave Malawi if they delayed once more. It seemed like a scene in a movie. Nevertheless, it was hard for me to watch the JOCV members who knew that they would not be able to come back because of their short remaining term of service not even being given a chance to thank and say goodbye to the people who had cared for them.

And just when I was ready to make up my mind and do my best to handle the remaining work, coordinators also had to return to Japan on March 31. I still remember the look of surprise on the faces of the national staff when I told them I was going home. It seemed they were saying, "After all, you guys are going to abandon us too?" I left Malawi with a sense of failure, as if we had lost everything we had built up in Malawi over the past 50 years.

After working from home in Japan, I was able to return to Malawi on October 16, 2020, after 199 days. While I was happy to be back in Malawi, there was no prospect of resumption of travel by JOCV members. As a Volunteer Coordinator without JOCV members around me, I had to mostly handle the remaining work related to the return of JOCV members to Japan, and I spent my days asking myself what I had come to Malawi for. On the other hand,



Group photo at the first volunteer general meeting after the resumption of dispatch

the many cases of being caught in a dilemma between JOCV members and the office, which I used to find annoying, have become endearing, and I have come to think that sublimating them into something positive is the best part of working as a coordinator.

Three months have passed since June 12, and we now have 12 volunteers assigned to Malawi. The dispatch area is limited to a four-hour travel distance from the capital, including Mzimba in the north, Balaka and Liwonde in the south. Minibuses were not available for transportation, and the JOCV liaison office also could not be used, so those who know about the former JOCV members assigned to Malawi may feel a sense of inadequacy.

Still, the volunteers are working positively to do what they can under these circumstances. However, they appear to be having a hard time working from scratch without senior members. Nevertheless, I have recently noticed that in every community there are Malawians who have spent time with JOCV in the past, and even if they are not former colleagues, their former landlords, neighbors, watchmen, etc. support them, and I am once again amazed at the resilience of volunteer program in Malawi that have lasted for 50 years. I believe that the members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, who have restarted the program in its 50th year, will be able to regain what I felt had been lost and carve a new page for the JOCV in Malawi together with Malawians.

KATO Aoi

Batch FY2014-2



Relationship with 1/1897 of Malawi



Tsundere (having a hostile attitude but is also kind on the inside) in every way. Moreover, the timing of the "dere (becoming kind)" is unpredictable and always anticlimactic. Perhaps that is why I am tossed around but continue to be fascinated.

I will refrain from talking about "tsun (turn away in disgust or anger)" episodes because it would turn into a terrifying number if I started talking about them. I still remember what my counterpart (CP) said to me toward the end of my activities. "It's important for them to be able to think and act on their own, rather than us telling them

what to do, isn't it?" The CP and I were usually arguing about this and that. Thinking back, I had never verbally communicated the above matter to my CP. It was the greatest verbal gift that made me realize, in an overly self-conscious way, that she had absorbed what I wanted to say the most, and that she was "dere."

Two years after the term of my assignment ended, I revisited Malawi and the place of my assignment. It was as if the blank period had never existed, and what had been vague in my mind became clear, and I strongly felt that Malawi was my second home. I was also at the mercy of tsundere during this short stay, but I have omitted those episodes as

Coincidentally, I had several opportunities to develop friendships with Malawians in other countries where I stayed after my term ended. My heart leapt at the thought that perhaps Malawi would follow me no matter where I went.

Malawi is a country of warm-hearted people where 1,897 different stories have been created so far. I hope that many more wonderful stories will be created, and that the ring will continue to expand.



NAKAMURA Take

Batch FY2015-1



Thinking about the Scenery of My Place of Assignment.

By participating in the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, I was able to observe the lives of the people of Malawi on a long-term basis. That was a very gratifying experience, and I'm glad that I was dispatched to Malawi. As I walked around my place of assignment, people called my name, saying, "Take-Bo Bo!?" During lunch time, they would invite me, saying "Karibu." The only side dish is leafy vegetables with a little bit of sauce consisting of tomatoes and onions cooked with salt and oil, but they treat you to a lot of nsima that you can hardly consume. Such cheerfulness is very dazzling.

According to the information I received prior to my assignment, Malawi is the "poorest country in the world." In Malawi, where I actually lived, there certainly was nothing that looked expensive. In the village, children play cheerfully, wearing the same tattered clothes every day. Even at the school, what they have there are just blackboards and chalks. As one of my colleagues used to say, "There is no money, no tools, nothing at all." When I brought my PC to places where I conducted my activities, the teachers there eagerly came to see it. To the locals, modern conveniences must have seemed like a dazzling sight. I regret my own lack of ability, thinking that I wish I could have conducted activities that were more appealing

than computers and cameras.

On the other hand, it appeared to me that Malawian people led a robust and cool lifestyle. My colleague tilled the earth with a single hoe and was self-sufficient. Despite a tight budget, he kept himself well-groomed at work, and even let his relatives' children live with him at home. I felt that this is what it means to have an emotional leeway.

The kindness of the people shines through in Malawi. I think this radiance is different in strength and direction from that emitted by modern conveniences. During my term of service, a national stadium and a large mall appeared in the capital city. If you look only at that aspect, it is the same as what is found in developed countries. It gives off a strong light. For Malawians, it may be a ray of hope for modernization. But where and what will that light illuminate?

There are so many people leading their own lives in Malawi, and by living with them during the time that I conducted my activities there, I began to see them shine brilliantly. I became very fond of the everyday scenery of Malawi. I hope that the lives of the people of Malawi will improve along with the assistance of JICA and the activities of JOCV members. At the same time, I felt that I would like the scenery I saw to continue forever.



2017, "Amayi (mother) drying pumpkin sprouts in the sun"

HAMANAKA Sakiko

Batch FY2015-1





Classroom scene at a primary school

I conducted activities as a JOCV member working at Kasungu District Hospital as a nutritionist since July 2015. During my dispatch, I expanded my activities to nearby public primary schools, not just working at the hospital. At a nearby primary school, we held a hands-on class related to cooking and nutrition as part of a 6th grade subject called "Science and Technology." The classes ranged from cooking science such as "Boiling" and "Steaming" to dissection of chickens with regard to the topic of how living things work and making jam with regard to the topic of food preservation, as well as many other practical activities in cooperation with the local primary school teachers.

I tried to do what I could, but I ended my term as a JOCV member with a feeling of regret: "Wasn't there something more I could have done?" Therefore, when I left Malawi, I made up my mind, telling myself, "Next time, I will come back to Malawi for work, not for travel."

After returning to Japan, I worked at a nutritionist training school and then entered a graduate school of public health. Upon graduation, I started working at the ISAPH Malawi Office, a non-profit organization, from April 2020. Currently, I am working on a project to improve nutrition in the Manyamula area in the southern part of Mzimba District.

In this project, the experience of the JOCV is most utilized in the introduction of recipes that use crops newly introduced through the project and ingredients that are



Hands-on cooking lesson at time I was a JOCV member

available in Malawi but are not commonly eaten. We do not teach the same recipes that are available in Japan, but rather we think about how it is possible to cook with the ingredients and utensils that are available in the villages in Malawi, and create recipe instruction materials.

Initially, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we worked remotely between Japan and Malawi for about a year. I believe that the reason I was able to do this work even under such circumstances was because of my experience of living and working in Malawi during my time with the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

And in April 2021, I was able to come back to Malawi after almost four years.

With the widespread use of smartphones, I felt that the internet environment has changed drastically in some aspects, but when there are irregular cutting off of the water supply and power outages as usual, I am thinking

that there are some things that have not changed. Meanwhile, I am spending my second time in Malawi.

Lastly, congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi.

I think that what is captivating about the dispatch of JOCV to Malawi above all is the attractiveness of Malawi itself, but I also think that the interaction between JOCV members is also one of the attractive aspects.

I have interacted with many JOCV members dispatched to Malawi from before my dispatch to the present. Before my dispatch to Malawi, I was given information about the country; during my dispatch there, we shared our happiness, joy, and hardships; and after I returned to Japan, I became the one to tell about Malawi to the people who will be dispatched in the near future.

I hope that the exchanges between the JOCV members will continue in the future along with the JOCV program.

Teaching materials at time I was a JOCV member



Current teaching materials (editing a video)



* At the time I was a JOCV member, I created teaching materials through trial and error. We wrote illustrations and sentences on the blackboard and used construction paper as teaching materials. At the moment, the educational materials I am in charge of are mainly videos. Some of them contain illustrations of the 6 food groups, and I insert my own illustrations of dishes and ingredients into the videos. When I compare them to the teaching materials I used when I was a JOCV member. I find that although the format has changed, the essential aspects may not have changed much.

GWEBU Miho

(Maiden Name: Okabe) Batch FY2015-2



I passed the first screening for JICA volunteers, which I had not expected, and went to Tokyo for the second screening. Since I had not expected to pass the second round, I ran a marathon around the Imperial Palace after previewing the venue to make sure I would not have any regrets. Perhaps because of this, I was not particularly nervous during the actual interview the next day, and the interview turned out to be full of laughter. My daringness and ability to take action are my strengths.

After my time at the training center, where I struggled a lot with English conversation, I finally went to Malawi.

Malawi is the country where I was sent as a JICA volunteer. I actually didn't know where the country was, but after actually going there and living there, I was able to learn about the wonderfulness of Malawi, which boasts of being the "Warm Heart of Africa." It was just like the Japanese movie "Sunset on Third Street."

The actual activities that I have been involved in are as follows:

5S activities

As a JOCV member working as a nurse, I intervened in 5S activities to communicate visible inventory control, and worked with all other members to keep everything in order. By conducting tests before and after lectures, we also verified the effectiveness of the lectures themselves. In addition, I was also able to deepen my learning by accompanying experts on their rounds of providing guidance at various hospitals, and I was also able to conduct 5S activities on trips to other hospitals.



5S activities in OVOP (One Village One Product Project) at the request of an expert

After lectures, we organized things at factories and conducted unannounced regular guidance visits. We still keep in touch with each other from time to time.



Helping a soccer team to rehabilitate boys and lecturing on

Since I was a member of a soccer team at a hospital where I worked in my hometown in Ehime, I called on my friends to collect and donate soccer uniforms and balls that were no longer needed. I also gave a lecture on moral education, which was the basis for Japan's recovery from the devastation of war, and conducted trash pickup activities with the children. They still contact me from time to time.



Lecturing on oral care at other hospitals using my experience as a nurse

Accompanying other JOCV members on HIV prevention instruction tours of villages, visiting AIDS patients and providing advice as a

We attempted to extract aromatic essential oils using locally available materials.



Donation of wheelchairs

All of the wheelchairs used at Mzuzu Central Hospital had no tires, and there were only those with malfunctioning brakes. Wishing that they would be used with care, we created a checklist for the wheelchairs, explained it to the wheelchair distribution department, and attached the checklist to each wheelchair donated.



I cooperated in a senior member's activity, "Creating a Booklet for Job Hunting," and distributed the completed booklets to teachers we know at two high schools, so that they could use them as a reference for their students' job hunting activities.



I encountered many difficulties, but I feel that I was able to accomplish my goals with the warm support of the people at the JICA office and the people I met in the field. There is still much to be done, but I am deeply grateful to have felt the kindness of so many people and to have met so many of them.

I have been fascinated by baobab oil since I first encountered it in Malawi in 2015, and with a lot of good relations built over the course of my time there, I am getting ready to introduce it to the world as an OEM product.

I intend to give back to Malawi what I have gained in any way I can even if only slightly.

Malawi is so fascinating that people who have stepped on Malawi's soil are said to come back again, and I can't wait to go back to Malawi.

SHIMIZU Ryosuke

Batch FY2016-1



Upon Starting a Business in Malawi

For two years, starting in July 2016, I worked as a Community Development JOCV member in Mchinji District in central Malawi, where I provided advice and held workshops for small business groups on business and savings to help them increase their incomes.

After my two-year term expired, I returned to Malawi and started my own printing and graphic design company. The reason is that during my tenure as a JOCV member, I was fascinated by the warmth and cheerfulness of the Malawian people, and that strengthened my desire to continue my involvement in Malawi. I decided to open a printing and graphic design store when an expert involved

in the OVOP project, who had helped me, introduced me to someone who had been a JOCV member working as a designer in Malawi.

Starting a business in Malawi and employing Malawians meant that I had to make a good profit every month and pay salaries to my employees. It has not always been smooth sailing, partly due to the effects of the spread of COVID-19 infections, but we have been thinking about what we can do under the given circumstances, taking action, and leading an exciting and enjoyable life. Last year, we started publishing a travel magazine and a business magazine as quarterly publications. We do everything ourselves, from interviewing, to designing and printing.



With members of the sunflower oil production group

The most rewarding part of starting a business is seeing firsthand the growth of the Malawian staff that I employ. All of the designers that I currently employ have been able to win awards in design competitions within Malawi. There is still a lack of understanding in Malawi regarding the importance of design in business and how design can change the effectiveness of attracting customers and sales. There is also a persistent belief that design should be

provided free of charge. It will take time, but I intend to continue to do what I can to contribute to the economy of Malawi through design and printing, one step at a time.



Business workshop for soy milk production groups



With staff members at the print shop

TANAKA Hisakazu

Batch FY2017-1



My place of assignment was at Lilongwe TTC (Teachers Training College), located in the suburbs of the capital city, where I was to be in charge of lectures on arithmetic education and expressive arts education. I had thought that I would be able to make good use of my nine years of experience as an elementary school teacher in Japan, but after visiting the primary school there, I realized that I was wrong. What I saw there was a classroom crowded with more than 200 children. Not all of them had notebooks or pens. The foundation was much too different from that in Japan.

It was at a primary school education meeting where JOCV members of the primary school, TDC (Teacher Development Center), and TTC (Teacher Training College) gathered to exchange information. I presented a video of a "Jump Rope Song" that I made with the students of a jump rope club that I started as an extracurricular activity. When other members listened to the song, they shouted out, "What is this?" "Can you make a song about multiplication? The students are all stumped on multiplication, so when there is a problem involving multiplication in the upper grades, we cannot proceed with class lessons at all." As a result of this comment, the "Multiplication Song" was born. We JOCV members

wrote the lyrics and asked the Malawian students to compose the music. Eleven public and private primary schools, Lilongwe TTC, the Japanese Embassy in Malawi, and the Ministry of Education and Science in Malawi cooperated in the filming of the music video. Despite frequent power outages, the project was miraculously completed during my term. At the schools where JOCV members were assigned and the "Multiplication Song" was used, results appeared. The average score on a multiplication test for seventh graders rose from 45 to 71 in one month. The upbeat rhythm of the music was perfect for the music-loving Malawian children. I wanted to deliver the "Multiplication Song" to as many Malawians as possible. I visited TV stations, radio stations, newspapers, the Internet and other media outlets to conduct walk-in sales to publicize the song. There were many people at these places where they told us about their good memories with JOCV members, saying, "I used to be taught science at school" and "I have good memories of going out for dinner after work." They played the song repeatedly on TV and radio. It goes without saying that the reason why the "Multiplication Song" has reached so many Malawians is because of the trust that has been built up by my predecessors.



Appearing in a multiplication multiplication song members Photo left: JOCV member Kurita (2017-1) Photo right: JOCV member Hiramatsu (2017-1) Two Malawians: Students from Lilongwe TTC

(Left: VIC in charge of rap, Right: Hamjee in

charge of melody writing)

Location: Lilongwe TTC-Affiliated Primary

School ground

Filming date: February 2019





Memories of JOCV and Messages from Malawians

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Principal Secretary for Department of Human Resources Management and Development, Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC)

Blessings Chilabade

Speech Delivered by the Secretary for Human Resource Management and Development At the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) 50th Anniversary Celebrations on 19th November, 2021

Your Excellency, Mr. Satoshi Iwakiri, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi and Madam Etsuko Iwakiri

Mr. Kazuhiro Tambara, Chief Resident Representative, JICA Malawi

Your Excellencies

Senior Government Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Mr. Zanga – Zanga Chikhosi, I am delighted to be with you this evening to celebrate the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) 50th Anniversary.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Government of Malawi acknowledges the dedication and hard work of Japanese volunteers to this country and does not take their work for granted. These volunteers leave their comfortable homes in Japan to work in very remote areas of Malawi. This is indeed a noble task and a great honor to us.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, the work of JOCV's can never go unnoticed. Their work is not only appreciated by the Government of Malawi, but also by the communities they serve and individuals they work with. Our communities and schools are great examples of how innovative and creative the Japanese volunteers can be resulting in more learners being attracted to school since the volunteers make the learning process fun and enjoyable.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, apart from their exceptional skills and abilities, JOCV's in Malawi are also well-known for their eagerness to integrate with the local communities and learning our local languages so quickly. Some are even given local names in the course of their work. Examples of such names include "Nya Jere" or "Abiti Jailosi". This shows how sociable and dedicated JOCV's are.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, JOCV's are usually in the country for a maximum of two years. It is however interesting to note that some volunteers who left the country still follow up on the various projects and

programs that they initiated. Others even sacrifice their personal resources just to ensure that the programs they were implementing are being sustained. This is an indication that JOCV's do not only serve but create long lasting bonds and relationships with the people they work with. Like one French Journalist and poet one said ".... no friendship can cross the path of our destiny without leaving some mark on it forever"

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great privilege to be part of this significant milestone of service to Malawi. It is evident that JOCV's 50 years of service have not been in vain as it has greatly impacted our communities and the Nation at large. The JOCV's are indeed our partners in development.

Finally, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me assure you that the Government of Malawi will continue to provide the necessary support to the Japanese volunteers and we are looking forward to a continued good working relationship. Also we are grateful for the training programmes that the Japanese Government offers to Malawians in various areas. The Malawi Government looks forward to continued cooperations.

With these few remarks, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me wish you all wonderful celebrations. Thank you.



Commissioner, Malawi Electroral Commission (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation)

Francis Kasaila

I had an opportunity to be taught by two JICA volunteer teachers in 1984 and in 1985 when I was studying at Nsanje Secondary School. I joined Form 1 at the secondary school in 1984 and that time, there were two JICA volunteer teachers who were teaching Mathematics and Physical Science.

I have good memories having been taught by these two Japanese teachers who came to Malawi from very far away in Japan and English was not their mother language but they were so determined to share their mathematics and science knowledge to us. These teachers developed ways and means of passing their knowledge in English, which was a foreign language to them. This gave me an impression that these people had interest and passion to share knowledge to others.

The two JICA volunteer teachers who taught me in secondary school greatly impacted my life. Coming from a rural background, growing up in Tengani, Nsanje and attending a day secondary school in the same area, mathematics and science were not the subjects that one would opt for since these were regarded to be very difficult subjects. Therefore, somebody had to develop my interest in those subjects. I developed that interest from the two Japanese volunteer teachers who taught the subject in an interesting manner that made the subjects to appear easier. The interest that I developed had an impact in the results of my Malawi Schools Certificate of Education (MSCE) in which I passed well in these subjects and later on studied engineering at the university. It is mandatory to pass well in Mathematics and Science in order to study engineering. It was not easy to study in a day secondary school and taking a challenge to study engineering. All this happened because I was determined to pass well in these subjects resulting from the interest I developed from these two JICA volunteer teachers.

My hope is that the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program will continue to grow in Malawi and more volunteers will be sent to the country, particularly targeting rural communities that have limited services that are provided by the Government of Malawi. During my days at the secondary school, Malawi had a few qualified teachers and JICA volunteers came to bridge the gap. It is my hope that going forward, the JOCV program will continue targeting services in the rural communities. Now that we have a good number of educated young Malawians who have attained Malawi Schools Certificate of Education (MSCE) and at the same time, Japan, being a country with a lot of technical skills, my wish is that this program will bring in qualified and skilled technicians who will assist in teaching high skilled expertise that include welding, metal fabrication, building and carpentry of higher quality. These are the skills that Malawi requires to allow the educated youth to stand on their own, for them to create opportunities for other youth and deal with high unemployment rate in the country. As JICA Malawi is celebrating 50 years of the JOCV program, it is high time that we thank all those that came to Malawi to volunteer their time and skills for the betterment of Malawians and its economy. For those that are planning to come to Malawi, welcome to the "Warm heart of Africa". Please come and enjoy your stay and interaction with Malawians. Finally, I would like to congratulate JICA Malawi Office for the work they have been doing in the country for the past 50 years. I wish them well and hope that they will do more towards the betterment of the country. Mr. Kasaila who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and

International Cooperation met his two former JOCV teachers in Japan for the first time after almost 40 years in 2019.





Left: Mr. Nishioka former Ambassador of Japan to Malawi

Program Manager IMCI Unit, Ministry of Health

Humphreys Nsona



"Simply put, the volunteer support program has been very useful due to among other factors the following reasons, which I have observed while working with some of the in the health sector; On productivity; they demonstrated superior technical ability and produced exceptional quality work. They took time to fully understand the scope of their assignment and displayed a keen attention to detail which was accompanied with effective time management.

On communication, the volunteers displayed improved communication skills over the period of working with local members of staff and community, It was interesting to see exchange of knowledge using local language of Tumbuka and Chichewa.

On engagement: Having worked together in aspects of Health I have been impressed on how the volunteer program and especially those I closely worked with their level of demonstrated experience and displays of high level of institutional knowledge.

About the quality of work, the volunteers committed to producing work that met Ministry of Health expectations and high standards. They always aimed at improving the quality of deliverables and often reaching out to staff members in the facilities and community members for advice and guidance. They frequently went above and beyond in their efforts to ensure consistency and generate appropriate outcomes according to Ministry of Health expectations. They also actively sought feedback and used it to enhance performance in their assignments.

There was very minimal requirement of supervision because the volunteers built and maintained their duties in-addition to a show of a good working relationship with members of health facility and community.

This has been a success, I look forward to continuous performance support and collaboration and cooperation from the Volunteer program"

National Coordinator, OVOP

Jacinta Chipendo

The year 2021 has been so memorable to the Malawi Government, the Japanese Government, especially JICA and more so to the Value Addition section of the Ministry of Industry which was then called the One Village One (OVOP) Programme Secretariat. The OVOP Programme took off in 2003 in Malawi and made strides in all corners of the country economically empowering the rural communities through Value adding technologies that the Government of Malawi in collaboration with JICA provided.

The programme's impact and huge strides cannot be celebrated without mentioning the many selfless Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) who helped to pass-on the much needed expertise and skills to local Malawians in order for the OVOP movement to take shape. Since the Programme's inception in 2003 and the subsequent rolling out of the JICA-OVOP Projects, the OVOP secretariat has seen a number of JOCVs working under it. Some of the notable faces that have graced the Secretariat are; Namiko Shiroma (Design), Takumi Higashi (Design), Masahiro Hayama (Design), Kiyomi Ito (Design), Sho Iwashita (design), Wakako Sato (Marketing), Rie Nagashima (Marketing), Terasaki Kazuo (QC), and Miki Kasano (Food Processing).

Although it is practially impossible to quantify the numerous works and expertise that the aforesaid JOVCs renderd to the OVOP Programme, the JOCVs that worked in the Marketing Section and specifically those in Designing, still have a soft spot in the hearts of most OVOP Cooperative members. They have always been regarded as simply amazing and so professional in their work. The uniqueness in the designing section was easy to notice as this was then still a relatively new industry in Malawi and more so for local entrepreneurs. It was traditional for most Cooperative members and groups to pack their final products without proper labels and poor packaging containers. However, with the coming in and engagement of the JOCVs, there was a complete mindset change and Cooperatives now embraced packaging as a major component in their Marketing Strategies. The JOCV Designers' precision in cutting labels and fitting them on packaging containers is one major skill that has been imparted to local entrepreneurs especially Cooperative members who were closely working with them.

Previously, most Cooperatives did not pay attention to detail on how labels were fit on the packaging containers rendering them an eye sore to consumers and consequently losing out on sales. However, with the precision that was being underscored by the JOCVs, product presentation was greatly enhanced and subsequent sales peaked.

The skills and knowledge sharing was not in any way a one-way thing as the JOCVs also learnt a thing or two from their Malawian counterparts with whom the closely worked with. Most of the volunteers who worked under the OVOP Programme had to adapt to the work conditions in Malawi which are relatively not as good compared to Japan. Malawi is a country not so blessed with unlimited financial resources. It then follows that working with limited financial resources is one of the many challenges the JOCVs had to overcome while working in Malawi. It is our sincere hope that those that did their JOCV work in Malawi should be able to work in almost any difficult working environment. Secondly, most JOCVs mastered the local languages of Chichewa and Tumbuka which enabled them to blend in well with Cooperative members. It is again our hope that they will be the country's Ambassadors as they continue speaking our dear languages so that our country is recognised globally.

It is the Malawi Government's expectation that the JOCV programme will continue as it has greatly benefited many Malawians in numerous ways. May God Bless Japan, May God Bless Malawi!

LONG LIVE JOCV



Some of the JOCV that have helped mould OVOP Cooperatives.

President, KENDO Association of Malawi

Austin Somba

I would like to congratulate JICA for the 50th anniversary of the JOCV program in Malawi. As a Malawian, I am so happy to be associated with the activities that the Japanese Government has been implementing in Malawi through JICA. I have fond memories and experience living with the Japanese community in Malawi, particularly those who serve in the country as volunteers. I am also very happy that during the volunteer's stay in Malawi, I have been able to learn new things that they have introduced to the country. These include cultural exchange programs and in particular, the Japanese traditional martial arts called Kendo which originated by the Samurai warriors. In Malawi, Kendo was introduced almost 30 years ago. As a country, this is a good development and a positive contribution as we share one world since people are able to exchange different cultures and in that way Malawians assimilate and appreciate Japanese sports.

Through JICA, we have been able to receive technical support resulting from the fruits of the good relationship between Japan and Malawi. In particular, Malawian Kendo players have participated in international competitions and events such as trade fairs. We have been able to demonstrate Kendo at an international trade bazar in Lilongwe and at cultural ceremonies around Blantyre and a lot of Malawians have appreciated to see what actually happens in Japan. This has been made possible because of the good relationship between the Malawian boys and girls who play Kendo and the Japanese volunteers who served in Malawi for a few years but left a mark amongst the Malawians.

Kendo is not just a sport as we consider it in Malawi but it is



something that encourages the spirit of discipline. Malawian Kendo players are well disciplined, which is a positive contribution to Malawian societies. I am happy to notice that the Japanese brought a new culture to Malawi. As a new sport, Kendo is becoming popular in Africa. Malawi is one of a few countries that are practicing Kendo in Africa and is one of the best performers of Kendo in the continent. Every year, Malawi participates in international Kendo tournaments. On the international scene, Malawi has been able to participate in some international Kendo seminars that were held in Japan. This has been made possible through the support of the Japanese friends, Embassy of Japan in Malawi and JICA.

As JICA is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the JOCV program, I am happy to recognise their support for the development of Kendo in Malawi and linking Malawians and the Japanese. As a sporting activity that is just developing, we are easily able to get support from the people of Japan and all the time, Japan has been there to support us. As a leader of Kendo Association of Malawi, I am happy that most Japanese that left to Japan have been able to get in touch with Malawians through social media and they have been able to sustain their friendships. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the JOCV program in Malawi, I wish JICA the very best in their operations as they continue supporting the needy countries around the world.

Mzimba South District Education Office

Mighty Kayoyo

I am writing this article very happy and delighted to be one identified by JICA Malawi to have worked with JICA Volunteers for a long time. I am writing this as an attribute of services of JICA volunteers in Malawi.

First of all let me register my first experience with JICA which is dated way back in 1983/84 at Mzimba Secondary School with my JICA Mathematics teacher by the name Goro Tanaka. Goro Tanaka taught me Mathematics and my fellow classmates at that time to the stage were are now. By the way, I am a teacher trainer now a career which I emulated from him. Goro Tanaka came to Mzimba Secondary schools with his fellow volunteer by the name Michiwo Kudo. Kudo was a Physical Science teacher. Goro Tanaka was a good and experienced Mathematics teacher from 1983 to 1984.I still pay him an attribute because he produce a teacher trainer like me. Praise is to him.

The second experience with a JICA Volunteer was the one I worked with as a fellow teacher at Emfeni CDSS by the name Murase. This one came to the school while I was a Headteacher from Euthini Secondary School where he first worked for one year. He was another a good Mathematics teacher. He was teaching form one and three in

2005/2006. He is remembered for organizing a gathering of all JICA Volunteers in Malawi who converged at Emfeni for sporting activities in 2006.

Another experience with a JICA Volunteer was with Mrs Nelvin a wife of British Ambassador who was working with Japan International Cooperation Agency in 2016 to 2019. She introduced the feeding programme to learners at Kazomba F.P School. In this programme learners of the school were fed with brown rice from Japan. I was working with her as a coordinator of the programme for the district. In carrying all the above activities she could bring in JICA volunteers who were working in nutrition activities.

Two years down the line I have been working with some JICA volunteers at Kaphuta F.P. School in our district. One of such teachers is on the photo. This one is still teaching at Kaphuta F.P. School up to now

All in all I could proudly say these JICA volunteers have done tremendous work in Malawi and other African countries in Education sector especially in the teaching of Science subjects in Malawi. I and her at Education Office Mzimba South.



Monkey Bay TDC

Rose Mithi Majonanga

Monkey Bay Teachers Development Centre is one of the recipient organizations of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers program in the field of Primary Education and Youth Activities Planning and Management. Since the first volunteer, Yui Sato, was dispatched, the institution staff, zonal teachers, learners, and the surrounding community members have been benefiting a lot.

Before the extension of the program to Monkey Bay, some teachers were having problems in imparting knowledge to learners during Expressive Arts lessons. Some topics in Expressive Arts were being skipped due to limited skills. As such performance of learners in Expressive Arts during national exams was not impressive. Some youth activities after classes were poorly planned and implemented as such children's interest in out- school- activities was declining. When JICA started dispatching volunteers through the JOCV program, things have improved as far as planning and managing youth activities is concerned. Teachers are assisted and can teach topics that were previously being skipped such as Music, Sewing, Knitting, and Drawing. The learners performance in national exams has improved from 48% in 2014 to 79% in 2020. This is achieved through team teaching where volunteers teach together with class teachers. Yui Sato was the first JOCV at Monkey Bay TDC (2015-2017) and she conducted several activities in almost all the schools across the zone including equipping staff at the TDC with office management skills. In the following pictures, Yui Sato is carrying out different assignments with teachers and learners.



Yui Sato, posing with learners at Marine Demonstration school after an Expressive Arts lesson

One of the most important things which JOCVs encourage is that early childhood skills development is vital for individuals to live a successful life. Using the local environment skillfully makes the community develop and members benefit a lot.



Yui Sato, explaining to teachers their roles during Undokai









- Ayaka Hashimoto succeeded Yui Sato in 2018 and she also conducted a series of activities aiming at equipping teachers and learners with various skills and producing various items that may be important in daily life using the resources that are readily available in their communities. One of the items that she, together with learners at Zambo Primary School produced, are mosaic boards as shown below. The JOCV (Ayaka Hashimoto) posing with TDC staff in the TDC hall behind mosaic boards
- 2 Takane Terakado is new volunteer at Monkey Bay TDC and she arrived in August 2021. Takane has also embarked on the projects which were initiated by Ayaka.
- 3 The very same trash we see in our environment every day can be used to make different useful items that can transform our lives. Door mats is just one of those items that can be made from old plastic bags as shown in the picture.
- 4 A teacher from Zambo School, Monkey Bay zone demonstrating how to sew during Wakuwaku festival at Dedza TDC
 - Unfortunately, due to Corona Virus Disease, Ayaka left for Japan before the end of her stated time and some of her projects were not completed.

Mkwichi Secondary School Computer teacher

Dasiano Mapanje

Japan and Malawi maintaining a good relationship through JOCV program.

We would like to congratulate the Japan Overseas Corporation Volunteers (JOCV) Program in Malawi on its 50th anniversary. Our school has benefitted a lot on this program.

To begin with some of the buildings at Mkwichi Secondary School were built with Official Development Assistance from Japan, which include administration block (head teacher's office, Deputy Head teacher's office, Bursar's office, Reception, Library, stores) classroom blocks (forms 2,3 and 4) and assembly hall etc. Thanks to this, the school is now able to accept a large number of students and conduct a number of assemblies, meetings and school based Insets in the hall.

A part from that, our school welcomed its first Japanese volunteer in 2016 by the name Yui Araki. The picture below show Yui Araki working together with Kusinyala during a physics class.

Then after Yui, Kodai Ishikawa came but left before finishing his two years due to Covid-19 pandemic, and then we now have Mari Takeuchi, who is now a third volunteer to come to our school.

Mari teaches computer studies and we are expecting to be with her for two years. The picture below shows Mari and Mapanje working together in helping students in a computer laboratory..

All volunteers have been working with the Science department teachers.

They are hardworking, cooperative and exemplary in helping students and even work with fellow teachers as shown in both pictures.

Our expectations is that Japan will continue sending volunteers to our school as they have been doing which in turn will help to maintain a good relationship between Japan and Malawi.

We wish them all the best.







KAPIRINKHONDE BUSINESS COMPUTERS Accounting and Data Processing Consultants Accounting & Business Consultant

Mwangi Mwamkenenge Msukwa

Vote of thanks for 50 years of service by the JOCV program in Malawi

I wish to profoundly thank the Japanese Government through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program as we celebrate 50 years anniversary of a very successful progress in Malawi. This celebration could not come at a better time than this one. I have always been looking for a way how I can show my gratitude to the JOCV but didn't know. The public display today at the Lilongwe Game Shopping Complex did it!

I am one of the beneficiaries of the JOCV Program as a student. When I was selected to Chitipa Secondary School in 1981, we had 2 Japanese male teachers. These were Y. OTAKE and TSUYOSHI ODASHIMA. Y. Otake was from Yamagata. They came in the same year when I started form 1 up to 1983, the year I sat for Junior Certificate of Education examinations. Both were Mathematics and Science teachers. They taught in all the classes, forms 1 to 4. We also had 2 British and 1 Scottish under the VSO umbrella who were equally good. This rekindles my fond memories with the Japanese, 40 years ago!

What struck me most about those 2 teachers was their humbleness and dedication to work. Honestly, it is a big sacrifice to work in the deep remote areas when you are from a city. Chitipa is the last district, far north of Malawi. During that time, traveling to Chitipa was a big problem due to lack of public transport, compounded by the hilly, winding and dusty roads. Your children went all the way. They lived a poor man's life, ate with us, slept with us and played with us! It is now that I am a grown up person when I realize that those teachers had a calling to serve the poor communities. I do not take it for granted.

It is because of Y. Otake and Tsuyoshi Odashima that I mastered Mathematics and Physical Science. No wonder along my career path I became a very good Accountant and Business Computing Professional. Currently I am self-employed as an Accounting and Business Consultant after working in the Public Service, Non-Governmental Organi-



zations, Certified Public Accountants, Consultancy Companies and Colleges in various capacities relating to Computing, Administration and Finance Management.

In the same vein, I wish to thank all Japanese Volunteers in their different programs. JICA – JOCV impact in Malawi is highly felt and no one can pretend to be ignorant about it. If there's a way I can contribute for the betterment of Japan activities in Malawi, I offer myself for the cause. I have travelled all over Malawi and can speak all languages of Malawi except Lhomwe. Besides Accounting and Computing qualifications, I have the Training of Trainers Certificate (TOT) which enables me to train others General Accounting, Computerized Accounting and Corporate Management/Governance.

Through this article, please consider me to be part of the main event day during the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. I plan to visit JICA Malawi Office to learn more on your programs. If you want to experience true love and compassion, work with the Japanese.

Thank you very much for your attention. May God bless you and your country Japan.

Moses Chavula

Working with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program

Introduction

The author of this article worked in Mzimba South, one of the 6 districts in the northern region of Malawi between November 2014 and December 2015. He is currently working in Kasungu a district in the central region of Malawi. Kasungu and Mzimba districts share boundaries. During this time, the JOCV Program had deployed a number of volunteers in Mzimba District both at the district hospital and in some peripheral health facilities, like Luwerezi, Edingeni, Manyamula and Jenda.

In the process of their work, the volunteers identified health information documentation as one of the big problems among health workers safe keeping of health data at home. The volunteers then teamed up and engaged this author to come up with a project aimed at improving documentation and proper keeping of maternal and child health data. The

team came up with an improved growth monitoring chart to replace the one in use currently. The improved chart was piloted in Mzimba South and results of the pilot finally presented to the Ministry of Health through the Ministry's technical working group.

Experience with the Volunteers

The most memorable experience with the volunteers was the attendance of 2 international conferences on maternal and child health handbook. The conferences were held in Yaoundé, Cameroon (September 2015) and Tokyo, Japan (November 2016). The aim of these conferences was to share experience on how countries were progressing on the introduction, use and management of the MCH Handbook. Successes, challenges as well as plans for scaling up were also shared and discussed. This author made a poster presentation during both conferences.



From left to right; Kiyohito Kimura (Mr Jere) JOCV, Moses Chavula and Asami Satoh (Nyaphiri) JOCV at the conference at Yaoundé International Conference Centre in Yaoundé, Cameroon



From left to right: Kaori Ikebe (Nyagondwe) JOCV, Humphreys Nsona National IMCI Program Manager MOH, Moses Chavula and Izumi Kasai (Nyakasai) JOCV at the conference at United Nations University in Tokvo, Japan

Changes Observed while Working with the Volunteers Working with the community requires considerable commitment from the community itself. To ensure community commitment extension workers work with community volunteers who are selected from the general community by community leaders like traditional leaders. It is important to keep these selected individuals active for a community programme to yield positive results. These community volunteers are used to be given monetary incentives to keep them active. However, the JOCV Program discouraged the monetary incentives. During community volunteers meetings or orientations, they were provided with actual food for lunch, rather than lunch allowances.

Lessons Learnt from Working with JOC Volunteers

The major lesson the author of this article learnt while working with the Japanese volunteers was the way they build rapport between themselves and the community they are working in. The volunteers both male and female related very well with community members to the extent of acquiring local names by which they were called by the community. There were names like Nyagondwe, Nyaphiri, Nyamithi (for females) and Jere (for males). The community members became so excited and free to call a foreigner by the local name. Some volunteers could modify their actual name to sound local like Nyakasai.

The volunteers also easily partook in preparation and eating of local foods especially the common staple food for Malawians, nsima. The volunteers also tried their best to dress like the local community particularly the ladies who donned a wrapper (chitenje) onto their dress or skirt just like the local woman.

The Japanese volunteers too learnt something from the author. The author is from one of the tribes of the northern Malawi and was very instrumental in assisting the volunteers understand some of the cultural beliefs which would affect the performance of their job. One of such is the way you show respect to those in authority in the community. **Expectation on JOCV Program**

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program is supporting a lot of initiatives through the expertise of the Japanese volunteers. It is expected that the program should have a strategy of ensuring that whatever is initiated by the volunteers is not only supported when the volunteers are present in Malawi, but also followed up to its expected conclusion. The case in point is the improved growth monitoring chart in the child health passport. An improved chart was introduced in Mzimba as a pilot with an aim of possible extension of its use to the rest of the districts. It has not yet been rolled out.

Project Coordinator -Agricultural Infrastructure and Youth in Agribusiness Dedza District Irrigration Office

Sangwani Khosa

Strong Heart, Open Mind, Great Ambition: Masahisa Sugano If you were asked, who is Masahisa Sugano what would you say?

Arriving in Malawi in 2010, he was posted straight to Dedza District Irrigation Office under Lilongwe Irrigation Services Division (LISD) in the Department of Irrigation (DoI) - Masahisa Sugano! Dedza is one of the districts in the Central Region of Malawi. He worked in the district for

Strong heart? When Masahisa started working in Dedza District he, probably, had to adjust to the new environment and culture. Masahisa happily shared office space of 4m by 4m with six irrigation officers and used a motorcycle to travel long distances to the remote irrigation sites. He did quite a lot in engineering surveys, construction supervision and organising irrigation farmers. He was not afraid to eat any local foods provided by the farmers and at local restaurants. He enjoyed the staple food nsima with dried small fish (usipa), okra, dried vegetables (mfutso). After easting, he could wash the food down his throat with the local maize drink called thobwa. No wonder he earned the name -Ambewe from the locals!. Masahisa also enjoyed watching the traditional dance gule wa mkulu which he encountered on the way to the field and in villages surrounding the irrigation schemes.

An open mind? Yes! Dedza Irrigation Officers taught Masahisa how to ride a motorcycle which was an effective mode of transport at the time. The officers also shared their skills in community mobilization and how to develop small scale irrigation schemes. Likewise, Masahisa shared skills in designing irrigation schemes; monitoring scheme operation and maintenance of schemes and flood control using fascine mattresses. His personal attributes of time management and hard work were induced in the workmates.

Great ambition? After working for some time in Dedza, Masahisa noticed that the office had three major challenges - limited survey equipment, unavailability of motor vehicle and some technical capacity gaps in the irrigation officers. With no survey equipment, the district had to borrow from LISD and the equipment was also shared with two other districts; Lilongwe and Ntcheu. This made planning difficult and also resulted in a backlog of work. Due to lack

of a motor vehicle, it was challenging for the office to conduct irrigation activities for instance; working in teams, travelling during the rainy season and transportation of construction materials. He, therefore, facilitated donations from JICA through Miyagi Prefectural Government to the Malawi Government. The donations included several survey equipment for the three districts irrigation offices; Dedza, Lilongwe, Ntcheu and at the LISD office and a donation of a motor vehicle to Dedza irrigation office. To build the capacity of LISD staff, Masahisa facilitated the construction of irrigation infrastructure irrigating 20 hectares of Nyangawira irrigation scheme, construction of the fascine mattress in Golomoti and staff training programs in Japan through JICA and Miyagi Prefecture. He also facilitated provision of survey equipment to the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Masahisa is all of the above. He is a strong heart, this helped him to quickly adjust to the new environment. Working with Masahisa was easy and pleasant because he is an open mind. Masahisa delivered; his ambitions were great. Eversince he left Malawi, he has been the strongest bridge of partnership between the Department of Irrigation in Malawi, on one hand; and, the Miyagi Prefectural Government and Miyagi University, of the other hand. This is just a fraction of what we could say if asked - Who is Masahisa Sugano?



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Vanessa Chidyaonga



50th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers commemoration - Memorable Moments with Saki San a Volunteer who worked with Lilongwe Water Board

What was your memorable experience with the volunteer? To say that I have one memorable moment with Saki Yoshinaga will not be enough. I have a lot of amazing memories with Saki, both socially and professionally. One of my favorites was when she learnt the Chichewa word for Insect (Tizilombo). She tried to use it even when she didn't need to and that very funny to watch.

I remember our excitement and relief when we successfully organized the bamboo planting along Kamuzu Dam 1, with the community, Lilongwe Water Board young water professionals, students from Bishop Mackenzie and Likuni Boys What Changes did you observe as a result of working with the volunteer?

I tend to use Japanese mannerism, for example bowing. More open minded

More passion driven and commitment to work

What have you learned from the volunteer, what have you taught to the volunteer?

I would like to believe that we both benefited from working with each other. I recently was asked to make a ribbon for an event the Minister was to attended. I made 2 of them and thanks to Saki, she is the one that taught me how to make one. We used to make a lot for the Madzi club. She believed it was easy to compel children through our artistic side Saki taught me to be dedicated and love what I do. She



always reminded me how the job we were doing was not to benefit us, but the future generation and therefore had to do it as if the whole of Lilongwe Water Board was relying on us to save the future.

I primarily taught Saki the Malawian culture through experience. I felt it was important for her to experience it firsthand therefore, I went with her to the local market for groceries, Kaunjika for clothes, Malawian wedding and parties.

Comment and expectation on the JOCV program if any. The JOCV program is a great initiative, as both the host and the volunteer get to learn from each other. It expands both

individuals' worldview and they become more open minded. A follow up and a reunion for the host and the volunteer.



Saki San and Vanessa Public Relations Office

JICA Volunteers Language Trainer

Austin Assan

I profoundly and sincerely congratulate JICA, as it commemorates 50th Anniversary of its JOCV Program in Malawi.

As a Language Trainer, I have closely worked with JICA Malawi for many years. During this period, I have interacted with many Volunteers, and senior staff, extensively. I have also passionately shared cultural, educational, social and developmental experiences with the volunteers.

Every time I conduct language trainings with volunteers, it lives to be a memorable time in my life and an experience to cherish. I work with them closely, we learn and laugh together, and we move together.

It is pleasing to note that the volunteers and I, have both learnt a lot from each other. One most memorable aspect I have personally learnt, is the hardworking spirit of the Japanese people. I will live to remember this. The volunteers too, on the other hand, have come, and gone back to Japan having experienced that Malawians are kind and cheerful.



I know JICA plays a key role in the development and delivery of our Education systems in Malawi. As a teacher, I look forward to seeing continued working relationship between JICA and Malawi.



JOCV dormitory

Francesco Joseph (Joseph San)

My name is Joseph Francesco, commonly called "Joseph san", I work at the JOCV dormitory at Area 3 in Lilongwe City as a House Keeper/Gardener, and I am also responsible for spot-checking day and night security guards at the dormitory. I joined JICA Malawi Office in December, 2003. I have a lot of good memories from my interaction with JICA Volunteers within the years I have been working at the JOCV dormitory. Generally, I have noted that the volunteers who have been coming to Malawi and who had been staying at the dormitory are loving people and polite. When there is an issue to discuss with them, they approach me in a polite manner and since 2003, I have never had a hot argument with them. During the course of my employment with JICA Malawi Office, I have learnt much from these volunteers. For example, volunteers who work as science teachers taught me a lot through the experiments they conducted, using locally available resources by teaching me that if I mix this specific product with the other one, I would be able to produce another specific product. Volunteers from the health field have always been giving me advice on how I can take good care of my health including good diet. Some volunteers have been offering me family planning tips, asking me not to have a lot of children so that I manage to take good care of the ones that I had.

I also remember the panic volunteers had when there water supply interruption and was an electricity outage at night since they come from a developed country where they have not had these experiences in their homes in Japan. I remember them panicking and calling me from my nearby house for help and I could quickly get out and switch the backup generator on. I also remember some of the volunteers who would scream after seeing a small insect like a cockroach inside the dormitory, asking for my help.

The job I enjoy doing when Iam working at the dormitory is to assist the sick volunteers by preparing the bed at Red Cross Room in the dormitory as I prepare for the sick volunteer to arrive from his or her work station, washing their beddings and clothes as the volunteer is sick. The good feeling comes about when the volunteer is later healed and I could feel that I contributed towards taking care of the sick volunteer until he or she gets well.

Some of the volunteers, particularly when they are returning to Japan after their term in Malawi expires would give me souvenirs that include clothes. That is why sometimes, you see me wearing safety gear written Japanese companies at the back. Some other souvenirs include Ochazuke and Onigiri. Other good memories I have, having interacted with volunteers, is when the newly arrived volunteers start attending chichewa lessons at JICA Malawi Office and in the evening when they go back to the dormitory, they start talking to me in chichewa as a way of practicing to speak the language. At the same time, some volunteers would teach me Japanese language, that is why I have managed to catch a lot of Japanese phrases. Another good memory that comes to my mind is when I was taught how to eat using chopsticks even though I could take a long time to finish my food while eating with chopsticks. Sometimes, as volunteers were about to be dispatched to their work stations, they could ask me to teach them how to make fire using firewood and how to cook nsima.

I must admit that my family, especially my children have a good influence towards the Japanese people and are so fond of them. I remember my eldest daughter when she was young, she could cry after seeing a Japanese but now she is used to seeing and interacting with them. The Japanese volunteers sometimes interact with my wife and children, cooking and eating Malawian and Japanese food together. The challenges I have experienced during my experience at the dormitory, interacting with volunteers is that sometimes there could be delays in fixing faults at the dormitory for example a faulty shower in the bathroom due to procedures taken by JICA Malawi Office and the volunteers would give me pressure to have the job done. Another challenge that I used to experience in the early years of my employment is difficulties to communicate with the volunteers. Most of the volunteers in the early years of my employment were not to conversant in spoken English since that generation had been learning English at high school and they could not fluently speak English. The volunteers that are currently being dispatched to Malawi can now fluently speak English since in Malawi, the language is now being taught from elementary school.

I would like to congratulate JOCV program for clocking 50 years of existence in Malawi. I personally appreciate the positive contributions the program has brought towards different sectors of Malawian societies that include health and education. I expect JICA to continue operations of the JOCV program in Malawi and provide assistance to the citizens of the country different areas development.

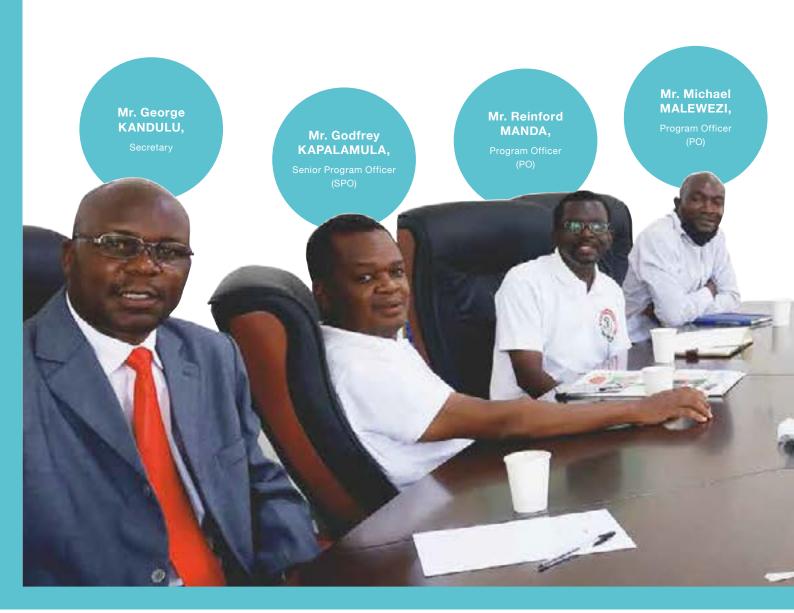




Table talk by JICA Malawi Office National Staff

THE

FACILITATOR: Mr. Nathan MWAFULIRWA Of JOCV in Malawi



How do you rate JOCV in JICA Malawi Office?

[Mmanga-san] JOCV was a very much recognized entity just because it started operating in Malawi before JICA. As such, it was paramount.

[Kapalamula-san | The volunteers were the flag of Japan and people knew Japan through interaction with volunteers.

[Manda-san] Around 2000 to 2006 we used to have a lot of volunteers ranging from 80s to 100s. Blantyre Sub Office was offering much needed support just because majority of volunteers

were in the Southern region, however, JOCV as a program has been very significant in various

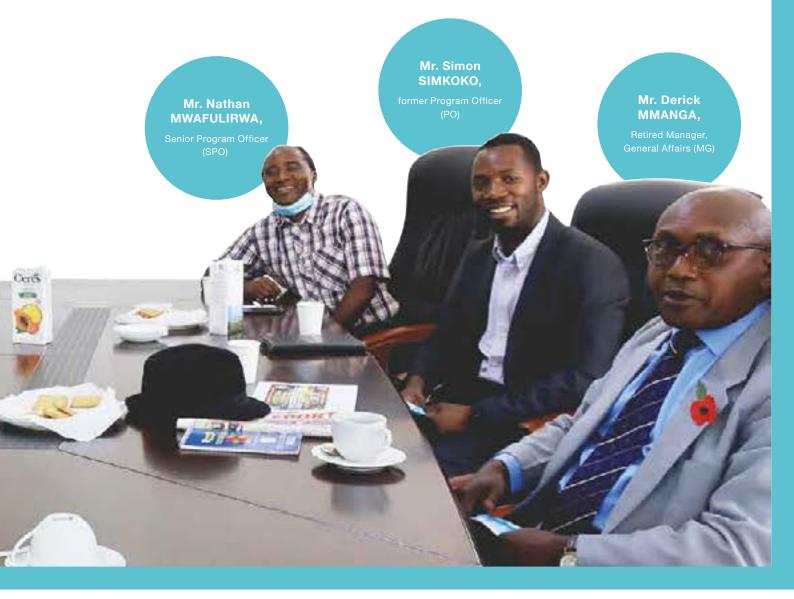
[Simon-san] I want to emphasize the value that volunteers bring to host institutions and communities where they are based. They serve as face of JICA through living with people and interacting with them. The local population know more about Japan through such interactions.

Community participation:

[Mmanga-san] Through the community participation by volunteers, people have known volunteers as government workers and have been working in various sectors like health, engineering, agriculture etc. However, wherever they worked, they blended very well with local communities.

Challenges:

[Manda-san] Regarding the issues of accommodation, as per Exchange of Notes signed between Governments of Malawi and Japan, Malawi Government is supposed to be providing decent accommodation to volunteers. However, over the years, Government of Malawi has failed to honour this pledge of providing





accommodation. The situation is so critical that even Malawians under public service are also affected by failure to have accommodation from Government.

Trends in 70s, 80s and 90s:

[Mwafu-san] Around 1970's, 1980's and 1990's volunteers felt very free to live and stay in rural areas despite availability of social amenities like organized markets, banks and mobile phones. We had volunteers as far as Chitipa. However, in 2020s, the office is limiting where to sent volunteers. As Malawians, we are thankful to those volunteers who worked in rural areas and contributed to the social and economic development of this country.

Memories of JOCVs:

[Mwafu-san] I cited an example of a volunteer with PVHO in Karonga, Mr. Arima. While still a young boy, knew Mr. Arima as a hardworking person and what ever he was doing had an impact to Malawians. This also extends to many Malawians that have benefited from

the service of Japanese volunteers. Two weeks ago, someone told me "I was taught by Japanese mathematics teacher." Many people still remember Japanese teachers. I think JOCV is wonderful program.

[Kapalamula-san | Around 2002 when Malawi Government recognized the JOCV program in a special way. It started with a phone call from one presidential assistant who informed him that the State President wanted to meet all the volunteers. Arrangements were made and on an appointed date, volunteers had an appointment with the State President at Mtunthama State Lodge. It was during this meeting that the State President applauded the role rendered by JOCVs to leave their comfort in Japan and sacrifice to work in Malawi.

[Kandulu-san | One of my good memories is Mr. Kohei Yamada who composed a HIV / AIDS prevention song "Ndimakukonda" which had an impact in Malawi.

[Malewezi-san] I have exciting experience from my wife. While

growing up as a young lady in Chiradzulu, befriended a volunteer by the name of Ms. Yoshiko Sato who was working at St. Joseph Hospital - Nguludi. Ms. Sato could interact with the young girls at a personal level despite her work demands.

[Simon-san] I want to mention its uniqueness of the volunteer program in the way they collaborate. Around 2012 to 2017, volunteers in Mzimba South (Emfeni, Luwerezi, Embangweni, Chamwere implementing phira) HIV/AIDS programs in the area. There was collaboration with counterparts and local communi-

[Mwafu-san] As national staff, we have a Japanese culture in us in the way we conduct ourselves. As such we just say "BRAVO!!" to all volunteers.

[Manda-san] The volunteers worked with the local community by assisting them to get in touch with Japanese Embassy in Nsanama in Machinga. Through grass roots projects, they managed to get support of construction of school blocks and desks. As a result, majority of schools in Machinga wanted to have services of the volunteers.

[Mmanga-san] I am very proud to have been associated with the program and this extends to all national staffs that participates in logistics to enable volunteers work in Malawi. On a sad note, as an office, we have witnessed twelve deaths of volunteers while in service in Malawi and majority are from road accidents.

>>> Mr. Derick MMANGA

Joined JOCV in June 1986 in Blantyre and in 1988, JOCV was -upgraded to JICA Office. He has worked for JICA Malawi for 22 years and finally retired in 2008.

>>> Mr. Nathan MWAFULIRWA

Joined JICA in 1997 in the JOCV Section. He has worked in the JOCV Section for 11 years and in 2008 transferred to Water Sector. Currently, he is managing the General Affairs Section. He has memorable times of working with volunteers during the 11 years.

>>> Mr. Godfrey KAPALAMULA

Joined JICA in April 2000 and was assigned to General Affairs Section. However, barely after three months, he was moved to JOCV where he worked for 4 years, then transferred to General Affairs Section, then moved back to JOCV Section for another two years before finally moving to Programs Division.

>>> Mr. Reinford MANDA

Joined JICA in December 2000 and was based in Blantyre Sub Office. In September 2002, Blantyre Office was closed and meant being transferred to main office in Lilongwe. Through the years, he has worked in the General Affairs Section, Technical Cooperation Section and since 2014, he has been working in JOCV Section.

>>> Mr. Michael MALEWEZI

Joined JICA in February 2011 and through the years, he has worked for Infrastructure Section, later transferred to Training, later to Public Relations and in 2018, transferred to JOCV Section.

>>> Mr. George KANDULU

Joined JICA in 1996 and was stationed in Blantyre Sub Office. Following the closure of Blantyre Sub Office, transferred to Lilongwe where he has served in different sections. In 2017, transferred to JOCV Section where he is enjoying working with coordinators and volunteers.

>>> Mr. Simon SIMKOKO

Joined JICA in March 2010. He worked in the JOCV Section for six years - up to 2017 before resigning from JICA. He has fond memories of working with volunteers during his time.





HIV/AIDS Prevention Awareness -Raising Song

Kohei Yamada (Community Development, Karonga, Batch FY2003-2)

In 2005, Kohei Yamada created an HIV/AIDS prevention awareness-raising song in the local language with a Malawian singer to encourage young people to take voluntary AIDS tests (VCT). Hideyuki Nitta (Audio-visual Equipment, Domasi, Batch FY2004-3) and Junko Ishida (Information Communication Technology, Salima, Batch FY2004-3) helped produce the music video and poster. The enthusiastic collaboration between JOCV members led to the success of Yamada's debut song.

"Ndimakukonda" (meaning "I Love You" in Chichewa) became a national hit, and many Malawians still remember the song.

> 1 Music video produced by Nitta 2 Poster designed by Ishida





Multiplication Song

Hisakazu Tanaka (Primary school education, Lilongwe, Batch FY2017-1)



Please also read the article by Mr. Tanaka. https://youtube.com/watch?v=TMUi-s3f_hk&feature=share



In order to help children who are not good at multiplication to learn it through songs, Hisakazu Tanaka created a song about multiplication in cooperation with his colleagues of the same dispatch team and students. The JOCV members wrote the lyrics, while the Malawian students composed the music. To promote the multiplication song, the JOCV members collaborated with the Ministry of Education to set up experimental schools and produced music videos featuring children from each school. This music video was also broadcast on national television. The JOCV members also tried to introduce it to the educational field by conducting practical classes and collecting data on the increase in scores of tests conducted before and after the introduction of the song. The songs were perfect for the music-loving children, and in the schools where the JOCV members used the multiplication song, the average score on multiplication tests increased significantly, producing positive results.

Science Man

Koji Hase, JOCV senior member Program Officer, Batch FY2005-0, assigned to Domasi Secondary School Teachers Training College

Mr. Koji Hase, produced a popular TV program titled "Science Man" for a national broadcasting company (TV Malawi). Starting in January 2006, Mr. Hase, a science man, made regular appearances on the program every Sunday, clarifying questions such as "Why do airplanes fly?" and the principles of science in an easyto-understand manner and also introducing experiments that can be enjoyed using everyday materials as well as things that are useful in daily life. Many viewers, both children and adults, were enthralled by this new type of enjoyable educational program in Malawi.

The recording was filmed and edited by Malawian staff with the support of Mr. Yutaka Kibukawa (Audio-visual Equipment, Blantyre, Batch FY2005-3) who was dispatched to TV Malawi.

PICO Factory

JOCV members who were science and mathematics teachers



In the 2010s, JOCV members who were science and mathematics teachers worked together to organize a science show called "PICO Factory" during long school vacation periods. In the science show, the JOCV members showed the wonders and fascination of science by conducting various experiments using materials that were easily available locally. PICO Factory was shown at schools and refugee camps in various parts of the country and was very well received.



Group Type Dispatch Revision of Health Passports

In the 2010s, Mzimba District implemented two group-type dispatch programs in the health sector: "Strengthening HIV/AIDS Services (Infectious Disease and AIDS Control)" and "Strengthening Community Health (Public Health)." Here we introduce group activities by the JOCV Public Health Group members from 2015 through 2017.



Group members Batch FY2014-1, Public Health (Luwerezi), Batch FY2014-1, Infectious Disease and AIDS Control (Luwerezi), Batch FY2014-2, Community Development (Edingeni), Batch FY2014-2, Community Development (Jenda), Batch FY2014-3, Public Health (Manyamula), Batch FY2015-2, Public Health (Mzimba), Batch FY2016-1, Community Development (Emfeni), Batch FY2016-3, Public Health (Mzuzu)



Various problems have been pointed out with Malawi's Health Passport (Child Health Handbook; Malawi does not have a maternal and child health handbook, but rather two separate handbooks, one for the mother and one for the child).

While each JOCV member supported the Under-5 Clinic (health checkup for children under 5 years old) at their respective posts, a special health passport is distributed in Malawi to children under five years old, and during health checkups, each child brings his or her own health passport to fill in growth records, immunization history, and other necessary information. However, due to the inadequacy of the growth record entry form, many mistakes have been made when filling out the form, and there were problems such as low birth weight babies not being screened, vaccination not being done at the appropriate time, etc.

Therefore, all group members decided to work together to improve the quality of the Health Passport itself, and through meetings with stakeholders and a baseline survey, a revised growth curve was developed.

In addition to the inadequacies of the health passports themselves, there were also problems with the management of the health passports by the mothers. Many health passports were damaged or defaced by water, oil, children's graffiti, insect infestation, etc. In order to prevent the loss of necessary medical information contained in the health passports, JOCV members created posters for mothers to raise their awareness of retention management and used these posters at their respective workplaces to remind the mothers to be careful when storing the information.

After the preparation of the revised growth curve, training for health workers involved in health checkups, and explanation and approval from the Ministry of Health, a trial of the revised version was started in the southern region of Mzimba District in May 2016.

In July of the same year, two JOCV members of and their counterparts gave a presentation at a meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) under the Ministry of Health. In August, an officer from the Ministry of Health was invited to the activity site in Mzimba to conduct supervision. After an interim evaluation (review meeting) in November, the final survey was conducted in March 2017. The year's efforts were then summarized in a final report, which was submitted to the Ministry of Health in July 2017. In addition, a presentation was given on the results of the trial of the revised version at a meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) under the Ministry of Health, and the effectiveness of the revised version was widely publicized to relevant officials of the Ministry of Health and international organizations, as well as other parties.

In 2019, 50,000 copies of the revised Health Passport (25,000 each for boys and girls) were printed and distributed in Mzimba District. JOCV members assigned to public health at the time worked with the Mzimba South District Hospital and the Mzimba North District Health Department to support the distribution of the passports. It is expected that the revised version will be disseminated throughout Malawi in the future.

* For more information on the activities of the public health group, please also read the article posted by Moses Chavula, then Health Officer at the Mzimba South District Hospital, who was the counterpart of the group-based dispatch members. ▶P.080





Local Government Collaboration

Miyagi Prefecture and Yokohama City Waterworks Bureau

From 2010 through 2020, two local government collaboration projects were carried out by Miyagi Prefecture and Yokohama City.

Miyagi Prefecture

As part of the Miyagi International Cooperation Project, three Miyagi Prefecture technical staff were dispatched to the Dedza District Irrigation Office over a six-year period from 2010 through 2016.

Batch 2010-1 (June 2010 - March 2013): One agricultural civil engineer Batch 2013-1 (July 2013 - September 2014): One agricultural civil engineer Batch 2014-2 (September 2014 - March 2016): One agricultural civil engineer



With the goal of proper installation and management of irrigation facilities in Dedza District, the members of the first batch assisted in (1) preparation of facility management forms for the Bwanje Valley Headworks (*the largest agricultural water intake facility in the country, constructed with Japanese ODA), (2) renovation of irrigation facilities and implementation of supplementary programs, and (3) creation of a database of irrigation facilities in Dedza District.

Members of the second batch assisted in survey work and preparation of documents as part of the regular duties of the assigned site, developed a model site for irrigation facilities, and conducted crop yield surveys in the developed area to verify the effectiveness of irrigation. In addition, the JOCV members instructed the training participants on such matters as how to use surveying instruments.

Members of the third batch assisted in the restoration of a water intake weir in an area where the weir had been breached by heavy rains, and in the extension of a canal to improve crop yields and reduce the burden of maintenance. Following the members of the first batch, they also continued to support the maintenance and management of the Bwanje Valley Headworks, preparing management and inspection charts and providing guidance to farmers. In addition, to prevent scouring of the riverbed during the rainy season, they set up fascine mattresses. A workshop was held with the residents of the target area to promote the use of fascines.

^{*} For more information on the activities of the members of the first batch, please read the article by Sangwani Khosa of the Dedza District Irrigation Office. ▶P.082

Yokohama City Waterworks Bureau

As a follow-up to TICAD IV, the "Yokohama Waterworks Bureau Staff Dispatch Project for Supporting Public Water Supply Services in Malawi" was implemented over a six-year period from 2014 through 2020 as part of the city's ongoing cooperation in the field of waterworks in Africa. During this period, a total of 20 staff members from the Yokohama Waterworks Bureau were dispatched to Blantyre Water Board as short-term volunteers for about one month.

Batch FY2014-9 (Sep. 2014 - Oct. 2014) Three water supply personnel (One JV, two SVs) Batch FY2015-9 (Sep. 2015 - Oct. 2015): Three water supply personnel (One JV, two SVs) Batch FY2016-9 (Oct. 2016 - Nov. 2016): Three water supply personnel (One JV, two SVs) Batch FY2017-9 (Sep. 2017 - Oct. 2017) Four water supply personnel (Two JVs, two SVs) Batch FY2018-9 (Sep. 2018 - Nov. 2018) Four water supply personnel (Three JVs, one SV) Batch FY2019-9 (Jan. 2020 - Feb. 2020) Three civil engineers (Three JVs)

In the three years from 2014 through 2016, the activities focused on proposing ways to improve fee collection, holding on-site waterworks classes, and providing guidance on leak detection. In the second half of the project, the three-year period from 2017 through 2020, the volunteers focused on non-revenue water (water for which fees cannot be collected due to leaks, etc.) countermeasures, construction management, water quality inspections, and public relations activities.



At Blantyre Water Board, there have been many cases of water leaking from water pipes before it reaches citizens because the position and depth of water pipes are often inappropriately buried and construction methods are self-taught and sloppy. For this reason, the volunteers prepared a manual on civil engineering works and fees to support non-revenue water countermeasures.

With regard to on-site waterworks classes, Waterworks Board staff went to primary schools in the city to introduce the water supply business of the Blantyre Water Board through water purification treatment experiments and to raise awareness of the importance of paying water bills. In 2018, volunteers supported the introduction of a forest conservation experiment conducted by Yokohama City to teach the importance of protecting water source forests. The purpose of this experiment was to explain the "water source recharge function of forests," which means that when water is added to a box planted with plants and trees and a box containing only soil, the amount of water flowing out of the box planted with plants and trees is smaller and the turbidity of the water is also smaller. Prior to the dispatch, volunteers made preparations and created equipment for use in the experiments, and actually

conducted experiments with elementary school students at the site.

In 2020, a workshop on fee management and construction management was held for Blantyre Water Board staff to discuss the problems facing the Water Board and how to solve them. In the area of technology, the volunteers proposed that in order to keep records after construction work, photographs should be taken for each situation for managing and storing relevant data.

In addition, in 2018, four dispatched volunteers worked together to hold an event to introduce Japanese culture. The event included a sumo tournament, nininbaori, origami, and kendama balls, and deepened exchanges with the local people. In 2020, an event was held where Japanese food was offered. This event was well received.







"ZIKOMO,"

the official magazine of the JOCV

For the purpose of information sharing, exchange, and promoting friendship among JOCV members, the "ZIKOMO," the official magazine of the JOCV edited by the members was published. Unfortunately, not all the issues have been kept in the JICA Malawi office, so traced the history briefly, although it has turned out to be only to the extent that was found.

Published in May 1973 on a single sheet of A4 paper, handwritten and written vertically. It is indicated that this office was established as "Kasungu District Editorial Office, a modest editorial office with one editor-in-chief, one reporter, and one publisher, with all articles written in-house and by hand."

April 1976: The number of pages increased to about 10 from around issue No. 25. From issue No. 52 onwards, printing on thick color paper started around 1980. The number of pages increased to around 50 from around issue No. 70. November 1984: From issue No. 81, some articles were typed busing word processors. The 100th issue was

published in May 1990.

After the 100th issue, it became more like a magazine, containing more than 100 pages. Some issues were 140 pages long.

The JICA Malawi Office has issues only up to No. 137, issued in September 2004.

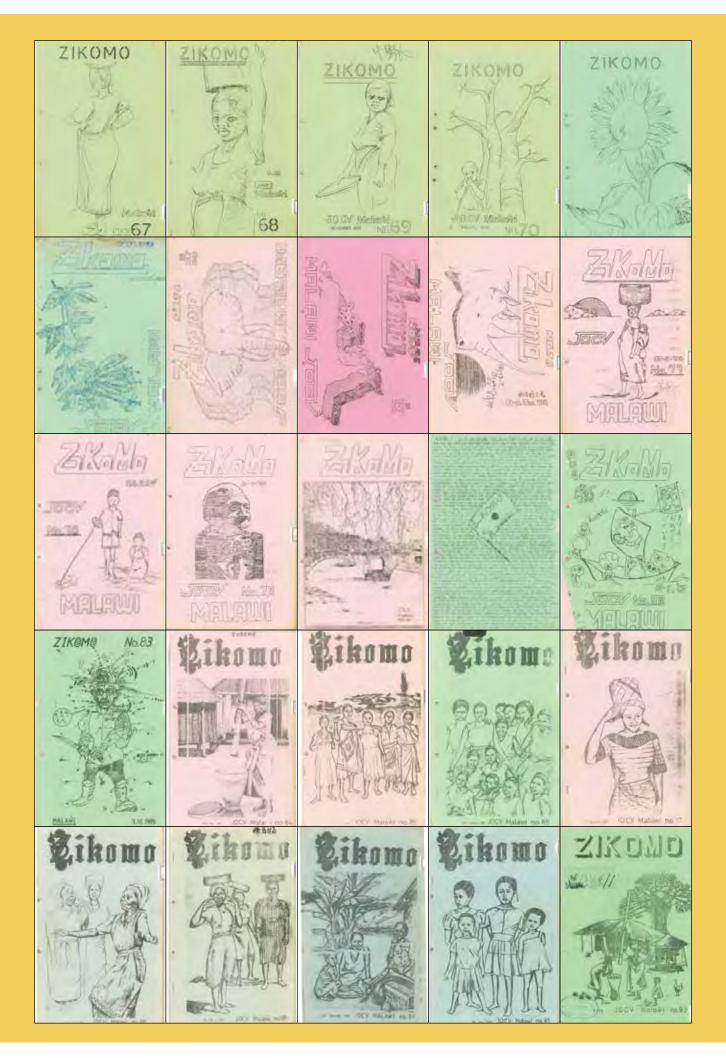
Later, in the 2010s, the magazine became an electronic version titled E-ZIKOMO, turning into a place for information sharing and exchange on the Internet. However, E-ZIKOMO is no longer published now, and information exchange through SNS and other means seems to be the mainstream.

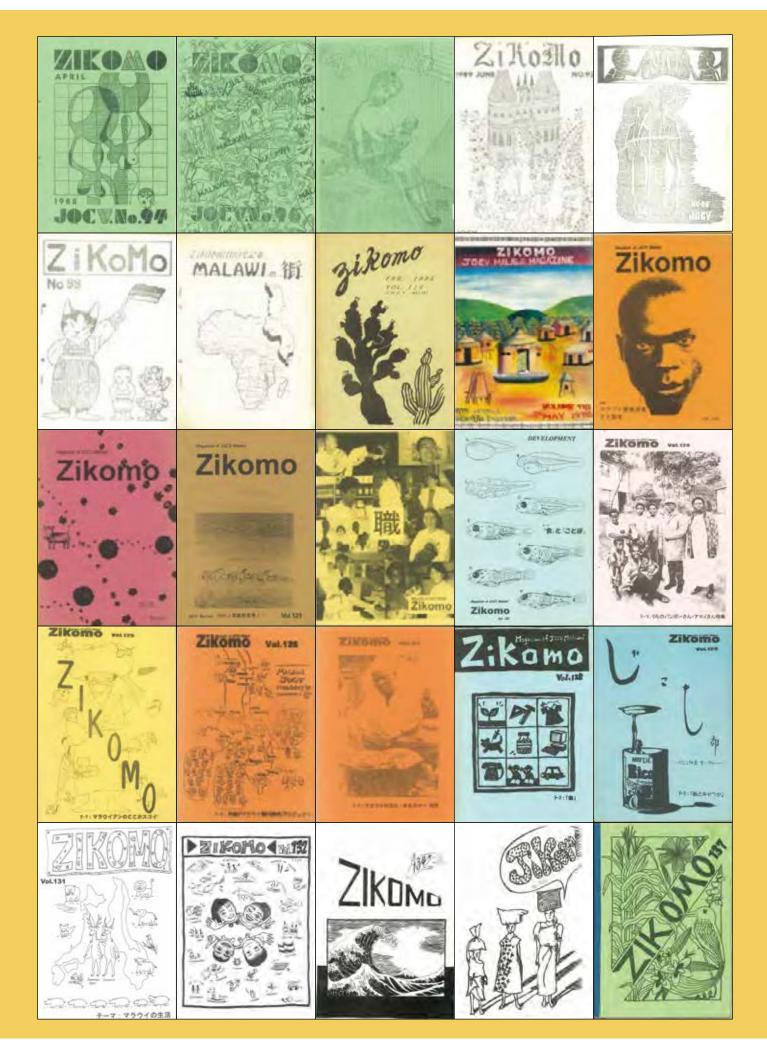






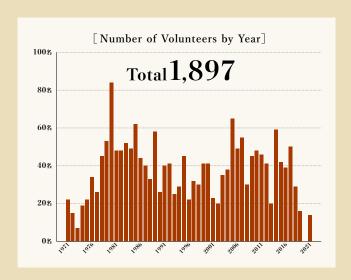






HISTORY

History of the Dispatch of Japan Overseas **Cooperation Volunteers** to Malawi



Six years after the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) was established and dispatched for the first time in 1965, Malawi became the 13th country in the world where JOCV were dispatched, and the fourth country in Sub-Saharan Africa after Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.

The first seven members of the first team dispatched in 1971 included two fishery statisticians, two radio producers, and three surveyors, who arrived in Malawi in August 1971. Since then, as of November 2021, 1,897 personnel (1,091 men and 806 women) have been dispatched to Malawi, making it the world's largest cumulative number of personnel dispatched. Among them, many have been dispatched to the fields of health and medical care, education, and agriculture, with science and mathematics education, nurses, midwives, and public health nurses, and village and community development occupying the top positions.

One of the characteristics of the dispatch of personnel to Malawi is that there many were dispatched in the field of education, especially in the area of science and mathematics. In addition, one of the rare cases in the world is that JOCVs are assigned to one of the international organizations, which is the WFP (United Nations World Food Program), with 10 members having been dispatched so far. In addition, as a notable achievement, a total of seven doctors were dispatched between 1984 and

In terms of chronological characteristics, until the 1980s, most of the dispatches were in the fields of civil engineering and construction, health and sanitation, and education and culture, and most of the dispatches were to the central and southern regions, but since the 1990s, the number of dispatches to the northern regions has increased.

In Malawi, there are a wide range of areas and fields of activities, and many projects and group dispatches have been carried out by multiple members, starting with the giant freshwater prawn farming project in 1974, followed by the Magomero Farm Project and the Lobi District Horticultural Appropriate Technology Extension Project (the only "team deployment" in Malawi).

In addition, cooperation between JICA technical cooperation projects and JOCV teams has been

actively promoted. In the OVOP (One Village One Product) project, members of the team were dispatched to various parts of Malawi to work with small business groups in the community to produce and sell baobab oil products, cooking oil, soap, and other products. In this way, they contributed to improving the income of local residents. In the project to improve hospital operations (5S-KAI-ZEN-TQM extension), the dispatch of personnel to target medical institutions began in 2009, and personnel were successively dispatched to the central hospital in the capital, as well as to county hospitals and affiliated health centers, to support the extension of 5S-KAIZEN and achieve results.

JOCVs have also been active in organizing sectorial group called "Bunkakai" to solve problems and revitalize activities through the sharing and exchanging of information in various fields, such as health and medical care, education, and agriculture, by holding meetings on a regular basis.

One of the main features of the program is that there are a large number of former JOCV members (hereinafter referred to as "OVs") who continue to be involved in Malawi even after their term of service is over. There are many people who have returned to Malawi, and many OVs have worked or are working on projects as JICA experts, NPO and NGO experts, consultants, etc. Some OVs have started their own businesses in Malawi, while other OVs have established nursery schools in Malawi. As such, the list goes on and on. Some OVs were dispatched to the JICA Malawi Office as representatives, medical coordinators (currently health administrators), volunteer coordinators, and project formulation advisors. During the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Ota City in Gunma Prefecture became the host town for the Malawian national team. Two OVs who work as schoolteachers in Ota City (one of them was dispatched to Malawi at the time) had been in contact with each other in Ota City and Malawi and worked together to make this happen. There are also many OVs who keep in touch with their assigned counterparts, staff, and students even though they are in Japan or other parts of the world. OVs continue to support Malawi through businesses such as the sale of Malawian coffee and Chitenje

products and have also started an African bakery cafe where they regularly create and provide opportunities for development education. The Malawi Society of Japan was established in 1983 as an outgrowth and dissolution of the OV Association (Muli Bwanji Group) of returning JOCV members, with the aim of deepening understanding between Japan and Malawi and contributing to mutual prosperity through cooperation in culture, sports, economy, science and technology, etc., with OVs of all ages participating in these activities.

In addition, successive generations of OVs have been remarkably active around the world in various fields. Several of them have received the JICA President's Award for their efforts in international cooperation in their fields of expertise. Many OVs are working at embassies, UN and international organizations (UNHCR, WFP, UNDP, UNV, OECD, etc.), NPOs, and NGOs in various countries in the world. Many OVs are working as expatriates in international companies or starting their own businesses outside of Japan. In Japan, OVs have become university professors, ward assembly members, members of local community development cooperation teams, and the list goes on and on. There are also Malawi OVs among the Health, Labor, and Welfare technical officials and quarantine officers who are dealing with COVID-19 at Narita Airport. There are 1,897 separate episodes where parents and children, or university teachers and students, are both members of the JOVC in Malawi

Ever since the members of the first JOCV were dispatched to Malawi, they have been deployed without interruption, but in March 2020, JOCV members were forced to evacuate and return home due to the spread of COVID-19 infections. Since then, after an interruption of more than a year, dispatches have resumed in June 2021.

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have been working together with local people in various fields in various parts of Malawi to contribute to the development of society. Such accomplishments and their role in promoting friendship between the two countries has been highly evaluated. The dispatch of JOCV to Malawi made a new start this year, building on its 50-year history.

— CHRONOLOGY ————

The main events of Malawi		The n	nain events of JOCV
Malawi became a British Protectorate	1891		
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	1953		
Attained Independence from England on 6 July (Head of State - Queen of England, Prime Minister- Mr. Kamuzu Banda) Government of Japan recognized Malawi (under the Embassy of Japan in Kenya)	1964		
	1965	Start of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program [JOCV program]	
Malawi became a republic under President Kamuzu Banda Single-party system (Malawi Congress Party)	1966		
Establishment of diplomatic ties with	1967		
President Kamuzu Banda became Life president of Malawi	1971	July/ Opening of JOCV Office in Blantyre Aug./ Start of dispatching JOCV to Malawi	Batch 1971-1 (Fisheries Statistics 2, Radio Production 2, Surveying 3)/1971-2 (Architectural Design 2, Road Design 1, Electrical Works 1, Water Supply Works 2, Construction Machinery 2, Automobile Maintenance 4)
	1972	JOCV in Architectural Design (Design Dept. Lilongwe) died through traffic accident on 25 June	1971-3(Soil property Analysis 2, Electrical Works 1)/1972-1(Road Design 4, Surveying 1, Architectural Design 3)/1972-2(Nursing 6, Surveying 1)
	1973		1973-2(Surveying 2)
	1974	Start of Project on Shrimp Aquaculture Start of dispatching JOCVs in Teacher	1973-3(Diesel Vehicle 4, Automobile Maintenance 1)/1974-1(Nursing 2, Vegetable Growing 1, Fresh water Fish Farming 1)/1974-2(Secondary School Teacher 1, Farmland Utilization Engineer 1, Poultry Farming 1, Film Editing 1, Nursing1, Civil Engineer 1)
Relocation of the capital city of Malawi from Zomba to Lilongwe	1975	10th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program [JOCV program]	1974-3(Civil Engineer 2, Automobile Maintenance 2, Radio Communication Technology 2, Secondary School Teacher 2, Nursing 1)/1974-4(Surveying 1, Machinery Maintenance 2, Town Planning 1, Nursing 2)/1975-1(Secondary School Teacher 2, Automobile Maintenance 1, Automobile Electric Equipment 1)/1975-2(Structural Design 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Welding 1, Road Design 1, Radio and TV Repair 1, Mulberry Growing 1, Secretary 1)/1975-3 (Nursing 2, Secondary School Teacher 2, Soil property Analysis 1, Construction Machinery 1)
	1976	JOCV in Midwifery (Mua Mission Hospital) died through traffic accident on 11 July Start of dispatching JOCVs in Agriculture	1975-4(Surveying 2, Nursing 2, Structural Design 1, Secondary School Teacher 3)/1976-1(High School Education 2, Aquaculture 1, Vegetable Growing Horticulture 1, Mulberry Growing 1, Surveying 1, Midwifery 1, Construction Machinery 1)/1976-2 (High School Education 1, Construction Design 1, Conveying and Wireless 1, Midwifery 5, Film Editing 1, Telex 1)
	1977		1976-3(Refrigeration & Air Conditioning 2, Surveying 1, Civil Engineering 2, Automobile Maintenance 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2)/1976-4(Mursing 2, Statistics 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Automobile Maintenance 1)/1977-1 (Poultry Farming 1, Nursing 2, Civil Engineering 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 2)/1977-2 (Water and Sewerage 1, Architecture 1, Chemical Products 1, Automobile Maintenance 1)
	1978		1977-3(Automobile Maintenance 3, Civil Design 1, Surveying 2, Plumbing 1, Home Arts 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)/1977-4(Refrigeration 1, Construction Machinery 1, Marine Engines 1, Civil Design 1, Nursing 4, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Carpentry 1)/1978-1(Horticultural Crop 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Surveying 1, Nursing 3, Secretary 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2)/1978-2(Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Telex 1, Surveying 1, Architecture 1, Nursing 5, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3)
	1979	Start of dispatching JOCVs in Laboratory Technology and System Engineer JOCV in Construction Machinery (PV.H.O. Mangochi) died of Malaria on 1 July Start of Project on Carp Aquaculture and Rainbow trout Aquaculture	1978-3 (Poultry Farming 1, Electronic Apparatus 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Architecture 1, Nursing 3, Pharmacy 1, Film 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2)/1978-4 (Refrigeration 1, Construction Machinery 2, Automobile Maintenance 3, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Civil Design 2, Architecture 2, Midwifery 2, Laboratory Technology 1, Pharmacy 1)/1979-1(Refrigeration 1, Nursing 2, Statistics 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3)/1979-2 (Animal Husbandry 1, Electronic Apparatus 1, Automobile Maintenance 2, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Civil Design 1, Nursing 1, Laboratory Technology 2, Pharmacy 2, Programmer 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2)/Senior JOCV (Welding 1)
	1980		1979-3(Automobile Maintenance 3, Marine Engines 1, Poultry Farming 1, Midwifery 1, Nutrition 1, Architecture 1, Surveying 1, Soil property Analysis 1, Aquaculture 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 4, Dress Making 1)/1979-4 (Civil Design 1, Construction Machinery 1, Refiregation 1, Electric Apparatus 1, Public Health Nursing 2, Punsing 1, Plumbing 2, Surveying 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Secretary 1, Museology 1, Occupational Therapy 1, Medical exam X-ray Technology 1)/1980-1/Science and Mathematics Teacher 5, Construction Machinery 1, Tailoring 1, Architecture 1, Surveying 1, Midwifery 1)/1980-2/Painting and Coating 1, Medical exam X-ray Technology 1, Surveying 1, Telex 1, Automobile Maintenance 2, Refrigeration 1, Midwifery 3, Nursing 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)
	1981	Start of dispatching JOCVs in Forest Management	1980-3 (Vegetable Growing I. Agricultural Civil Engineering I. Automobile Maintenance 2, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Civil Design 1, Surveying 1, Architecture 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Nursing 1)/1980-4 (Construction Machinery 1, Automobile Maintenance 5, Surveying 1, Architecture 2, Science and Mathematics Teacher 11, Laboratory Technology 3, Nursing 2, Midwirfery 2, Public Health Nursing 3)/1981-1/Pharmagy 2, Electrical Computer 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Automobile Maintenance 1, Electric Apparatus 1, Construction Machinery 1, Architecture 1, Forest Management 2)/1981-2/Science and Mathematics Teacher 7, Agriculture and Forestry Statistics 1, Electrical Works 1, Civil Engineering Construction 1, Midwifery 2, Programmer 1)
	1982	• Start of dispatching JOCVs in Dentistry	1981-3(Surveying2, Agricultural Civil Engineering3, Machine Tools1, Automobile Maintenance3, Radio Communication Equipment2, Animal Husbandry1, Electrical Works2, Architecture3, Agricultural Civil Engineering1, Telephone exchange Equipment1, Civil Design1, Secretary1, Home Arts1/1981-4(Soil property Analysis1, Plumbing1, Architecture1, Dentistry1, Medical exam X-ray Technology2, Science and Mathematics Teacher4, Laboratory Technology2, Nutrition1, Nursing1, Museology1)/1982-1(Electric Apparatus2, Automobile Maintenance2, Lumber1, Poutry Farming1, Civil Design1, Electrical Works1, Science and Mathematics Teacher2, Marine Engines1, Forest Management1, Surveying1, Public Health Nursing2, Orawing1, Nutrition1/1982-2 (Water and Sewerage Design1, Science and Mathematics Teacher2, Lumber1, Midwifery2, Nursing1)

CHRONOLOGY —

The main events of Malawi		The main events of JOCV	
Opening of the Kamuzu International Airport (Yen Loan)	1983	Commencement of the Plan to Double the number of JOCVs in 3 years [JOCV program]	1982-3 (Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Drawing 1, Automobile Maintenance 2, Dentistry 1, Midwifery 1, Nursing 2, Pharmacy 1)/1982-4 (Dentistry 1, Medical exam X-ray Technolog y2, Civil Design 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Nursing 2, Public Health Nursing 1, Laboratory Technology 2)/1983-1 (Surveying 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 12, Nursing 1, Diblic Health Nursing 1, Midwifery 1)/1983-2 (Construction Machinery 1, Painting and Coating 1, Automobile Maintenance 2, Telex 1, Programmer 1, Pharmacy 1, Midwifery 1)
Registration of Lake Malawi National Park as a UNESCO World	1984	···· Start of dispatching JOCVs in Medicine	1983-3(Automobile Maintenance 3, Surveying 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Agriculture and Forestry Statistics 1, Electrical Works 1, Telephone exchange Equipment 1, Laboratory Technology 2, Nursing 1, Secretary 1, Nurtion 1)1983-4(Medicine 1, Surveying 1, Machine Tools 1, Refrigeration 1, Electrical Works 1)/1984-1(Science and Mathematics Teacher 5, Electronic Computer 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Forest Management 1, Poultry Farming 1, Architecture 1, Construction Machinery 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Medical exam X-ray Technology 1, Public Health Nursing 1, Midwifery 1, Mussology 1)/1984-2(Wolfing 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Architecture 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Medical exam X-ray Technology 1, Home Arts 1)
	1985	20th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program [JOCV program] 5 JOCVs in Electronic Computer (Testing Board Zomba), Public Health Nursing (Zomba General Hospital), Welding (Zomba Training Centre), Architecture (M.o.W.S. Lilongwe), Laboratory Technology (Bilharzia Control Project, Salima), and 1 JOCV of Zambia died through traffic accident in Tanzania on 21 Nov.	1984-3(Dentistry 1, Civil Design 1, Marine Navigation 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Surveying 2, Forest Management 1, Midwifery 8, Pharmacy 2, Laboratory Technology 2) /1985-1(Vegetable Growing 1, Medical Instruments 1, Automobile Maintenance 4, Surveying 2, Electrical Works 2, Forest Management 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Medical exam X-ray Technology 2, Midwifery 5, Laboratory Technology 1, Secretary 1, Nutrition 1, Pharmacy 1)/1985-2(Civil Design 1, Machine Tools 1, Painting and Coating 2, Animal Husbandry 1, System Engineer 1, Automobile Maintenance 4, Marine Engines 1, Telex 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Dentistry 1, Refrigeration 1, Poultry Farming 1, Civil Design 1, Telephone exchange Equipment 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Nutrition 1, Midwifery 2)
	1986	JOCV in Painting and Coating (P.V.H.O. Blantyre) died of Malaria on 1 March JOCV Office shifted to JICA Office on 1 April	1985-2(Dentistry 1)/1985-3(Construction Machinery 1, Automobile Maintenance 2, Medical exam X-ray Technology 1, Soil property Analysis 1, Electronic Computer 1, Electrical Works 2, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Architecture 1, Public Health Nursing 2, Midwifery 2, Animal Husbandry 1, Museology 1)/1986-1(Welding 1, Forest Management 1, Electrical Works 1, Medical exam X-ray Technology 1, Architecture 1, Medicine 1, Fruit Growing 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 2, Water and Sewerage Design 1, Radio Communication Equipment 2, Poutlyr Farming 1)/1986-2 (Automobile Maintenance 1, Surveying 1, Conveying 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Laboratory Jechnology 2, Forest Management 1, Midwifery 2, Home Arts 1, Photography 1, Pharmacy 2, Mining 1, Agriculture and Forestry Statistics 1, Construction Design 1)
	1987	Start of Project at Magomero Farm Start of Project on Mikolongwe Poultry Farming and Animal Husbandry	1986-3 (Medicine 1, Pharmacy 2, Vegetable Growing 1, Laboratory Technology 2, Midwifery 2, Refrigeration 1, System Engineer 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Secretary1, Surveying 1, Leather Craft 1)/1987-1 (Veterinary Medicine 1, Nutrition 1, Water Quality Analysis 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Surveying 1, Architecture Drawing 1, Economics 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Dress Making 1, Midwifery 1)/1987-2 (Automobile Maintenance 3, Pump 1, Electronic Engineering 1, Veterinary Medicine 1, System Engineer 1, Animal Husbandry 2, Physical Therapy 1, Machine Tools 1, Surveying 1, Architecture 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Electronic Apparatus 1)
Large number of refugees flow into Malawi from Mozambique	1988		1987-3 (Public Health Nursing 1, Telephone exchange Equipment 1, Midwifery 2, Museology 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Audio-visual Equipment 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Nutrition 1, Medical exam X-ray Technology 1, Architecture 1, Automobile Maintenance 2, System Engineer 1)/1988-1(Midwifery 7, Architectural Design 1, Pharmacy 2, Electric Apparatus 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Automobile Maintenance 1)
Sep./ Shift to under the Embassy of Japan in Zambia (or in Sep.)	1989	Feb./ JICA Office moved to Lilongwe JOCV in Electric Apparatus (Water Dept. Lilongwe) died through traffic accident on 4 May Start of dispatching JOCV in Physical Education	1988-2(Midwifery 3, Electronic Computer 1, Secretary 1, Film 1, Water Purification Plant Equipment 1, Printing 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Electrical Works 1, Painting and Coating 1, Photography 1, Forest Management 1, Surveying 1, Automobile Maintenance2, Poultry Farming1, Electronic Apparatus1, Electric Apparatus1, Welding11/1988-3(Inventory Management1, Forest Management1, Laboratory Technology 2, Civil Engineering Construction 1, Nutrition 1, System Engineer 1, Pharmary 1, Midwifery 2, Medicine 2, Medical Instruments 1, Public Health Nursing 1, Dentistry 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Physical Education 1, Mining 1/1989-1(Pharmary 1, Civil Design 1, Public Health Nursing 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Midwifery 5, Photography 1, Marine Navigation 1, Dress Making 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Pharmacy 1, Cult Engineering 1, Midwifery 1, System Engineer 1, Machine Tools 1, Water Quality Analysis 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Nutrition1, Surveying 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Laboratory Technology 1
	1990	25th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program JOCV program JOCV in Midwifery (St. Martins Hospital, Malindi) died through airplane accident on 9 July	1989-3(Architecture 1, Telephone exchange Equipment 1, Soil property Analysis 1, Marine Engines 1, Economics 1, Vegetable Growing 1, Architecture Drawing 1, System Engineer 1, Surveying 1, Nutrition 1, Midwifery 1)/1990-1 (Economics 1, Architectural Design 1, Electric Apparatus 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, System Engineer 2, Automobile Maintenance 2, Physical Therapy 1, Pharmacy 1, Animal Husbandry 1)/1990-2(Printing 1, Refrigeration 1, Electrical Works 1, Pump 1, Carpentry 1, Electronic Apparatus 1, Pharmacy 1, Veterinary Medicine 1, Occupational Therapy 1, Laboratory Technology 1)
	1991	Nov./ Ms. Verity Jere, National staff of JICA Malawi Office visit Japan invited by ex-JOCVs	1990-2(Architecture 1)/1990-3(Mining 1, Laboratory Technology 2, Printing1, Animal Husbandry 2, Automobile Maintenance 1, Welding 1)/Senior JOCV(Dentistry 1)/1991-1 (Agriculture and Forestry Statistics 1, Pharmacy 3, Forest Management 1, Vegetable Growing 2, Dentistry 1, Veterinary Medicine 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Handicrafts 1, Dress Making 1)/1991-2(Photography 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Architecture 1, Film Production 1, Fruit Growing 1, Electronic Apparatus 1, Medical Instruments 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Surveying 2, Water Purification Plant Equipment 1, Electrical Works 1, Nutrition 1, Forest Management 1, Public Health Nursing 1, Medicine 1)
Feb./ Opening of the Embassy of Japan in Malawi	1992	Sep./ Mr. Kavalo, Chichewa Language Trainer visit Japan through the Scheme for Young Leaders by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	1991-3(Poultry Farming 1, Dentistry 1, Automobile Maintenance 2, Nutrition 1, Marine Navigation 1, Telephone exchange Equipment 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Machine Tools 1, Ecological Research 1, Laboratory Technology 2, Pharmacy 2, System Engineer 1, Architecture 1, Physical Therapy 1, Water Quality Analysis 1)/1992-1(Electric Apparatus 1, Mining1, Geological Survey 1, Nursing 1, System Engineer 1)/1992-2(Marine Engines 1, Audio-visual Equipment 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Civil Engineering Construction 1, Aquaculture 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Nutrition 1, Pharmacy 5, System Engineer 1, Nursing 2, Laboratory Technology 1)
June/ Shift to Multiparty system by a national referendum, End of Life presidency Oct./ Louis Chimango Minister of Finance visit Japan to participate in TICAD I	1993		1992-3(Welding1, Printing 1, Civil Design 1, Occupational Therapy 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Civil Engineering Construction 1, Machine Tools 1, System Engineer 1, Laboratory Technology 1)/1993-1(Architectural Design 1, Town Planning 1, Forest Management 1, Veterinary Medicine1, Carpentry 1, Dress Making 1)/1993-2(Automobile Sheet Metal Work 1, Electronic Apparatus 1, Ecological Research 1, Pharmacy 4, Dress Making 1, System Engineer 1)

— CHRONOLOGY ————

The main events of Malawi		The mai	n events of JOCV
May/ Presidential and Parliamentary Election, New President Bakili Muluzi Primary School's school fee became free	1994		1993-3(Vegetable Growing 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Animal Husbandry 1, System Engineer 1, Ecological Research 1, Physical Therapy 1, Nutrition 2, Veterinary Medicine 1)/1994-1(Telephone exchange Equipment 1, Physical Therapy 1, Science and Mathematics Techer 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Pharmacy 2, Animal Husbandry 1, Photography 1, Architecture 1, Public Health Nursing 1)/1994-2(Automobile Maintenance 1, Marine Navigation 1, Machine Tools 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Ecological Research 1, Medical Instruments 1, Soils and Fertilizers 1, Physical Therapy 1, Pharmacy 1)
	1995	Jan./ Opening of Nihonmatsu Training Center (for JOCV Pre-dispatch training) [JOCV program] 30th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program [JOCV program]	1994-3(System Engineer 2, Electrical Works 1, Civil Design 1, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Pharmacy 2, Welding 1, Automobile Maintenance 2, Printing 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Dentistry 1, Handicrafts 1)/1995-1(Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Poultry Farming 1, Automobile Maintenance 3, Forest Management 1, Architecture 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Physical Education 1, Electric Apparatus 1, Poultry Farming 1, Pharmacy 1, Nurtion 1, Geological Survey 1, Nursing 1)/Senior JOCV(Vegetable Growing 1)/1995-2(Veteriany Medicine 1, Pharmacy 3, Film Production 1, Ecological Research 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Machine Tools 1, Medicine 1, Fruit Growing 1, Electric Apparatus 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)
	1996		1995-3(Ecological Research 1, Nutrition 2, Occupational Therapy 1, System Engineer 1, Museology 1, Laboratory Technology 2, Pharmacy 1, Dress Making 1, Veterinary Medicine 1)/1996-1(Pharmacy 2, Surveying 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Photography 1)/1996-2(Architecture 1, Physical Therapy 1, Civil Engineering Construction 1)
	1997		Senior JOCV Short-term(Radio Communication Equipment 1, Physical Therapy 1)/1996-3(Vegetable Growing 2, Radio Communication Equipment 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Dentistry 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Welding 1, Pharmacy 2, Animal Husbandry 1, Dress Making 1)/1997-1 (Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Veterinary Medicine 1, Architecture 1, Aquaculture 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Telephone exchange Equipment 1, Physical Therapy 1, Soils and Fertilizers 1, Forest Management 1)/1997-2(Electrical Works 1, Veterinary Medicine 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Pharmacy 4, Nutrition1, Basketball 1)
Oct./ Chilumpha Minister of Finance visit Japan to participate in TICAD II	1998	Start of dispatching JOCVs in Community Development Start of Project on Horticulture in Lobi (1998~ 2006)	1997-3 (Occupational Therapy 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Pharmacy 2, Dress Making 1, Community Development 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Physical Therapy 1, Veterinary Medicine 1)/1998-1 (Radio Communication Equipment 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Electric Apparatus 1, Ecological Research 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Museology 1, Fruit Growing 1, Nutrition 1)/1998-2 (Pharmacy 2, System Engineer 2, Ecological Research 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Geological Survey 1, Veterinary Medicine 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Public Health Nursing 1, Community Development 1)
June/ Presidential and Parliamentary Election, President Bakili Muluzi Re-elected	1999	ex-JOCV (batch 1987-2, Automobile Maintenance) who lived in Lilongwe died of Malaria on 19 May	1998-3(Pharmacy 3, Electric Apparatus 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Surveying 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Soccer 1, Physical Therapy 2, Animal Husbandry 1, System Engineer 1, Handicrafts 1, Marine Navigation 1)/1999-1 (Disease and Pest Control 1, Veterinary Medicine 2, Fruit Growing 1, Solis and Fertilizers 1, Architecture 1, Vegetable Growing 2, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Cultural Anthropology 1)/1999-2 (System Engineer 1, Vegetable Growing 1, Aquaculture 1, Laboratory Technology 2, Pharmacy 1, Soccer 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Physical Therapy 1, Forest Management 1, Tourism 1, Automobile Maintenance 1)
	2000	JOCV in Physical Therapy (Q.E.C.H. Blantyre) died through traffic accident on 28 Jan	1999-3(Automobile Maintenance 2, Physical Therapy 1, Vegetable Growing 1, Pharmacy 4, Laboratory Technology 2, Machine Tools 1, Architecture 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 2)/2000-1(Film Production 1, Occupational Therapy 1, Pharmacy 3, Automobile Maintenance 1)/Senior JOCV(Program Officer 1)/2000-2(Science and Mathematics Teacher 8, Dyeing 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Architecture 2, Handicrafts 1, Aquaculture 1, System Engineer 2, Public Health Nursing 1)
	2001		2000-3(Basketball 1, Mathematics Teacher 1, Pharmacy 1, Mining 1, Rice Culture 1, Ecological Research 1, Physical Therapy 1, Sociology 1)/2001-1 (Vegetable Growing 2, Animal Husbandry 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, System Engineer 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Ecological Research 1, Soils and Fertilizers 1, Fruit Growing 1, Disease and Pest Control 1)/2001-2 (Animal Husbandry 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2)
	2002	Start of dispatching Senior Volunteers (SV) to Malawi (Total of 50 SVs dispatched up to 2018) All JOCVs had an audience with President Bakili Muluzi at Mtunthama State Lodge	Senior JOCV(Program Officer 1)/2001-3(Automobile Maintenance 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)/2002-1(Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Agricultural Culil Engineering 1, Physical Education 1, Veterinary Medicine 1, Ecological Research 1, Vegetable Growing 1, Animal Husbandry 1)/SV(Marine Administration and Training Equipment Maintenance 1, Science and Mathematics Education Advisor 1)/2002-2(Occupational Therapy 1, Pharmacy 1, Aquaculture1, Dress Making 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)
Sep./ President Bakili Muluzi visit Japan to participate in TICAD III	2003	Jan./ Prime Minister Koizumi mentioned about Malawi JOCV Science and Mathematics Teachers in his policy speech	Senior JOCV Short-term(Program Officer 1)/2002-3(Animal Husbandry 2, Architecture 1, Public Health 1, Information Communication Technology 2, Community Development 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Pharmacy 1)/2003-1(Science and Mathematics Teacher 5, Nursing 1, Fruit Growing 1, Information Communication Technology 1)/SV(Solar Power Generation Electrification System Management 1)/Senior JOCV(Animal Husbandry 1)/2003-2 (Community Development 4, Information Communication Technology 2, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Fruit Growing 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Nursing 1)
May/ Presidential and Parliamentary Election, New President Bingu Wa Mutharika	2004	Jan./ JICA Malawi office moved to the present building Start of dispatching JOCVs in HIV/AIDS Control	2003-3(Nursing 3, Poultry Farming 1, Community Development 5, Pharmacy 1, Information Communication Technology 2, Vegetable Growing 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, HIV/AIDS Control 1)/Senior JOCV(Program Officer 2)/2004-1(Physical Education 2, Rice Culture 1, HIV/AIDS Control 1, Nursing 3, Laboratory Technology 1)/Short-term (Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)/2004-2(Rice Culture 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Laboratory Technology 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2)
	2003	40th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program [JOCV program] Start of JOCA Project on Agriculture in Mzimba (2005-2017)*JOCA is Japan Overseas Cooperative Association Oct./ Start of JICA Technical Cooperation Project on One Product One Village (OVOP), including JOCVs in Design, Community Development, and Food Processing in the Project	Senior JOCV Short-term(Program Officer 1)/Short-term(Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)/Backup 4/2004-3(Information Communication Technology 3, Animal Husbandry 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Audio-visual Equipment 1, Nutrition 1, Tourism 1, Public Health 1)/Short-term (Judo 1, Program Officer 1)/Senior JOCV(Program Officer 1)/2005-1(HIV/AIDS Control 3, Automobile Maintenance 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 4, Animal Husbandry 1, Vegetable Growing 1, Fruit Growing 1, Rice Culture 1)/Short-term(Dress Making 1, Animal Husbandry 1)/SV(Solar Power Generation Electrification System Management 1, Carpentry 1)/2005-2 (Science and Mathematics Teacher 5, Nutrition 1, Community Development 3, Youth Activities 3, Vegetable Growing 2, Nursery School Teacher 1, Program Officer 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Dress Making 1)

CHRONOLOGY —

The main events of Malawi		The main	n events of JOCV
Registration of Chongoni Rock-Art as a UNESCO World Heritage March/ President Bingu Wa Mutharika visit Japan	2006	Broadcast TV program entitled "Science Man" by Senior JOCV Mr. Hase Big hit of HIV/AIDS prevention song "Ndimakukonda" by JOCV Mr. Yamada **Please refer to Special Feature 1 for more information	SV Short-term(School Inspector 1)/SV Short-term(Monitoring and Evaluation 1)/2005-3(Information Communication Technology 1, Audio-visual Equipment 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Design 1, Youth Activities 1, Vegetable Growing 2, Pharmacy 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Community Development 1, Fruit Growing 1)/Short-term(Community Development 1)/SV(Information Communication Technology 1, Construction Machinery 2, Agricultural Products Processing Machinery 1)/SV Short-term(Non-Metallic Mineral Resource 1)/2006-1(Community Development 1, HIV/AIDS Control 2, Afforestation 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Fruit Growing 1)/Short-term(Animal Husbandry 2, Automobile Maintenance 1)/2006-0 (Physical Education 3, Nursing 1, HIV/AIDS Control 2, Community Development 4, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Information Communication Technology 2, Pharmacy 1, Youth Activities 1, Home Arts 1, Public Health Nursing 1)/SV(Computer Network 1)
	2007		2006-2(Information Communication Technology 2, Food Crops and Rice Culture 1, HIV/AIDS Control 1, Nursing 2, Youth Activities 1)/Short-term(Laboratory Technology 1, Community Development 1)/SV Short-term(Agricultural and Livestock Processing 1)/2006-3(Information Communication Technology 2, Community Development 3, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Nutrition 1, Carpentry 1)/SV(Quality Control 1, Medical Instruments Maintenance 1)/SV Short-term(Non-Metallic Mineral Resource 1)/2007-1(Primary School Teacher 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Public Health 1, Vegetable Growing 1, Community Development 1, Fruit Growing 1, Information Communication Technology 1, HIV/AIDS Control 3)/Short-term(Program Officer 1, Judo 1)/SV Short-term(Construction Machinery Driving Coach 1)/Cor01, Nutrition 1, Food Crops and Rice Culture 1, Community Development 2, Early Childhood Education 1, Animal Husbandry 1, PC Instructor 1)/Short-term(Program Officer 1)
Opening of the Embassy of Japan in Malawi Jan./ Diplomatic break with Taiwan, Establishment of diplomatic ties with People's Republic of China May/ President Bingu Wa Mutharika and George Chaponda Minister of Foreign Affairs visit Japan to participate in TICAD IV Dec./ Joyce Banda Minister of Foreign Affairs visit Japan	2008	Dec./ Joyce Banda Minister of Foreign Affairs	2007-2-3(Prosthetist 1, Environmental and Sanitary Engineering 1, Vegetable Growing 2, Animal Husbandry 2, Pharmacy 1, Youth Activities 1, Physical Education 1)/SV(Quality Inspection 1)/2007-3-4(Program Officer 1, Animal Husbandry 2, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Youth Activities 1, HIV/AIDS Control 1, Design 1, Community Development 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Food Processing 1)/Short-term(HV/AIDS Control 2)/SV Short-term(VCT Advice 2, Geological Survey 1)/2008-1(Vegetable Growing 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Architecture 1)/Short-term(Program Officer 1)/2008-2(Community Development 1, Ceramics 1, HIV/AIDS Control 1, Community Development 2, HIV/AIDS Control 1)/SV(Agricultural Products Processing Machinery 1)/Short-term (Program Officer 1)
May/ Presidential and Parliamentary Election, President Bingu Wa Mutharika Re-elected	2009	Start of the JOCV Project on HIV/AIDS Control in Mzimba South	2008-3(Animal Husbandry 1, Primary School Teacher 1, Community Development 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Broadcasting Technology and Equipment 1)/SV(Solar Power Generation Electrification System Management 1)/2008-4 (Youth Activities 1, Carpentry 1, Fruit Growing 1, Community Development 2, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)/SV(Construction Machinery Maintenance 1)/2009-1/Community Development 1, Primary School Teacher 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Judo 1)/Short-term(Program Officer 1, Nursing 1)/SV Short-term(Agricultural Products Processing 1)/2009-2(Home Arts 1, HIV/AIDS Control 2, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Nutrition 1, Youth Activities 1)/SV (Medical Instruments Maintenance 1)
July/ Change of the design of the	2010	Dispatch of prefectural government officials of Miyagi prefecture to Dedza District Irrigation Office through Local government partnership scheme (3 JOCVs in Agricultural Civil Engineering were dispatched until 2016)	2009-3(Community Development 2, HIV/AIDS Control 2, Animal Husbandry 1, Youth Activities 1, Design 1, Early Childhood Education 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)/SV Short-term(Water Pollution Prevention 1)/Short-term(Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Community Development 1)/2009-4(Youth Activities 3, HIV/AIDS Control 1, Community Development 3, Nursing 1, Ceramics 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Carpentry 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, PC Instructor 1)/SV(Geological Survey 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, PC Instructor 1)/SV(Geological Survey 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Information Communication Technology 1)/Short-term(Nursing 1, Pharmacy 1, Public Health 1)/2010-1(Environmental Education 1, Pharmacy 1, Vegetable Growing 2, Youth Activities 3, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Community Development 1, Nursing Teacher 1, Nutrition 1, Tourism 1, PC Instructor 1, HIV/AIDS Control 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Public Administration 1)/2010-2(Program Officer 1, Information Communication Technology 1, PC Instructor 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2, Community Development 1, Nursing 1, Speech Therapy 1)/Short-term(Animal Husbandry 1, Public Health 1)
	2011	40th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program in Malawi 40th Anniversary Celebration, hosted by the President of Malawi at the Presidential Palace on 24 Aug.	2010-3(HIV/AIDS Control 2, Food Crops and Rice Culture 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Animal Husbandry 2, Community Development 2, Dress Making 1)/SV(Construction Machinery 1)/2010-4 (Architecture 1, Nutrition 2, Information Communication Technology 1, Community Development 1)/Short-term (Pharmacy 1)/2011-8-1 (Public Health 2, Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, HIV/AIDS Control 1, Community Development 2, Animal Husbandry 1, Primary School Teacher 1)/Short-term(Community) Development 2)/2011-2-8(Physical Education 1, Youth Activities 1, Public Health 2, HIV/AIDS Control 2, Community Development 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Film Production 1, Nutrition 2, Fruit Growing 1, Physical Therapy 1, Program Officer 1)
Apr./ Sudden Death of President Bingu Wa Mutharika Vice President Joyce Banda inuagurated as President of Malawi May/ Design of National Flag back to previous one	2012		2011-3(Community Development 5, HIV/AIDS Control 2, Vegetable Growing 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Youth Activities 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Design 1)/Short-term(Nursing 1)/2011-4(Vegetable Growing 1, Youth Activities 1, Automobile Maintenance 1, Pharmacy 1, Animal Husbandry 1)/2012-1(Pharmacy 1, Vegetable Growing 2, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1, Community Development 4, Youth Activities 3, Public Administration 1, Speech Therapy 1, PC Instructor 1, HIV/AIDS Control 1, Tourism 1, Environmental Education 1, Nutrition 1, Broadcasting Technology and Equipment 1)/2012-2(Science and Mathematics Teacher 3, Public Administration 1, Physical Therapy 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Animal Husbandry 1, PC Instructor 1, Nutrition 1)
May/ President Joyce Banda visit Japan to participate in TICAD V	2013	Mr. Yamada, ex-JOCV sang 『Ndimakukonda』at the President Joyce Banda welcome party by the Malawi Society of Japan on 31 May	2012-3(Speech Therapy 1, Community Development 1, Program Officer 1, Nursing 2, Youth Activities 1, Physical Therapy 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 2)/SV Short-term(Automobile Electric Equipment Maintenance 1)/2012-4(Youth Activities1, Nutrition 2)/2013-1(Nursing 3, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Science and Mathematics Teacher 1)/2013-2(Community Development 2, Science Education 1, Public Health 1, Public Administration 1, Animal Husbandry 1, Infection and HIV/AIDS Control 1, Marketing 1)/Short-term(Community Development 1, Public Health 1)

CHRONOLOGY

The main events of Malawi		The mai	n events of JOCV
May/ Presidential and Parliamentary Election, President Peter Mutharika elected as new President of Malawi	2014	Dispatch of Yokohama city Waterworks Bureau staff member to Blantyre Water Board through Local government partnership scheme (Total of 20 short-term JOCVs and SVs in Water Supply and Civil Engineering were dispatched until 2020)	2013-3(Design 1, Mathematics Education 1)/Short-term(Home Arts and Life Improvement 1)/SV(Quality Management and Productivity Improvement 1)/2014-1 (Youth Activities 2, Public Health 1, Community Development 3, Infection and HIV/AIDS Control 3, Welfare and Education for Persons with Disabilities 1)/SV (Animal Husbandry 1)/SV bort-term(Community Development 1)/Short-term (Judo 1, Public Health 1)/2014-2(Community Development 6, Youth Activities 8, Forestry and Afforestation 1, Agricultural Civil Engineering 1, Vegetable Growing 1, Pharmacy 1, Nutrition 1)/Short-term(Water Supply 1, Information Communication Technology 1)/SV(Groadcasting Technology and Equipment 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Civil Engineering 1)/SV Short-term(Water Supply 2)
	2015	50th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program [JOCV program] Dec./ Ceremony of 50th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program held in Lilongwe	2014-3(Physical Therapy 2, Community Development 9, Youth Activities 1, Public Health 2, Science Education 1, Mathematics Education 2, Information Communication Technology 1, Nursing 1)/2015-1(Nursing 1, Youth Activities 5, Community Development 4, Forestry and Afforestation 1, Nutrition 2)/2015-2(Information Communication Technology 1, Pharmacy 2, Physical Therapy 1, Community Development 2, Nursing 1, Public Health 1, Science Education 1, Youth Activities 1)/Short-term(Water Supply 1)/SV Short-term (Water Supply 2)
Aug / Goodall Gondwe Minister of Finance participate in TICAD VI	2016		2015-3(Science Education 2, Speech Therapy 1, Welfare and Education for Persons with Disabilities 1, Community Development 2, Nursing 1, Physical Therapy 1)/2015-8(Infection and HIV/AIDS Control 3, Community Development 1, Water Quality Analysis 1, PC Instructor 1)/Short-term(Judo 1, Infection and HIV/AIDS Control 1)/2016-[Science Education 2, Community Development 4, Marketing 1, Nursing 2, Pharmacy 1, Primary School Teacher 1)/Short-term(Judo 1)/2016-2(Nursing 2, Youth Activities 2, Nutrition 1, Community Development 1, Speech Therapy 1, Welfare and Education for Persons with Disabilities 1, Vegetable Growing 1)/Short-term(Water Supply 1)/SV Short-term(Water Supply 2)
	2017		2016-3(Physical Therapy 2, Community Development 6, Public Health 1, Primary School Education 1, Nursing 2, Youth Activities 1)/Short-term(Water Supply 2)/SV Short-term(Water Supply 2)/2017-1(Community Development 5, Nutrition 1, Science Education 2, Public Health 3, Primary School Education 8, Infection and HIV/AIDS Control 3, Youth Activities 4)/2017-2(Public Administration 1, Science Education 1, Nutrition 1, Public Health 1, Primary School Education 1, Nursing 1, Youth Activities 2, Infection and HIV/AIDS Control 1, Community Development 1)/Short-term(Judo 1)
	2018	JICA Volunteer program was re-formed, and OWD and SV (Senior Volunteer) integrated into one JOCV [JOCV program]	2017-3(Welfare and Education for Persons with Disabilities 1, Judo 1, Pharmacy 1, PC Instructor 2, Youth Activities 1, Primary School Education 1, Community Development 2)/Short-term(Speech Therapy 1)/2018-1(Physical Therapy 1, Primary School Education 2, Pharmacy 1, Community Development 2, Nursing 2, PC Instructor 1, Nutrition 1, Environmental Education 1, Public Health 1, Infection and HIV/AIDS Control 1, Speech Therapy 1)/Short-term (Water Supply 3)/SV Short-term(Water Supply 1)/2018-2(Primary School Education 3, Science Education 2, PC Instructor 1, Information Communication Technology 2, Hospital Administration Management 1)
May/ Presidential and Parliamentary Election, President Peter Mutharika Re-elected Aug./ Vice President Everton Chimulirenji and 3 Ministers visit Japan to participate in TICAD VII	2019	Aug./ Mr. Francis Kasaila, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation met his two former JOCV teachers in Japan for the first time after almost 40 years Government of Malawi gave Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Kaizuka, the first batch of JOCV	2018-3(Primary School Education 1)/2019-1(Primary School Education 1, Information Communication Technology 1, Welfare and Education for Persons with Disabilities 1)/2019-8(Environmental Education 2, Primary School Education 2, Physical Therapy 1)
Constitutional Court Decision "Result of the Presidential Election in 2019 is Invalid" June/ Rerun Presidential Election, President Lazarus Chakwera elected as new President of Malawi	2020	March/ All JOCVs evacuated to Japan due to COVID 19 pandemic	2019-2(Community Development 1, Primary School Education 2, Information Communication Technology 1, Speech Therapy 1)/Short-term(Civil Engineering 3)
	2021	50th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program in Malawi June/ Re-dispatch of JOCV Nov./ 50th Anniversary Photo Panel exhibition at Shopping mall in Lilongwe 50th Anniversary reception hosted by Embassy of Japan	2019-3(PC Instructor 1, Public Health 1, Pharmacy 1)/2021-1(Primary School Education 6, Science Education 1, Environmental Education 1)/2021-7 (Speech Therapy 1)/2021-2(Physical Therapy 1, Primary School Education 1)

*Written mainly about JOCV in Malawi. The events of general JOCV program are also included and indicated as [JOCV program]. *SV=Senior Volunteer *This chronology is based on the information about history of Malawi and JOCV, and compiled by ex-JOCV of Malawi from his point of view.

Actual Achievement by Sector Total **1,897** Health/ Health Care Public Works/ Social Welfare 513 244 14 27% Utilities Services Human Resources Planning/ 415 209 13 Business/Tourism (Education) Government 22% Mining and Agriculture Forestry/ 207 257 Others 25 Manufacturing Fishery 13% as of 1 Nov. 2021



In 2021, the 50th anniversary year, JICA Malawi Office held the following related events.





50th Anniversary Photo Panel Exhibition

For five days from November 12 to 16, a photo exhibition was held at a large shopping center in the capital city to commemorate the 50th anniversary. At the opening, Mr. Tambara, Chief Representative of JICA Malawi, gave a speech, followed by a congratulatory message from Ms. Rosemary Maleta, Deputy Director, Department of Human Resources Management and Development, Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), and an acknowledgement of the contributions of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) over the past 50 years. Four members of the JOCV also participated in the event, appealing for the resumption of the dispatch of JOCVs, which was temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the exhibition, about 30 photos from the 1970s to 2020 were displayed. In addition to activities in various fields such as health, education, community development, and sports (judo and kendo), group activities

such as Japanese tea ceremonies and athletic meets were also introduced. Many people who came to the shopping center to shop stopped by the exhibition and watched the various activities of the volunteers with great interest. We received many words of appreciation from the visitors, such as "JICA volunteers have done a great job. You are doing a good job. We appreciate it very much." There was also a local staff member of a UN agency and an accountant who remembered the full names of the volunteers, saying that they were taught science, arithmetic, and mathematics by Japanese people (JOCVs) 20 or 30 years ago.

The photo panel exhibition attracted nearly 1,000 visitors over the five-day period, and it was a great opportunity for the general public in Malawi, with whom we usually have little contact, to learn about the activities of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

Reception to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi (hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Malawi)

On November 19, a reception hosted by the Embassy of Japan was held at the Ambassador's residence. It was attended by Mr. Chilabade, Principal Secretary of the Department of Human Resources Management and Development, and Ms. Kwindani, Deputy Director of Finance, from the Office of the President and Cabinet, 11 people from five media (newspapers, TV, and radio), and Mr. Tambara, Chief Representative of JICA Malawi Office, and four volunteer coordinators.

Mr. Chilabade said that the government of Malawi recognizes the dedication and hard work of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and that they are appreciated by the communities where they have worked in and the people they have worked with. During the reception, photo panels were displayed to give the participants an opportunity to see the wide range of activities of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.





[LEFT] (From left) Ambassador Iwakiri, Chief Representative Tambara, and Principal Secretary Chilabade chatting. [UP] Members of the media looking at photo

Online Forum (hosted by the Malawi Society of Japan and co-hosted by JICA Malawi Office) Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi

On November 13th, we held an online forum jointly with the Malawi Society of Japan.

From Malawi, there was a speech by the Chief Representative of JICA Malawi Office, a roundtable discussion by local staff members, and reports from three currently deployed JOCV members. A congratulatory message from the head of the KENDO Association of Malawi and a video of the photo panel exhibition were also recorded and streamed.







[UP] September: Memorial service at the JOCV [LEFT] September: Cleaning of the cenotaph by

Visit to the Cenotaph and Memorial Service for 12 Deceased JOCV Members

May 19 -Mua, Mangochi, and Malindi

Participants: Chief Representative Wada, two VCs, and a NS

Lilongwe and Mchinji June 1 ·

Participants: Senior Representative Sakonju, two VCs, and a NS

Memorial service at the JOCV dormitory June 22 ...

Participants: New Chief Representative Tambara, former Chief Representative Wada, Senior Representative Sakonju, three

members of the Batch FY2019-3, three VCs, and three NSs

Mua, Mangochi, and Malindi July 12 ..

Participants: Three members of Batch FY2019-3, a VC, and a NS

Lilongwe and Mchinji September 9

Participants: Nine members of Batch FY2021-1 & 7, a VC, and a NS

September 15 -Memorial service at the JOCV dormitory

Participants: Three members of the Batch FY2019-3, nine members of Batch FY2021-1 & 7, and four VCs

October 25 ···

Participants: Two members of the Batch FY2021-2, two VCs, and a NS

VC=Volunteer Coordinator, NS=National Staff



)5 Participation in a US Peace Corps Online Event

On May 27th, we participated in an online event held by the US Peace Corps and gave a presentation on JICA's projects in Malawi and the dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to promote the 50th anniversary of the JOCV.

JICA Malawi HP 50th Anniversary Project: "A Piece of Memory"

This is a project in which OVs (former JOCV members) are asked to post their memories of their time in Malawi, going back through the ranks in a relay format, and the memories will be posted for one year starting in April. Please visit the following website for more information.

https://www.jica.go.jp/malawi/english/office/topics/index.html >>>





JOCV Members in Malawi Now

Three volunteers of Batch FY2019-3 who were

of the same year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After more than a year of waiting in Japan, he was

Two volunteers of Batch FY2021-2 were

members are currently engaged in activities.





TAKEUCHI Mari

Batch FY2019-3

PC Instructor, Lilongy Place of assignment: Mkwichi Se



It has been three months since I assumed my post at the place of my assignment. It is located in Lilongwe, the capital city. There are several school buildings built with the support of JICA, and I am the third JOCV member to be accepted here, so the school has a close relationship with JICA. At my place of assignment, I am a member of the science part of the teaching staff and I am currently in charge of a computer class for first-year students.

My first impression of the place of my assignment was that it was a clean and lively school with a large number of teachers and students. The computer lab is running more PCs than I had expected, and many of the 31 PCs currently installed are operational. Consequently, a computer teacher who is my colleague has been conducting classes using the PCs since teaching first-year students. In addition, school staff meetings and communication among staff members are well organized, and most of my colleagues seem to be enthusiastic about education. Meanwhile, there are still some issues regarding the management of the computer lab. Due to the simple structure of the building, dust is constantly falling from the ceiling, and the interior is cluttered with various items, making it difficult to keep the room clean. In addition, it is not uncommon to run out of mice and other equipment needed for classes due to damage or theft of equipment by students. Although there are many issues to be addressed, I would like to work with my colleagues to gradually improve the environment.

NAKANE Naomi

Batch FY2019-3

Public Health, Mzimb Place of assignment: Mzimba South District Hospital



It has been about five months since I arrived in Malawi, and every day has gone by so fast. I am amazed every day by the differences between Japan and Malawi, and I feel that I am having a great experience. When I actually arrived at my new post, there were so many things that I was not used to, and I was very worried about whether I would be able to live here. However, the local people have always cared about me and I have been able to live a fulfilling life. Also, while living in the vast natural environment, the scenery, sunsets, and stars are always beautiful and very inspiring for me. At my place of assignment, I mainly help with such tasks as infant health checkups and vaccination against COVID-19. I have a lot of contact with children who are five years old or younger, as well as their families. The staff members are very cooperative even with a foreigner like me whom they don't know very well. They are always helping me, and I learn a lot from them. Since the local language is used most of the time at my place of assignment and in my daily life, I am struggling, but they always approach me with a smile when there is something that I don't understand. I will continue to put my health and safety first, and hope to be of some help to the local people even if only a little.

NISHIMURA Akiko

Batch FY2019-3



I haven't imagined there has not been running water in our houses in my host place Msundwe village. I have to pump and carry water every day from well, taking shower using bucket water, just hole as a toilet. But therefore, I can have a chance to communicate with local people in local language Chichewa, learned lots of things like how to carry water on a head, how to wash cloths from them. There are several inconvenient things but now I feel lucky to have this kind of life because I can have an opportunity and experience to understand how the life is in Malawi through seeing the same level of eyes as them.

The community hospital in this village is my working place. 2 months has passed since I started work. It's not easy to do what I try to due to COVID-19 but I'm able to speak Chichewa little by little and enjoy working with lovely staffs under good atmosphere. For this coming 2 years, I hope I will be able to do at least one thing, at least just a bit, for the staffs, for the hospital, for the patients through my stay.

OZAKI Hirotsugu

Batch FY2021-1

Primary School Education, Nsaru



It has been two months since I arrived in Malawi. I had a lot of anxiety at first, but as I got to know the cheerful character of the Malawian people and the vast natural environment of Malawi, my anxiety gradually faded away. I am enjoying my days in the peaceful rhythm of "waking up at sunrise and going to bed at sunset."

Kabuthu Primary School, where I am assigned, is a large school with about 1,300 children. The children are cheerful and energetic, and they are very positive about learning. The teachers are passionate about education, and I am always amazed at their enthusiasm. The teachers convey their passionate desire to improve the academic performance of the children and to improve education in Malawi and the future of Malawi. I would like to do my best in my own way to help the children and teachers in Malawi during my one and a half years as a member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.

TANOBE Hirofumi

Batch FY2021-1

Primary School Education, Suza Place of assignment: Suza Primary School



I have been working at Suza Primary School in Kasungu District since September. There are about 1,200 students from grade 1 to grade 8 at Suza Primary School, where I have been assigned. While many students who live in the villages around Suza are able to attend school, there are also many students who drop out due to family reasons or learning delays along the way.

In Malawi, there is a great disparity between cities, while schools, especially in rural areas, lack educational tools and an adequate educational environment. For example, none of the students at Suza Primary School where I work have textbooks. Students use one notebook for all subjects, making it difficult to assign and collect homework. The blackboard is old and hard to write on, and there is also not enough chalk.

In spite of this situation, the children are energetically working hard to learn. I would like to make efforts and devise ways to benefit these students little by little.

YAJIMA Hodaka

Batch FY2021-1

Science Education, Nalikule



The students at my place of assignment are obedient and very willing to do experiments, their eyes sparkling with great interest. The school I have been assigned to was established in 2017, so it is clean and well-equipped. It has a full range of chemicals and equipment, as well as an environment where a full range of experiments can be performed with a little ingenuity. However, the science labs are still poorly managed, with some equipment still in boxes and chemicals left unattended after use. The local teachers conduct basic experiments in class, but it seems that they simply conduct experiments without asking students to think about them. Therefore, our future activities will be to work with local teachers to make improvements including how to manage their science labs and how to create class lessons that focus on

Many Malawians are kind and friendly, so I was able to experience something different from Japan, as they would talk to me openly when I was walking outside, and actively help me when I had problems at school or in stores.

Although there have been difficulties being dispatched at a time of the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to remember to be grateful for the opportunity to work here and to make every effort to work on behalf of those who wanted to come but could not.

ARAI Mariko

Batch FY2021-1

Primary School Education, Mzimba Place of assignment: Kaphuta Primary School



It has been about two months since I started my life in Malawi, which is full of surprises every day. After a year of postponement of my dispatch, I have started my long awaited activities at a primary school where I am living a fulfilling life. I was originally a junior high school teacher in Japan, but the differences between schools in Japan and here are refreshing. Each class has about 70 students, or twice as many as in Japan. In the classroom, there are not enough desks and chairs for everyone, not enough textbooks and notebooks, and the list goes on. However, the way they raise their hands to speak up, the way they share things without any barriers between genders or ages, the way they run around barefoot outside with great energy during break time, etc., I realize that there are many things here that we don't have in Japan. I am so grateful that my fellow teachers and the landlord welcomed me, saying "Most welcome!" I feel the warmth of the Malawian people every day. While learning a lot from the people of Malawi, I intend to look for even one thing I can do to help.

"10CN"

INOUE Rina

Batch FY2021-1



It has been almost two months since I arrived in Malawi. I have gradually gotten used to life in Liwonde, my place of assignment. At St. Therese Primary School, I am involved in teaching arithmetic. The school only has blackboards, chalks, notebooks that the children bring with them, and things to write with (ballpoint pens). Every day I feel that the stories I heard from the senior members are "really true." Not only in school, but also on the streets, children say "Hi RINA" to me when we pass by each other. And they look at me with their wonderful smiling faces. I really feel that no matter where we are, the power of children is infinite.

Liwonde is home to Malawi's largest river, the Shire, and a national park that is just a few minutes' drive away. We took a river cruise and were able to see natural hippos, elephants, and crocodiles in close proximity. The scenery is very beautiful at sunset. I would like to devote myself to my activities, while feeling the goodness of the people of Malawi and the vastness of its natural environment.

GOTO Satsuki

Batch FY2021-1

Environmental Education, Lilongwe Place of assignment: Lilongwe City Council



The first thing I saw on the way to the city after arriving at Kamuzu International Airport was the sight of people burning garbage here and there. Since I started working at the city council, I have visited various waste management facilities. The problems are complex and serious, with material and financial shortages beyond imagination. There were times when I felt helpless, wondering whether I had the power to improve these problems. At that time, one of my colleagues said to me, "Little by little." Somehow, I felt relieved and started to think about myself, so first of all, I started to learn about the current situation in Malawi and its culture. Malawi has a morning tea time, perhaps a remnant of the British colonial era. The daily tea and chatting is a pleasure and an opportunity to get to know the local people. My supervisor is very attentive to my poor English questions, and my colleagues are always concerned about my well-being. While feeling grateful to be able to work in such a blessed environment, I would like to continue working at my own pace.

This photo was taken with the driver of a garbage truck during a cleanup activity.

"10CN"

TAKAHASHI Megumi

Batch FY2021-1

Primary School Education, Nsaru Place of assignment: Kabuthu Teachers Development Centre



It has already been a month since I arrived at my place of assignment in Nsaru. At first, I didn't know my way around, and I felt like I was going to be crushed with anxiety, but I was touched by the kindness and warmth of the people of Nsaru, and I feel the "Warm Heart of Africa" in Malawi with my whole body. At the four primary schools where I work, I am working with the teachers to provide guidance on and improve Expressive Arts instruction. All the schools have wonderful teachers who work very hard for the children. In fact, I have learned a lot more myself. There are many things you can do without textbooks, without desks, without tools, and without classrooms. With the phrase, "Teachers are the greatest educational environment," in mind, I will do what I can with the few resources that are available and do my best to help the children, teachers, and the future of my beloved Malawi!

TERAKADO Takane

Batch FY2021-1

Primary School Education, Monkey Bay Place of assignment: Monkey Bay Teachers Development Centre



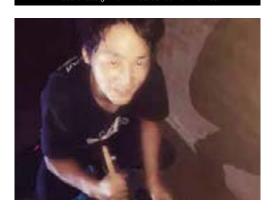
Ever since I was a student, I have longed to work in a developing country to help children. When the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers announced that I had been accepted, I was very happy to find out that the country I would be dispatched to was Malawi, the poorest country in the world, and that I would be assigned to Monkey Bay, where I could enjoy the view of Lake Malawi every day and work with a calm mind.

In addition to the intense heat, we had to contend with mosquitoes and ants, and clean up the leaves, sand, and feces that came in through various cracks. However, other than the heat, I got used to the environment in a few days and am now happily living together in this environment. Also, every evening, as soon as I start to build a fire at the entrance, women from the neighborhood gather and teach me how to make nsima along with the Chichewa. I am now enjoying this moment very much. There are people around me who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are still waiting in Japan, or whose dispatch has been cancelled. As such, I am very happy to have been able to set foot on the ground in Malawi. Remembering to be grateful for all the people involved in this dispatch, I would like to work hard with vigor and enjoyment as I go about my daily activities!

NAKADA Satoshi

Batch FY2021-7

Speech Therapy, Mua Place of assignment: Mua School for the Deaf



Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of Japan Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi.

Currently, my activities are focused on individual language training for students, creating teaching materials, and providing technical support to teachers. Life in Mua has been pleasant and stable, but I am struggling to learn Chichewa and sign language. I was previously dispatched to Malawi as a member of Batch FY2019-2 but returned to Japan due to COVID-19. When my return to Japan was decided and I left my post and headed for the capital, I heard people yelling "Corona! Corona!" at me. I remember feeling scared for the first time since I came to Malawi.

Upon returning to Japan, I at first struggled with my frustration and uncontrollable reality, hoping that I would be able to step on Malawi's soil again. During the waiting period, I felt like a zombie, unable to get anything done because of the state of emergency declared in Japan. After being out of the loop for a while, I finally found it difficult to be re-dispatched, so I changed my mind and started working at a hospital. But in my heart, I was determined to return. I think it was a kind of determination that I did not want to end up in a half-hearted state. And now, thanks to the support of many people, I was able to come back to Malawi. After it was decided that I would be dispatched to Malawi, I was worried about life under the corona pandemic, and especially about the discrimination and prejudice against Asians regarding the corona virus. On the contrary, Malawians welcomed me just as they did before. Whenever someone says "Hello" to me in Japanese, I realized how the previous members dispatched to Malawi conducted their activities, and that inspired me to conduct activities to connect Malawi and Japan.

On the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi, I am grateful to be here as an active JOCV member, and I would like to devote myself to my future activities with the intention of shouldering the thoughts of my colleagues and seniors who were not able to be dispatched again.

SASAKI Yu

Batch FY2021-2

Physical Therapy, Lilongwe Place of assignment: Kamuzu Central Hospital



I just arrived in Malawi in October and was surprised by the heat, which exceeded 30 degrees Celsius every day.

The reason I joined the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) was that while I was working as a physical therapist in Japan, I learned about the current situation in developing countries a few years ago, and I started thinking that I wanted to do something outside of Japan, and wondered whether there was anything I could do, so I applied. Due to COVID-19, we had to postpone our dispatch and change our assignment, but I am happy that we were able to come to Malawi.

My place of assignment was the main hospital in the capital city, with a large site that included many medical departments as well as attached teaching facilities and isolation wards. The hospital accepts many patients from the local community and faraway places and has a large medical staff. Among them, the Physical Therapy Department is located on the second floor and oversees seven sections: Musculoskeletal, Orthopedic, Pediatric, Oncology, Neurology, Burn-related, and Circulatory/Respiratory. The medical staff is divided into various teams, accepting both inpatients and outpatients. My activities mainly consist of treating patients at the central hospital, providing technical guidance to my colleagues, and suggesting ways to improve our work. I have a lot of anxiety about unfamiliar places, foreign languages, food, etc., but I would like to contribute to the local community through activities that are unique to me, and to make various people develop an interest in the current situation in developing countries.

FUNADA Hikari

Batch FY2021-2

Primary School Education, Kabudula Place of assignment: Kabudula Primary School



I was born and raised in Hokkaido, and Malawi is the first time in my life that I have lived outside of Hokkaido. I am excited every day to see how different the climate is from Hokkaido. In Japan, I was very much an indoor person, but in Malawi, I would like to get out and enjoy the rich natural environment.

Before coming to Malawi, I worked at the city office. I'm very nervous because I haven't taught a class since my practical training in education.

At Kabudula Primary School, I will be teaching arithmetic and English. In addition, I hope to take over the activities of the senior members and provide career education.

When I visited Kabudula, my place of assignment, the teachers at the school introduced the village to me in English. I felt the warmth of their hearts as they interpreted my conversations with the villagers. I will try my best to study Chichewa so that I can communicate with the villagers without an interpreter soon.

I know that there is only so much I can do in two years. However, I would like to make every effort to give a positive impact on the future of children.

End Message

The 50th Anniversary of the Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers(JOCV) to Malawi, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported and cooperated with the dispatch of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi and the exchanges between Malawi and Japan. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the publication of this commemorative magazine and to the Malawi Society of Japan for their cooperation in editing.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the OVs and many other people who contributed to the publication of this commemorative magazine. We also received many messages from our counterparts and former students of JOCVs in Malawi. At the photo exhibition held as a commemorative event for the 50th anniversary of the dispatch of the JOCV, there were many occasions when people dropped by to talk about their memories of the JOCV. I think this is a testament to the bonds that have been built by JOCV members, OVs who continue to interact with each other and with their friends in Malawi even after returning home, the families of dispatched volunteers, and everyone who supports the JOCV in various ways.

In the 50 years of the program's history, 12 people have died during their deployment due to traffic accidents and other causes. I would like to offer my heartfelt prayers for their souls. We will never forget the tragedy and will take all possible measures to ensure that it will never be repeated.

In June this year, the JOCV program in Malawi took a new step forward after being suspended due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It has brought about major changes in the way we collaborate and communicate with people, and I believe it has had a variety of impacts on the society and people of Malawi, where we do our work. In the world of with/post Corona, it would be a great challenge to realize core mission of JOCV, working and growing together with the local people on the ground. I am looking forward to working together with the newly dispatched volunteers through trial and error.

I would like to ask for your continued guidance and encouragement.



Chief Representative of JICA Malawi Office





In Lieu of an Editorial Note

Fifty years of history built up by successive JOCV members.

On the land of Malawi,

In the hearts of the people of Malawi,

I am reminded of the preciousness of what each and every JOCV member has left behind.

To their family, friends, and lovers who sent them off to Malawi, a country they had never heard of: to the people of Malawi who welcomed Japanese people, whom they had never seen, with open arms: and to the countless people who supported our 1,897 members:

With overflowing gratitude, I present the 50-year history of the Malawi Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to you.

I sincerely hope that the Malawi Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers who have made a new start toward the future in this 50th anniversary year, will be a great hope for both Malawi and Japan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OVs of the Malawi Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and all the people who helped me in editing this commemorative magazine.

NIIZEKI Ikuko

Volunteer Coordinator





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