

Memories of a JOCV Volunteer who Taught Me Physics: "Seminar on Promotion of Women's Education"

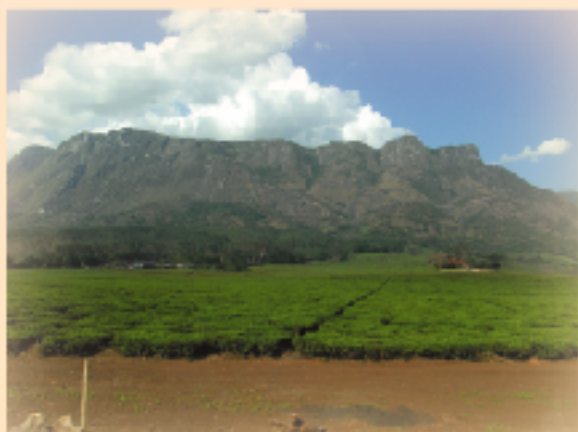


Ms. Samati receives Certificate of the Completion of the Course from JICA TOKYO's Director General

"Twenty-five years ago, I encountered a young woman named Enomoto, who was teaching the difficult subject of physics in a way that looked fun. Seeing her teach made me feel that I too could learn physics, or even teach it some day. I would not have felt that way if it was a man instead."

These are the words by Ms. Ruth SAMATI from Malawi, a participant in the "Seminar on Promotion of Women's Education," held in January and February of this year at JICA Tokyo. Together with 11 other participants, Ms. Samati completed her three-week training course and returned home feeling inspired and satisfied.

It was 25 years ago, that Ruth was first spurred to enter the education field by a young Japanese she met. When she was a girl's secondary school student in her home



Beautiful scenery of Ruth's homeland Mulanje, famous for the highest peak of Malawi, Mt. Mulanje and tea cultivation.

district of Mulanje, she encountered a visiting teacher from Japan, Ms. Enomoto, who had been dispatched as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) to teach physics to Ruth and her classmates. It was in 1985, a little before a large earthquake hit Malawi.

Ms. Enomoto taught participatory lessons mixed with experiments. This approach fostered interest among the students by making physics easy to understand.

Ms. Enomoto also became popular with her students with her active personality, as she mixed with them during recesses and cheerfully joined them in conversation. Ruth's eyes light up whenever she speaks of Ms. Enomoto.



A local market in Mulanje



Ms. Samati and her colleagues in a classroom session at JICA Tokyo

Ruth continues, "Enomoto inspired me, and that's why I began thinking of becoming a teacher." Specifically, this inspiration was the sense that "I can do this, too" as Ruth mentioned at the beginning of this article.

In the conservative rural areas of Malawi, it was not easy for women to receive higher education. However, Ruth overcame such difficulty and realized her dream to become a physics teacher, just like Ms. Enomoto. She later entered the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology, where she currently oversees 56 schools as the Regional Education Manager. And she came to Japan - a place she long yearned to visit as "Enomoto's country" - to participate JICA's program.

After termination of the course, Ruth speaks enthusiastically about plans for fortifying women's education in Malawi based on her experience in Japan. However, for Ruth, there was another reason that pushed

her to come to Japan, other than participating JICA's program. The other reason was, of course, to find and meet her former teacher, Ms. Enomoto. When it was decided that she would join the course, Ruth contacted JICA asking for help. In response, JICA Tokyo's staff contacted the associations of former JOCVs and others to try to discover Ms. Enomoto's whereabouts. Although JICA Tokyo found a person who said she had contact with Ms. Enomoto until the previous year, Ms. Enomoto was not at the address the person provided.

Ruth had achieved her training goals, but this opportunity to visit Japan unfortunately did not produce an emotional reunion with her former teacher. Before returning to Malawi, she left a message to JICA Tokyo staff, to give to Ms. Enomoto.

"Enomoto was a true model for us. She was courteous, modest yet friendly, and very passionate about her work. The only time I ever saw her angry was when we were late for class. In this way, she instilled in us the importance of being punctual. Because Enomoto had

taught me this Japanese virtue, I was not at all surprised when I visited Japan. When she returned home, all of her students cried."

"Like Enomoto, I have devoted myself to education and striven to do my best. Why? Because I wanted to be like her by becoming a model for young girls and giving them inspiration. For 25 years, I have never forgotten you. You have my sincere gratitude, Enomoto!"

Naturally, we have great expectations for Ruth in the women's education field after her return to Malawi. However, we cannot help wondering whether or not she will ever realize her dream of a reunion with Ms. Enomoto. It is our heartfelt hope that, one day soon, Ruth's earnest desire will be fulfilled.



Katsumata, Human Development Division; Inoue, Administration Division JICA Tokyo

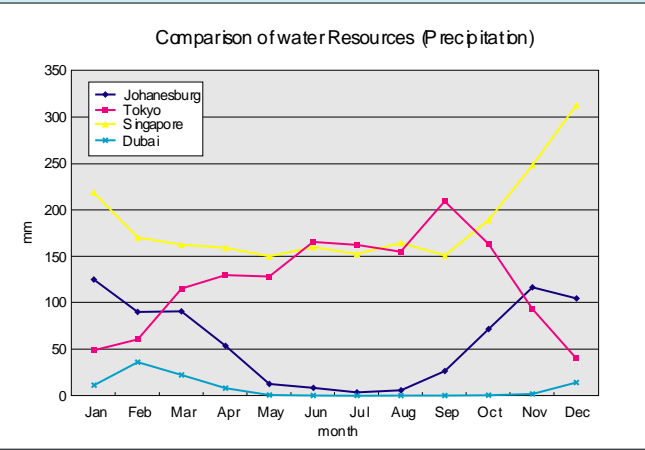
Purifying Water for FIFA World Cup Games in South Africa

On June 11, FIFA World Cup Games hosted by the Republic of South Africa began, for the first time ever to be held in African Continent. The site of the first game for the Japanese National Team, played on June 14 against Cameroon, was the city of Bloemfontein, meaning "fountain of flowers" in Dutch. Bloemfontein is located in Free State Province, and it was from this province that an administrator from South Africa's Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs and seven technicians from the Department of Water Affairs visited Japan to participate "Country-Focused Training in the Field of Water Service" for South Africa in February at JICA Tokyo.

For the stable supply of water, an essential element of daily living...



A practical exercise in water treatment at the Training and Technical Development Center, Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Waterworks



Despite the fact that urban waterworks in the Republic of South Africa are fairly well developed, compared to other African countries, the nation faces increasingly serious difficulties, including aging facilities and equipment, leaks, and a lack of technical personnel for maintenance and management. Looking to gain technologies needed for stable supply of safe water prior to the World Cup, the participants obtained knowledge and skills for water purification through lectures and visits to reservoirs, water purification plants, dams, and water quality centers in Japan.

At first, many participants mentioned the problems with facilities, such as inadequate equipment, including pumps, chemical agents, piping, and meters. However, through their participation in the program, many of the participants noticed that technologies for maintaining and repairing infrastructure as well as human resources development are more important in improving waterworks. As a result, participants expressed some highly motivated opinions in their final presentations. One participant said, "Supplying safe water requires protection of water resources, not just reliance on water purification plants and better awareness of water among community residents." And another said, "I want to supply high-quality water for which I can be proud, like the delicious "Tokyo Mizu" water that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government sells in PET plastic bottles."



Practical training in water quality testing. A diplomatic representative from the South African Embassy (center background of the photo) observed the training and held a dialog with the trainees.



JICA will continue to provide assistance to South Africa so that the returned participants can contribute to better water purification conditions in Bloemfontein and the rest of South Africa. Together with contributions to the World Cup, it is anticipated that the relationships built through this training will continue into the future and make the ties between South Africa - as well as the rest of Africa - and Japan even much stronger.

South Africa Welcomes 2010 FIFA World Cup!



by Ntombizodwa Selina MNTAMBO from the Republic of South Africa (Participant of JICA's Training and Dialog Program, "Stop TB Action")

*Bafana Bafana



South Africa is an extremely friendly country. It does not only celebrate its African culture but also immigrant cultures. Each of the nine provinces has unique treasures of natural beauty and wild life without extreme weathers. Culture, heritage and the African vibe all makes a cherry on top!

Among countless attractions are the scenic beauty of Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula; Johannesburg (Gauteng) - the "City of Gold"; the Kruger National Park with 16 ecosystems; the Robben Island that once was a prison for Mr. Nelson Mandela; SOWETO, the famous hot seat of the anti-apartheid activities.



South Africans are extremely excited to host the World Cup, which will be a vital part of our history! The legendary Mr Nelson Mandela blessed the opening of the games from screen, highlighting the event! Millions of South Africans all agree that the games will mark and strengthen the unity for this culturally diverse "Rainbow Nation."

The old usual dance has become the Diski Dance with increased African rhythm. The "loud and proud" trademark

trumpet "Vuvuzela," and "Zakumi," the official World Cup mascot are all exciting features with humor and happiness.

Twenty centers for rendering HIV/AIDS and other health services have been opened in the country. The World Cup will not only benefit the South Africans but also the neighboring countries, with expectations of improving crucial issues of health, education, gender, peace and environment.

There have been complaints about "vuvuzela," saying it is too loud. South Africans feel that it is in order and it denotes their culture. Another issue is around crime. South Africa is transparent about its crime and is working hard on it. Some people have been negative about the quality of South African games and whether South Africa would reach the high level compared to other countries - to their surprise, South Africa delivered all these on standard time at a very high style!



"Phambili Mzansi, Phambili! Ke nako!" (Go Forward South Africa! Now is the Time!)



*Bafana Bafana is the nickname of South Africa's National Football team

A Guide to the Fun of HANABI

Fireworks (**hanabi** in Japanese) have long been loved as a summer tradition in Japan. Their history dates back to the early 1600s, beginning of the Period of Tokugawa Shogun.



According to historical records, the first major fireworks display was held in Tokyo - which was then called Edo - in 1773. It took place in Ryogoku to celebrate the opening of the Sumida River and lifting of restrictions of pleasure river boats called yakatabune. This display continues to be held on the Sumida River up to today, in late July of each year. JICA Program participants who wish to see it are encouraged to inquire at JICA Tokyo's Community Plaza.



While watching fireworks, Japanese people shout "Tamaya!" and "Kagiya!" This practice is a relic of the days when a fireworks maker called Kagiya, which was the first in Edo, and a maker called Tamaya, which had split off from Kagiya, launched fireworks in competition on the Sumida River. Of these two, Kagiya still survives today.

In what may be a reflection of this history, nearly all major fireworks displays in Japan are held during the summer. Summer in Japan is very hot and humid, and therefore it is possible that the exhilaration people feel when they see fireworks helps them forget about the heat. Today, it is common to see young women going to see fireworks dressed in summer cotton kimono (yukata). Fireworks displays are also times when many nighttime stalls selling popular foods and souvenirs are set up, making it worth your while to see the fireworks.

Fireworks displays near JICA Tokyo include the Jingu Gaien Fireworks Festival at the beginning of August, and a display near Chofu (which can be reached from Hatagaya on a single train ride without transferring) around the same time. A point to bear in mind when visiting displays is that they are attended by unbelievably large numbers of people. Please take special care not to become lost in the crowd.



**We invite everyone to take a fan in hand and shout "Tamaya!" and "Kagiya!"
You're sure to have a wonderful time.**

Mini column:

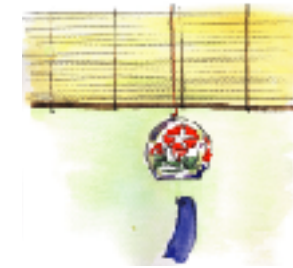
Other ways of spending the summer in Japan

If you are in Japan during this season, then you know something firsthand: Japan's summers are very hot and humid. You are probably surprised by this even if you come from a country at lower latitudes than Japan.

Until around 30 years ago, when air conditioners were fairly uncommon, the Japanese people employed various ingenious tricks for getting through the hot and humid summer. The following presents some of them.

Wind chimes:

When summer arrives, people hang chimes that tinkle in the breeze from the eaves of their homes. The crisp sounds of the chimes suggest a feeling of coolness, as their tinkling tells you that a breeze is present.



So, have you tried any of these methods? If people in your country use unique ways to stay cool, please share them with us.

Watering:

Sprinkling water around a house lowers temperature by using the heat of evaporation. In past times, people used a ladle to sprinkle water on the ground. Sprinkling water and then sitting on a bench to enjoy the evening coolness was a typical method people used to get through the summer.



Ghost stories:

For some reason, Japanese people believed that summer was the time when ghosts appear. In past times, people forgot about the heat by frightening each other. They placed 100 lighted candles in a room, and then extinguished them one by one as ghost stories were told.

(Please do not try this, as it may cause a fire.) According to legend, ghosts would appear when the final candle was extinguished.



Yuji Otake,
Director General of JICA Tokyo International Center
(from June 1, 2010)

As it is widely known, Training and Dialogue programs in Japan are the most fundamental "human development" programs implemented by JICA for key personnel of developing countries to transfer knowledge and technology required in specific fields of respective countries.

We also realize that knowledge and technology are not standing alone from its society. It is said, "Knowledge and experience accumulated in Japanese society often means coming to understanding through direct experience of institutions and practices in Japan. This includes organizational know-how and knowledge on underlying social system."

In this connection, JICA Tokyo (TIC), as the biggest center among 11 JICA Domestic Centers, is expected to be a platform for knowledge accumulation as well as intellectual infrastructure for the people concerned, especially prospective

participants and ex - participants of Training and Dialogue programs in Japan. We also plan to provide opportunities to overseas participants of programs to meet with different cultures in order to reassess perspectives based on their own experiences and realities from vantage point of a deferent society and to engage in manifold analyses and development issues in respective countries.

All the time we work hard to provide most appropriate programs to overseas participants, but there might be room for improvement of programs. In this sense, I hope that this newsletter serves as one of the important communication-tools to get your proper comments and constructive suggestions about our programs and our expectation as well as maintaining our human network.

I am all ears for them.

Message from New Director General of JICA TOKYO

Extending Japanese Rakugo Comedy to the World

Do you know what "rakugo" is? If you are in Japan long enough to understand Japanese and watch Japanese TV programs, then you probably think of a kimono-clad person sitting on a cushion on stage and telling funny stories whose historical background is mainly set in Edo Period. In rakugo, unlike ordinary theatrical comedy performances, the performers don't run around or make grand movements on stage to make audience laugh. Therefore, it might seem next to impossible to share the fun of this traditional comedy with foreigners who do not speak Japanese nor have much knowledge of Japan's history or traditional culture. But, not to worry! There are groups of people who give rakugo performances in English in the hope of spreading Japanese comedy to the world!



English *rakugo* performers together on stage. *Rakugo* master Kanariya Eiraku sits in the center.

In February, JICA Tokyo hosted an "English rakugo" performance to share this comedy with JICA program participants. Giving the performance were Kanariya (canary in Japanese pronunciation) Eiraku and three of his students at the Canary English Rakugo School. Until the day of the performance, we worried whether the program participants would actually show interest in Japanese comedy. Well, it turned out that our fears were misplaced, as some 100 participants came to watch, and the event was off to a reasonable start.



The performance was comprised of three skits: "Dobutsuen" (zoo), in which a lazy person who can never keep a job wears a fur coat to play a tiger; "Katabo" (accomplice), in which a stingy father decides which son to leave his estate to; and "O-Kiku no Sara" (O-kiku's dish), which was based on the famous ghost story "Bancho Sarayashiki" (The Dish Mansion at Bancho). Some people might know that JICA's new headquarters is located in this historic district of Bancho.

The performers chose skits with more movement than usual so that the stories would be easier to follow for participants whose native language was not English. When the performer acting tiger "walked" at the end of the first skit, the room filled with laughter, as it seemed as if the tiger were really walking, even though he only moved his arms, shoulders, and head!



The O-kiku's story began just as the participants were becoming thoroughly enthralled with the performances. The performer, pretending to be a ghost, asked the audience, "Do I look like a ghost?" When a participant in the front row muttered, "Almost..." nearby people who heard him began to chuckle, and this small chuckle grew louder and louder as the performance progressed. Brightened by the audience's laughter, the hall had transformed into a place of happiness.

Kanariya Shichimi playing O-kiku-san. Some of the participants in the audience said her voice sounded just like a ghost's.

One of the participants, Mr. Mekonen from Ethiopia said, "I was very impressed with the rakugo performers who could play so many characters by themselves. I would very much like to see it again if I have the opportunity."



Mr. Asher from Bangladesh also gave the performance high praise, saying, "I cannot express in words how much fun I had!" Without a doubt, the performance was a moment when Japanese comedy took another step toward acceptance by the world.



Participants taking turns posing for photographs with the Kanariya group following the performance

Tomomi Ishigaki, Tokyo General Affairs Department, JICA

Where and When to see RAKUGO Performance

If you want to experience English Rakugo Performance by Canary English School, here is the good opportunity to encounter!

CANARY ENGLISH RAKUGO PRESENTATION, FALL 2010

Date: September 23(Thu) & 25(Sat)

Time: 12:30 - 15:30

Venue: Asakusa Kokaido Hall 4th Floor(1-38-6 Asakusa, Taito-ku)

Nearest Station: Asakusa(Ginza Line, Tobu Line, Tsukuba Ex)

Admission: Free

Contact: INOUE, Administration Division, JICA Tokyo

If you have no problem with Japanese, or want to feel the real atmosphere of RAKUGO theater (called YOSE in Japanese), these places are most popular and easy to access from JICA Tokyo.

SUEHIRO-TEL: 3-6-12, Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku

Nearest Station: Shinjuku (Keio New Line from Hatagaya)

National Engei Hall: 4-1, Hayabusa-cho, Chiyoda-ku

Nearest Station: Hanzomon (Hanzomon Subway Line)

*There is no English earphone guide available for RAKUGO performances.



Poem

"A small Cordel"

by Mr. Jose Ricardo Rodrigues de Mello Filho from Pernambuco, Brazil

(Participant of Training and Dialog Program, "Promotion of Health, Local Development and Healthy Municipalities")

In fact, the trip to Japan was a very rich experience, both professionally and personally, besides of being inspiring and unforgettable, especially, because it was an interchange of the intention of improving the local development and the quality life of all the people here. This is the reason for having the poems, because feelings and true dreams were put there, in each activity, in each dialogue, in each celebration together with the good fruits that were harvested in Brazil and in Japan. As a citizen and writer I could not help the initiative of translate this excitement in verses- as another way of expression that translates feelings.

Many stories to tell
Also a rich conversation
Dreams come out one after another
From the depth of the conception
This clear ardor
To make our lives healthier
Exists at every corner of the creation

We confess that there is still a long way to go
To understand Japanese
Even so, what we got is very rich
Each time the step we make is very small
On the road that goes very far
Arigato-gozaimeashita
From us to you all

At the time we have to depart
We feel our hearts torn apart
It is certain that through the days we spent in Japan
We had a great deal to gain
That it completely compensates the pain
Of the long hours in the plane



Ricardo Mello is a journalist, master in Communication and scholar of the Universidade Catolica de Pernambuco. He is a consultant in communication and an author of poetry books to kids as the series of Poeminhas (little poems) composed by Haikus.

*Cordel is genre of literature, meaning string in Portuguese.

It consists of popular and inexpensive booklets containing folk novel, poems and songs, sold in the northeast of Brazil.

ENCOUNTER

I have come all the distance
On a journey of friendship
The long trip was worth its importance

DIALOGUE

A sound coexistence
Makes it even more precious
To share each other's experience



WELCOMING

In Japan, it is form of an art
The way they slide open the doors
As together they open everyone's heart



COMPANY

We swore that
we always believe
If we have a
common dream
That is what some
day we achieve



A SPRING

Friendship is like burning firewood
With the warmth of our bodies,
It does our hearts good

FUTURE

About the history that commenced today,
You can count on us
That we go further on our way

M U S E U M

DORAEMON'S SCIENTIFIC FUTURE

ドラえものの科学みらい展

Do you know what "Doraemon" is? Yes, it is one of the most popular Japanese cartoon (*ANIME*) character, a cat shaped robot came from the future, who gives us fantastic dreams using magical tools he brought from the future world. At MIRAIKAN, you can see to what degree those dream tools can be realized by modern technology. Please experience the world of dreams and science combined, and you would surely realize how important it is to keep having dreams.

Place : National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (MIRAIKAN)
(4 minutes walk from Telecom Center Station on Yurikamome Line, 15 minutes walk from Tokyo Teleport Station on Rinkai Line)
Date : Jun 12 (Sat) - Sep 27 (Mon)
Time : 10:00 - 17:00
Admission : ¥1,300 (¥1,000 for Doraemon Exhibit only)

GREAT EXHIBITION OF INSECTS

大昆虫博

You might be surprised to know that there are millions, perhaps five million species of insects, comprising the vast majority of the world's biodiversity.

In Japan, we have a unique history of having close relationship with insects, enjoying the melodies they make, or seeing the lights of fire flies. This special exhibit shows you how Japanese people loved and coexisted with insects. Please also watch the regular exhibition of the lives of Edo (former name of Tokyo) and its modern days.

Place: Edo-Tokyo Museum 1 Floor Exhibition Room
(3 mins walk from West Exit of Ryogoku Station on JR Sobu Line, 1 min walk from A4 Exit of Ryogoku Station on Toei Oedo Subway Line)
Date: June 22 (Tue) - Sep 5 (Sun)
Closed on Mondays
Time: 9:30 - 17:30 (until 19:30 on Saturdays)
Admission: ¥1,520 (¥1,300 for Insects Exhibit only)