



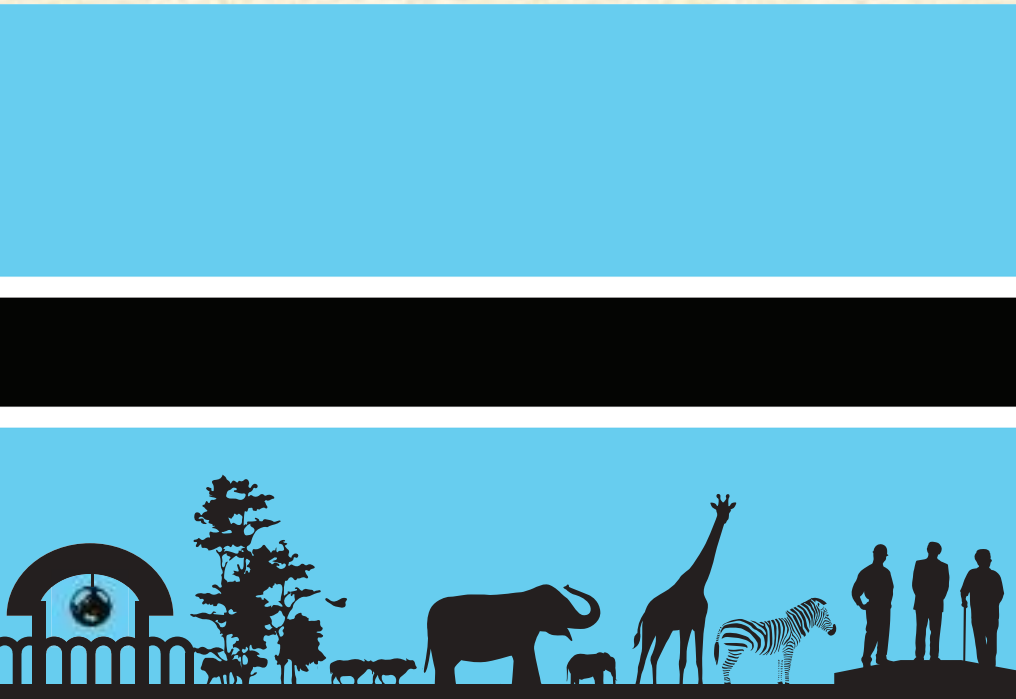
The History of

# Japan- Botswana Relations

 Japan • Botswana 

50  
Years  
1966-2016

“50 years of Cooperation and Friendship”



# Introduction



## Mr. Masahiro Onishi

Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Botswana

I would like to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Botswana, and I am also happy with the 50 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Botswana. Botswana gained independence from the United Kingdom in a peaceful manner in 1966. Since then Botswana has developed steadily as a democratic country and is now considered as an excellent African nation. I am proud that during the 50 years, Japan has contributed to Botswana through various assistances such as grant aid and yen loan. Nowadays, Botswana is considered as a high middle income country, making it difficult to extend grants and concessional loans due to international regulations. Currently, technical cooperation and Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects serve as our main assistance to Botswana. With even limited schemes available, we would like to maximize our cooperation.

To celebrate this commemorative year, we made this brochure. In this publication, we have congratulatory messages from leaders in the area of foreign affairs from both countries, Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Dr. Penolomi Venson-Moitoi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana. We are also blessed with messages towards the future of both countries and memories of Botswana-Japan relations from Dr. Ponatshego Kedikirwe, former Vice President and Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, both recipients

awarded with the highest honour (the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun) from Japan. In addition, we have received messages from young Batswana from an alumni association of those who studied in Japan known as "Friends of Japan" .

From Japanese side, besides the message from Foreign Minister of Japan, we would like to look back on our 50 years history and bring your attention to activities of the Embassy of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC). Also Komatsu Botswana, one of the Japanese companies operating in Botswana, contributed an article about their activities in this country.

As it is clear from various indices, Botswana has established a basis for a modern nation and share with Japan universal values such as democracy, and the rule of law. Therefore, Botswana is an important partner to Japan.

Botswana still faces some challenges. However I believe that Botswana will overcome those challenges certainly and I expect that in such situations Japan can contribute to Botswana. Considering 2016 as the year which marks a historic stage for the two countries, I will continue to make every possible effort to further enhance the friendly relations shared between the two countries.

Therefore, it is my sincere hope that this brochure will serve to offer valuable insight into the future of Botswana-Japan relations.





## Mr. Fumio Kishida

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

I am honoured to extend my warmest congratulations to Botswana on the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Botswana.

Japan and Botswana established diplomatic ties in 1966, when the British Bechuanaland Protectorate gained its Independence as the Republic of Botswana. Since then, both nations have nurtured an excellent relationship. The Embassy of Botswana in Japan and the Embassy of Japan in Botswana were established in 1997 and 2008 respectively. I am delighted that the mutual understanding and friendship shared between the two countries have become more dynamic over the recent years with increased mutual exchanges in various areas and levels, including dignitary visits such as H.E. Lt. Gen. Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana's visit to Japan in 2010 and 2013.

Botswana is a peaceful country, which has never experienced a civil war or a coup d' état and shares with us fundamental values such as democracy and rule of law. Botswana is also blessed with wonderful tourism resources such as the Okavango Delta, one of the largest inland deltas in the world, and an abundance of wild animals. The two nations have many things in common as Japan also possesses tourism resources.

The people of Japan will never forget the various assistance that has been rendered to us by the Government of Botswana and its people, including the donation of one million Pula, after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.

Japan has been assisting Botswana through Yen loans to develop indispensable infrastructure for Botswana and through grants and technical cooperation. Today, our development cooperation has been shifted to technical

cooperation and smaller scale grant assistance, called Grass-roots Human Security Projects due to the fact that Botswana has achieved significant development of its economy. By doing so, Japan is contributing to the further advancement of Botswana through cooperation among the Embassy of Japan, the office of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Geologic Remote Sensing Centre of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) in Botswana.

In addition to those efforts, the Embassy of Japan is actively enhancing mutual understanding and benefit with Botswana through the activities of cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and the promotion of trade and investment between the two countries. There has also been an advancement in cooperation in the international arena including United Nations.

During this commemorative year, the Government of Japan conferred the distinction of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun to H.H. Mokgweetsi Masisi, Vice President of Botswana. This award is the highest award that a foreign citizen can attain from Japan. Taking this opportunity, I expect that relations between Japan and Botswana will be expanded more and more. TICAD VI is scheduled to be held in Africa for the first time this year and I hope that relations between Japan and African continent will be also cemented further. And as the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games draw nearer, I look forward to the success of Botswana's athletes.

Lastly I wish strongly for the further development of the relations between Japan and Botswana through more intensive trade, investment and mutual visits during and after 2016, marking the 50th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations.



## Dr. Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
of the Republic of Botswana

The year 2016 is a significant milestone in the relations between the Republic of Botswana and Japan as it marks 50 years of friendship and cooperation. 50 years ago after the Republic of Botswana gained its independence from the Britain, and whilst trying to find her feet, Japan provided a helping hand. The deep seated friendship and partnership based on mutual respect and common interests have remained the cornerstone of the relations.

It is gratifying to note that today; our two countries enjoy exchanges not only at the political level, but also in the spheres of culture, academia, business and many others. It is therefore appropriate as we mark this auspicious occasion to look back and reflect on the road we have travelled as partners and appreciate all the achievements in these five decades of working hand in hand.

One can never overemphasize the importance to which Botswana holds regarding her relations with Japan. This has been characterised by level visits such as visits by Former Presidents H.E Sir Ketumile Masire, H.E Festus Mogae, current President H.E Lt. General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama as well as Ministers and Parliamentarians from both sides.

Today, our friendship and cooperation has grown by leaps and bounds covering trade, tourism, education, culture, sports, energy, environment and people to people interaction. Botswana has and continues to receive development assistance through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Embassy of Japan, the Japan Official Development Assistance Programme and the TICAD process. These include Grant Aid Assistance for Grass-roots – Human Security Projects worth millions of Pula as evidenced by the most recent donations for the construction of numerous Pre-Schools around the country and a Judo

Dojo. The assistance also includes Technical Assistance through the dispatch of volunteers and experts, scholarships and training offers in the fields of wildlife conservation management, health, education, governance, ICT, natural resources, energy etc and numerous loans aids that have been provided to name but a few. It is through assistance from important partners such as Japan that Botswana has developed into a high middle income country and for that we are forever grateful.

In conclusion, I would like to once more express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government and the people of Japan for the continued support. It is my wish and belief that the friendship between our two countries and peoples will prosper. It is also very important to note the sterling job done by the Embassy of Japan in Botswana. Let me also recognise the work done by all Ambassadors and Embassy staff who have served in Botswana these past fifty years. It would be remiss of me also, to forget the Japanese volunteers and nationals who have had a hand in the development of Botswana. We look forward to many more years of great Botswana-Japan cooperation.





## Dr. Ponatshego H. K. Kedikilwe

Former Vice President of the Republic of Botswana

In 2011, I was awarded the decoration of The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun granted by Emperor Akihito. I consider it a great honour to be a recipient of the highest award in Japan, an equivalent of Botswana's Naledi ya Botswana. It is my great pleasure to wish Japan much success as it celebrates 50 years of Diplomatic Relations between our two countries. I would like to thank the Emperor and the Japanese people for this honour. I share the honour with my parents, my fellow villagers, the Government of Botswana and my countrymen, Batswana. Had I not been moulded accordingly by Batswana, the Emperor and people of Japan would probably not have seen it fit to give me the award.

Conflict of whatever magnitude or form leaves behind a trail of misery of one form or the other. World War II was no exception. Pardon the understatement, one such trail of World War II was the shortage of commodities, including food items. My small village of Sefhope, whose population must then have been less than 300 people, had a severe shortage of sugar. Primary school children like me had to line up at the only small village shop for brown sugar rations. Brown sugar then commonly called "sukiri ya Japane", meaning poor quality sugar. All poor quality items were referred to as "Japane" because at the time all Japanese manufactured commodities were of relatively poor quality. In fact all along I thought "Japane" was a Setswana word until I learnt that "Japane" was derived from the name of a country called "Japan".

Today Japan is a force to be reckoned with. She literally rose from the ashes after the horrors of World War II and has risen to the sophistication that it has in manufacturing and technology. This speaks volumes about the people of Japan. They were not discouraged by what they had gone through. They had good transformative leadership in place that must have preached that there was no reason to despair but to rise from

humble beginnings to the great heights of technology that Japan has reached today. This technology is evident even in things as common place as the bullet train. I found it quite remarkable that the train itself was highly comfortable and quiet. In addition, the people on the train were not rowdy but very well behaved. I found it quite remarkable. Japan's use of technology in infrastructure is also something to marvel at, for example buildings have been constructed to adjust to earthquakes and the like.

Botswana has a lot to learn from Japan, such as how to overcome challenges such as economic diversification, utility setbacks, poverty eradication, technology transfer, how to use technology to deal with environmental issues that would in turn benefit society, how to train our people to acquire work ethic for productivity and economic growth and how to eradicate poverty and create sustainable employment, especially for the youth. I have always had excellent meetings with Japanese officials in Japan and Botswana and I have admired their dedication, professionalism and disciplined approach whatever the task at hand. In general the orderliness of the people, their behaviour and apparent humility is worth a mention.

Our country's relations should be intensified, Japan through its technical know-how, and Botswana through her various minerals. Although the Government is currently doing a lot to address the issue of diversification, Botswana would benefit from Japan's assistance in know-how, knowledge and technology, as well as the work discipline and professionalism that exists in Japan. I am sure that the Embassy of Japan has already started doing this and I would encourage it to continue doing more. I look forward to seeing further Botswana-Japan collaboration in the future, where each country benefits from the relationship making full use of our shared resources.





## Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Botswana

My congratulations to Japan as it celebrates 50 years of Diplomatic Relations between our two countries.

In 1974 I visited Japan for the first time in my private capacity. It was during this trip that I realized the potential bilateral relations that Botswana and Japan could share. For this reason, three years later, as the then Minister of Minerals, I undertook my first official trip to Japan with my Botswana contingent. This trip was to explore the possibility of shared economic relations based on Botswana's natural resources and Japan's scientific resources. That monumental trip opened many doors to further collaborations.

In my then official capacity, I travelled to Japan nine times and I was honoured to have been given the opportunity to represent Botswana during Emperor Akihito's accession to the throne. It was therefore a pleasant surprise and an even greater honour many years later to become an awardee of the decoration of The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun from Emperor Akihito.

Botswana has always been a firm supporter of Japan in the international field, not just for the sake of support, but because we believe in Japan's causes. In turn, Japan has supported Botswana, especially at the United Nations when Botswana and South Africa had their differences during the Apartheid regime. When we needed assistance in education, Japan sent Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV). To this day Japan continues its assistance to Botswana through our many partnerships. It is my firm belief that this very strategic relationship should be enhanced for future cooperation.

I have always been impressed with the commitment that the Japanese possess, their

ability to work hard and most of all their respect for time. The Japanese advancements in technology is something to marvel at. I will always remember when during one of my earlier trips to Japan I was introduced to teleconferencing. Although commonplace now, at the time it was the latest technological development that I had not even heard of. I was in awe that whilst I was in Kyoto, I was able to see and speak to another person in Tokyo.

My wish is that young Botswana learn to emulate the positive traits that the Japanese have, to work hard, not just to expect what rights are due to you, but to learn that it is also their responsibility to put effort into it. The people of my generation worked together as a team, we had collective responsibility, we used experience and will power, but we also asked for help from other countries that we called friends. This is how we made our friends and continue to influence relationships amongst other countries. As the song goes, "your friends are my friends and my friends are your friends," I know that Botswana has a true friend in Japan.



# 50 Year History of Japan-Botswana Diplomatic Relations

Summit Talks at TICAD V ;H.E. Lt. Gen. Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana and H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan  
(Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)



Japan established diplomatic relations with Botswana in 1966, the year British Protectorate of Bechuanaland gained independence as the Republic of Botswana. From September 29th to October 2nd in the year, an event celebrating the Independence Day (September 30) was held in Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana. Attending the event as a special envoy from the Government of Japan, Mr. Akira Miyazaki, Ambassador of Japan to Turkey delivered a letter addressed from Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Eisaku Sato to Botswana's President H.E. Sir Seretse Khama in which Japan recognized Botswana as an independent State. The event was followed by the beginning of Japan-Botswana diplomatic relations established in the same year. However, this did not lead to the immediate opening of a resident Embassy of Japan in Gaborone. From 1967 to 1970, Japanese Embassy in South Africa served as a non-resident Embassy to Botswana while from 1971 to 1996, Japanese Embassy in Zambia carried out the same function. Japanese Embassy in South Africa once again covered Botswana from 1997 until 2008 when Embassy of Japan in Botswana was established.

Many African countries including Botswana gained independence in the 1960s. Even after that period, however, the political situation in Southern Africa remained unstable, leading to the independence of countries such as Angola (1975), Mozambique (1975), Zimbabwe (1980), and Namibia (1990), and the establishment of a new South Africa, which abolished apartheid (1994).

Only a few VIP visits from and to Botswana and

Japan were seen in the early years following Botswana's independence. For example, in 1969, H.H. Sir Ketumile Masire, then Vice President of Botswana visited Japan while in 1977, Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe, made her visit to Japan as Minister of Minerals and Water Resources.

From the 1980s onwards, however, Japan and Botswana started to observe mutual exchanges through VIP visits gaining further momentum. This is particularly marked by three times' visits to Japan by Presidents, H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire and H.E. Festus Mogae. H.E. Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, incumbent President of Botswana, also visited Japan three times including in the capacity of Vice President and during the last visit to attend the TICAD V in 2013, the President Khama had summit talks with H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, incumbent Prime Minister of Japan.

Although incumbent Japanese Prime Minister is yet to set foot on Botswana, several key visits from Japan's side have thus far been witnessed. In 2007, Mr. Akira Amari, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry came to Botswana while in 2008, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister, as special envoy of the Government, together with Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited Botswana for the TICAD IV Ministerial Follow-up Meetings. Furthermore, Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications and Mr. Hitoshi Kikawada, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs visited Botswana in January 2014 and December 2015, respectively.

Since Japan-Botswana development cooperation started with the provision of equipment for scientific experiment to the Ministry of Education under the Grant Assistance in 1981, Japan has extended to Botswana grants, yen loans and technical cooperation (training in Japan and dispatch of experts and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), etc.).

In spite of Botswana's current status as an upper middle-income country, which makes it difficult for Japan to continue with grants and yen loans, Japan played a vital role in the development of indispensable infrastructure in Botswana through the provision of yen loans needed to construct facilities such as the Morupule A Power Station and the North-South Carrier (NSC) Water Transfer Scheme.

Botswana's high expectations toward Japan can be observed from the opening of its Embassy in Tokyo in 1997, with the first resident ambassador accredited in 1999.

With sincere gratitude, the Government and citizens of Japan always remember Botswana's generous donation of one million pula extended to Japan in the wake of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake.



Bilateral Talks;  
Parliamentary Vice-Foreign Minister Mr. Kikawada &  
Foreign Minister Dr. Venson-Moitoi

It was as late as 2008 when the Embassy of Japan in Botswana was established with Mr. Ryoichi Matsuyama accredited as the first resident Ambassador of Japan to Botswana. Nevertheless, Japan had always remained committed to strengthening ties with Botswana through its non-resident Embassies in other countries.

## The Table below indicates main events.

Year	Japan's side	Botswana's side
1966	Japan recognized Botswana as an independent State and established diplomatic relations with Botswana.	Botswana gained independence from Britain.
1967	The Embassy of Japan in South Africa began serving as a non-resident Embassy for Botswana	
1969		H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire visited Japan as Vice President (1st VIP visit since Botswana's independence)
1971	The Embassy of Japan in Zambia began serving as a non-resident Embassy for Botswana	
1981	Grant was extended to Botswana's Ministry of Education as part of Japan's first Governmental development cooperation with Botswana.	
1986	Yen Loan was extended to Botswana for the construction of the Morupule A Power Station.	
1990		H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire, in his presidential capacity visited Japan to attend Taizo-no-Rei (Funeral Ceremony of His late Majesty).
1992	The first group of JOCVs was dispatched to Botswana	H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire, President of Botswana paid an official working visit to Japan.
1993	JICA/JOCV Botswana Office opened.	H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire, President of Botswana attended the TICAD I held in Japan.
1995	Yen Loan was provided for the construction of the North-South Carrier (water).	
1994	Mr. Shozo Azuma, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, visited Botswana.	
1996	Japanese Economic Mission to Southern Africa visited Botswana.	
1997	The Embassy of Japan in South Africa once again began serving as a non-resident Embassy for Botswana.	The Embassy of Botswana in Japan was established (with Charge d'Affairs ad interim)
1998		H.E. Mr. Festus Mogae, in his presidential capacity visited Japan to attend the TICAD II.
1999		The first resident Ambassador of Botswana to Japan was accredited.

2003		H.E. Mr. Festus Mogae, President of Botswana visited Japan to attend the third World Water Forum.
2004	The Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League visited Botswana.	
2005		H.E. Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama in his capacity as Vice-President visited Japan at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.
2006	The Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League visited Botswana.	H.E. Mr. Festus Mogae, President of Botswana visited Japan to attend Botswana Week held in commemoration of the 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-Botswana diplomatic relations.
2007	Mr. Akira Amari, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry visited Botswana.	
2008	The Embassy of Japan in Botswana was established and Mr. Ryoichi Matsuyama was accredited as the first resident Ambassador of Japan to Botswana. Office of JOGMEC in Botswana was established. The Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment to Southern Africa visited Botswana.	
2009	Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister and Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan visited Botswana to co-host the TICAD VI Ministerial-Level Follow-up Meeting.	
2010		H.E. Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama in his presidential capacity paid an official working visit to Japan.
2011	Mr. Yasuhiro Kobayashi was accredited as the second resident Ambassador of Japan to Botswana.	In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Botswana extended its generous assistance (1 million pula) to Japan.
2013	Mr. Masaji Matsuyama, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Keiichiro Tachibana, Parliamentary Secretary of Internal Affairs visited Botswana, respectively. The Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League also visited Botswana.	H.E. Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of Botswana visited Japan to attend TICAD V.
2014	Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications visited Botswana. Mr. Masahiro Onishi was accredited as the third resident Ambassador of Japan to Botswana.	
2015	Mr. Hitoshi Kikawada, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs visited Botswana.	
2016	Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) Mission visited Botswana.	H.H. Mokgweetsi Masisi, Vice President of Botswana was awarded the decoration of The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by the Emperor of Japan.



# Activities of the Embassy of Japan

Since its 2008 establishment, the Embassy of Japan in Botswana has always been committed to the promotion of bilateral exchanges, for example, through VIP visits and cooperation with Botswana in the international arena including the United Nations. In seeking to contribute to the development of Botswana, the Embassy has also engaged in the promotion of trade and investment by Japanese businesses as well as that of mutual understanding between the two countries. Bearing these in mind, the Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with JICA and JOGMEC, has recently embarked upon the following initiatives with a main focus on areas such as development cooperation and cultural exchanges.

## 1. Digital Migration Project

In 2013, the Government of Botswana officially announced the adoption of the Japanese standard for digital television broadcasting system known as ISDB-T (Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial). Since then, Japan has continued technical assistance for digital migration in Botswana.

In addition to transmitters installed at 45 locations across the country and the commencement of broadcasting operations for nation-wide broadcasting, Botswana has approved the specification of a receiver known as set-top-box (STB). STBs are expected to become more available to people in Botswana.

Japan assists Botswana in its efforts to formulate a master plan for the full-scale adaptation of the digital television broadcasting technology, promote digital migration to the public, and produce TV programs. The Government of Botswana is now advancing digital migration for completing Analogue Switch-Off (ASO). Taking this opportunity, Japan and Botswana are expected to accelerate cooperation in not only digital migration but also all areas of ICT.

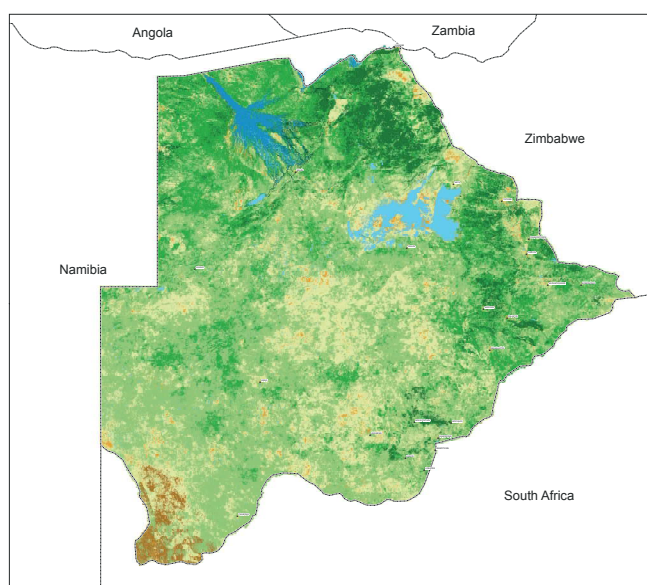


Promotional activity for digital migration

## 2. Project for Enhancing National Forest Monitoring System

Amid a significant decline in forest land recently seen in Botswana, which is due to forest fire and expanding pasture land, Japan assists Botswana with forest preserving measures, for example, the designing of a forest Geographic Information System (GIS) database for the sustainable management of forestry.

In March 2015, Japan attended the International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade held in Kasane, and expressed its commitment to the issue of illegal wildlife trade. In this regard, it is worth a mention that Japan's commitment to the protection of forestry is geared towards the protections of the environment, which is also one of the Botswana government's priorities.



Botswana Forest Distribution Map

### 3. Jatropha Research Project

Biodiesel can be extracted from the seeds of a non-edible plant species known as Jatropha.

In areas visited by dry and cold weather in winter such as the southern part of Botswana, the withering and slow growth of the plant is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. Researches on the efficient cultivation of Jatropha and the production process of biodiesel from the plant are conducted under the project. Through the project, we have been assisting Botswana in accumulating technical expertise and experience to be utilized for the production of biodiesel for commercial purposes while taking notice of the necessity to alleviate global climate change and also to enhance energy security.

### 4. Kazungula Bridge and OSBP

Promoting trade in southern Africa is the key to the development of the region.

In this regard, the North-South Corridor located between Botswana and Zambia is one of the most important corridors for transport. The Zambezi River, a river running between the borders of the two countries, however, constitutes a bottleneck to the economic development of the region. To remove this bottleneck, Kazungula Bridge Project is under way and Japan assists Botswana in constructing an access road and a One Stop Border Post (OSBP) to facilitate cross-border procedures including CIQ. In addition, experts from Japanese government have been dispatched to Botswana to assist the country in acquiring a technological know-how for OSBP for a border between Botswana and Namibia.

### 5. Construction of a Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

As for cooperation in the areas of energy and water, Japan provided yen loans for major projects such as the construction of Morupule A Power Station in the 80s and the North-South Carrier (NSC) Water Transfer Scheme in the 90s, respectively. Furthermore, in 2012, Japan extended a grand aid to Botswana for the construction of a solar photovoltaic power plant in Phakalane. The plant, as it is now connected to the national grid, plays a crucial role in not only helping to generate sufficient power supply in Botswana but also addressing global climate change. As a country full of sunlight to tap into, Botswana has the potential for further development in the area of power generation.

### 6. JICA Volunteers (JOCV and SV) & Training Programs

About 20 Japanese volunteers from JICA have currently engaged in activities to facilitate the transfer of skills and technology in areas such as efficiency improvement in the public sector through a Japanese business method known as “KAIZEN” , computer technology, rural development and sewing. The distinct feature of their volunteer activities is that many JICA volunteers work in cooperation with local residents in rural areas.

Also, every year, about 50 officials from Botswana government visit Japan to join training in various fields. A government program known as the ABE Initiative, which has started since 2015, offers young people with opportunities to study at Japanese universities for post-graduate degrees as well as internship with Japanese businesses. In fact, three students from Botswana have currently been studying in Japan under the ABE Initiative. Japan will continue with recruitment of candidates under the ABE Initiative.



3. Jatropha plants at a Project Field



4. Japan provided a forklift needed for OSBP.



5. Solar Panels



6.a JOCV teaching handcraftsmanship



## 7. Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) & Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP)

The GGP is a grant aid that primarily targets local governments and NGOs. So far, Japan has mainly focused on education in rural areas and provided more than 40 grants such as the construction of primary schools and pre-schools as well as the provision of relevant equipment.

GCGP is also a grant aid which seeks to promote Japanese sports and cultures in Botswana. Through GCGP, Japan has engaged in the construction of a Karate Dojo (training facility) and the provision of Judo Gi (uniform) and tatami mats. In addition, after a Japan's recent decision under its Government program "Sports for Tomorrow", which aimed to expand sporting value and the Olympic and Paralympic Movement to the people of all generations, the construction of a Judo Dojo is currently underway as a GCGP. Japan's cooperation through GCGP is expected to help to pave the way for Botswana karatekas and judokas joining the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.



7a. Parliamentary Vice-Minister with Karate kids



7b. Electrified primary school in Mahalapye

## 8. Cultural Events

Every year, Japanese Embassy organizes and participates in various cultural events. Such cultural events include Japan Film Festival, Japanese Food Demonstration, Origami (paper folding art) class, painting exhibition between two primary schools in Botswana and Japan, and Botswana Consumer Fair, as well as green tea demonstration by Japanese staff dressed in "Kimono" (traditional attire) at Japan's national day reception celebrating His Majesty Emperor's birthday.

Joining the Cultural Night held at Botswana National Museum in 2015, moreover, the Embassy staff carried a portable shrine (Mikoshi) on their shoulders to the sound of a traditional Japanese drum to create the atmosphere of a traditional Japanese festival. In commemoration of the golden jubilee of Botswana's independence and Japan-Botswana diplomatic relations, the Embassy is preparing to host various cultural events. As one of the special features for the year, the Embassy will be inviting Japanese professional drum performers.



8. Traditional Japanese Festival

## 9. Students studying in Japan

Every year, three Botswana students are eligible to receive scholarship from Japanese government and study for post-graduate degrees in Japan. Aside from this scholarship, also, some students study in Japan on a scholarship from Botswana government or as exchange of students between universities in Japan and Botswana. Young Botswana with academic experience in Japan has formed a group known as "Friends of Japan". At the invitation of Japanese Embassy, they gather in Gaborone every year to deepen their mutual friendship. They also join an Embassy's orientation for students soon to study in Japan and share their experience.



9. Friends of Japan's gathering



# JICA's International Cooperation



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started dispatching the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) for Botswana in 1992. In 1993, JICA opened an office for JOCV in Gaborone and after a merging with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)' s Yen Loan section in 2009, the JICA office got newly set up to build a comprehensive system for carrying out international cooperation such as technical Cooperation, volunteer dispatch, technical training and finance cooperation. Under a good bilateral relationship between Japan and Botswana, the bilateral cooperation to date have marked a big footprint as JICA dispatched approximately 300 Japanese volunteers, accepted at least 600 Batswana trainees in Japan and currently implementing six (6) technical cooperation projects and one loan project.

JICA has pushed forward the development cooperation aligning it with the Botswana Government development programs such as VISION 2016 and NDP10. In view of social and economic situations of the country, JICA sets two pillars for the cooperation; industrial diversification and poverty alleviation. For the first pillar, we push forward to support the industrialization of the country to lighten the dependence on diamond production through technological transfer and personnel training to promote industries. Regarding the second pillar, in this country, mitigation of the income gap becomes the top priority issue. JICA is focusing personnel training on enhancing industrial development, and income creation project in rural areas.

## ■ The current deployment of cooperation is as follows.

SCHEME	ON-GOING PROJECTS
Technical Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Digital Migration Project</li> <li>• Information-based optimization of Jatropha biomass energy production in the frost- and drought-prone regions of Botswana</li> <li>• Project for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Southern Africa</li> <li>• Project for Enhancing National Forest Monitoring System for the Promotion of Sustainable Natural Resource Management</li> <li>• Expert on Forest Management and Economic Evaluation</li> <li>• One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) Expert</li> </ul>
Yen Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kazungula Bridge Construction Project</li> </ul>
Technical Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 50 public servants dispatched to Japan in this fiscal year 2015/16</li> </ul>
Volunteer Dispatching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently 20 Japanese volunteers dispatched to Botswana</li> </ul>

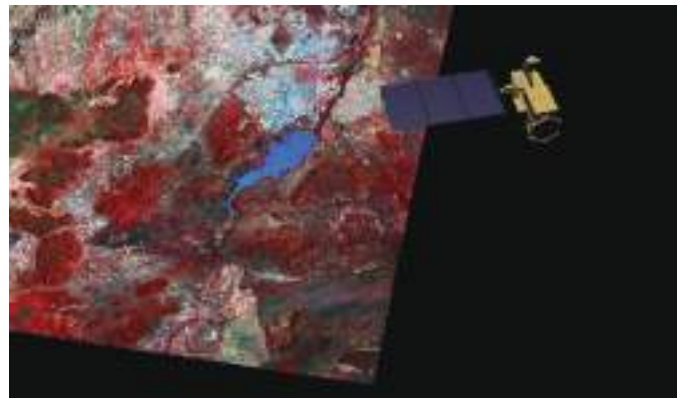
JICA pushes forward our cooperation steadily, hoping that the relationship between Japan and Botswana grow peacefully and fruitfully in the next 50 years, utilizing our knowledge and creativeness.

# JOGMEC-GRSC Activities in Botswana and Southern African Countries

Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) was established on February 29, 2004.

Japan has been building strategic partnerships and friendly relations with Southern African countries including Botswana. These relations cover numerous areas which include mineral resources. In November 2007, a METI (Ministry of Trade, Industry and Economy) and JOGMEC joint mission was dispatched to South Africa and Botswana. During this time, they signed MOUs aimed at strengthening relationships in the mineral resource sector. Based on this agreement, the JOGMEC Geologic Remote Sensing Centre (GRSC) was officially opened on July 27, 2008 in Lobatse (now in Gaborone), Botswana. Since then, JOGMEC has signed MOUs with additional eleven SADC member states. The GRSC is a key feature of the cooperation. By providing opportunities for training programs and technical transfer of remote sensing technologies with Southern African geologists, stronger ties and reciprocity have been developed.

The core principle of the GRSC Project is to build strong win-win relationships between Japan and SADC member states in the mineral resource sector. We believe that this approach offers the best mutual benefits, thus contributing to further economic development and sustainable development of the mining sector in the region.



ASTER image of Gaborone & Satellite TERRA



Cooperative Field Survey

Current cooperations between JOGMEC and Botswana are as follows;

## **(1) Cooperation with Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI)**

Technology transfer services provided by GRSC to SADC countries are being done with the cooperation of BGI (the former Department of Geological Survey of Botswana) in Lobatse.

## **(2) Long term training**

JOGMEC is training students to become trainers themselves. The new trainers are then expected to disseminate their newly acquired skills in their own respective countries. Botswana is the first country to apply this high level (advanced) training course.

## **(3) Cooperative analysis and field survey**

Joint satellite image analysis and field surveys have been done to evaluate the mineral resource potential in nine SADC countries including Botswana.

## **(4) JV exploration project**

JOGMEC has been carrying out the Dikoloti Nickel Project in the Selebi Phikwe area with Discovery metals and BCL, since March 2014, to find resources such as nickel, copper and platinum.

GRSC continues to explore the future of African countries with Botswana.

# Activities of Japanese Company – Komatsu Botswana



Komatsu Limited has been represented in the Republic of Botswana since 1979, and made the decision to invest in 1997 with the establishment of a subsidiary company, Komatsu Botswana (Pty) Limited. The company is headquartered in the capital city Gaborone, with support operations at Jwaneng, Orapa and Francistown. Komatsu Botswana has a complement of 236 staff nationally of whom 233 are Batswana, inclusive of 57 apprentices under full time training.

The Komatsu decision to invest in Botswana has proven, without doubt, to have been a wise one! Komatsu Botswana has continued to grow and invest further in the intervening years. The internationally recognized stability of Botswana,

based on strong democratic principles and fiscal governance, as demonstrated for over 50 years, has only strengthened our commitment and resolve to growing the Komatsu footprint in Botswana, and broadening our existing very active, corporate social responsibilities throughout our country.

Finally we look forward to the continued strengthening of ties between Botswana and Japan over the next 50 years and say “Congratulations to H.E. The President of Botswana, Lt. General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, and to the people of Botswana” on reaching this significant milestone.

- PULA! –





# A MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS OF JAPAN, FORMER BATSWANA STUDENTS WHO HAVE STUDIED IN JAPAN



**Ms. Dineo Florence Sefemo, MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan) scholar, Akita University, 2013-2015**

In Japanese graduate school, we were encouraged to be independent, focused and hardworking. Understanding the Japanese work ethics is very critical that embodies punctuality and professionalism in every tasked work. Under the university and Japanese scholarship funding I had a chance to present my work in different countries (Germany, Italy and London). I often attended Japan-Africa relation conferences that included mineral resource sector development which was my study area e.g TICAD V. Our field was more centered on sustainable resource development and promoting linkages between Japan and Africa. We were sometimes sent to the Japanese industry to appreciate their advances in technology in our core areas.

Our program offered a six month training in Japanese that enabled us to read, write and speak Japanese. I interacted more with the local people. I had a host family with two amazing kids that I usually spent more time with. Interacting with children assisted me to know more Japanese as they were curious to know about foreigners. The tradition was amazing and the local people were always willing to assist us whenever we sought help. Akita and Japan as a whole was an amazing experience.



**Ms. Tebogo Leepile, MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan) Scholar, Ochanomizu University, 2008-2011**

In April 2008, a few months after being awarded the Japanese government scholarship, I left for Tokyo as a curious and enthusiastic young woman, zealous to further my education. What would follow was an invaluable journey of self-discovery, challenges of culture shocks and learning a new language, sporadic episodes of home sickness and many more. Being placed in one of Japan's leading women university (Ochanomizu, MSc Nutrition) alongside remarkable, ambitious and intelligent young women from all over the world was a daily assurance that after all women empowerment was not such a bad idea. The rigorous, high-quality, and well equipped teaching and research led by world-renowned professors in Ochanomizu was a much-needed foundation that continues to play an immense role in my current work (PhD McGill University, Canada). I hope Botswana and Japan tighten their friendship bond and increase educational and cultural exchange opportunities especially for the youth.



**Mr. Brian Bino Sinaice, University of Botswana – Akita University Exchange program, Akita University, 2015**

In short, my stay in Japan was simply amazing. I particularly loved the people; everyone was so nice and always wore a smile on their faces. The change of environment and scenery allowed me to experience and enjoy a different blend of culture. Furthermore, I loved the weather, the food, karaoke and the forever fascinating technological advancements. Though my stay was short, I learnt and gained some experience from the 'sustainable resource development' course which I was a part of.

I believe now that, 'if one can imagine it, it can be done' , and Japan really has made it in terms of, technology, cleanliness, safety, efficiency etc. Botswana will benefit a lot from these international relations because Botswana students such as I get to acquire and apply skills which have the potential to grow the nation in terms of development and modern technological advancements.



**Ms. Tlotlo Lemmenyane, University of Botswana-Exchange Program, Asia Pacific University, 2009**

Before Japan I imagined the world to be pockets of wonders waiting to be unveiled of their beauty. It might be too soon to form a conclusion, because I have not really unravelled much of the world, but I'm convinced that Japan was deliberately orchestrated to be the window through which I would first adventure into the world. It is in Japan that my mind opened to the idea of diversity; I was different from them and they were in awe of me. Me and them didn't share a language, but when our eyes met we could see in each a longing to move past the communication barrier. I became genuinely interested in speaking their language, the truth is it was my first attempt at learning a language outside English and my own. Their language caressed my tongue, speaking it aroused a fervent desire to gain fluency in it. It felt to me that doing so showed my reciprocation to their embrace of me. They exuded their openness and warmth. It validated what I had first felt when I arrived in their land, their kindness.



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<http://www.botswana.emb-japan.go.jp>