



Information on

# JAPAN- BOTSWANA

Relations for Further Friendship  
and Cooperation

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**As of March 2015** Embassy of Japan in Botswana

## Information on Japan-Botswana Relations

-for Further Friendship and Cooperation-

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## Introduction

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1966, the year of Botswana's independence, Japan and Botswana have made concerted effort to enhance their bilateral relations. The establishment of the Embassy of Japan in Botswana in 2008 has enabled both countries to promote VIP visits, economic cooperation and cultural exchange, further expediting the friendly and cooperative relations shared between the two countries.

Botswana, a country of peace and political stability that has never experienced civil wars or coups d'état, has a solid foundation common to any modern nation, such as democracy, the rule of law, and the principle of Separation of Powers. These values are firmly ingrained in this country. With such fundamental values as well as political stability shared with Botswana, Japan joins hands with Botswana in the international arena including the United Nations. Recognizing the friendliness of Botswana's people and their strong interest in Japanese culture, as well as positive prospects for stable economic development, the Embassy of Japan, in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is committed to the implementation of projects for cultural promotion

and economic cooperation. It should also be noted that several businesses from Japan have currently ventured into the market in Botswana while many Japanese tourists are visiting Botswana.

What should not be disregarded in connection with the friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and Botswana is the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). Along with its co-organizers such as the United Nations, African Union Commission (AUC) and the World Bank, Japan takes an initiative in holding the TICAD to achieve its goal of "African Development". Japanese cooperation on Africa is put into practice, based on mutual agreement through this TICAD process. Just as the fifth summit meeting held during TICAD V in 2013, the sixth summit meeting is scheduled to take place during TICAD VI in Africa in 2016.

Fully aware of the above, the Embassy of Japan will redouble its efforts to further foster bilateral relations, as Japan and Botswana move towards the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations to be marked in 2016.

# VIP Visits



H.E. Lt. Gen. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana and H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan during his visit to Japan at TICADV. (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

## 1) Visits to Japan

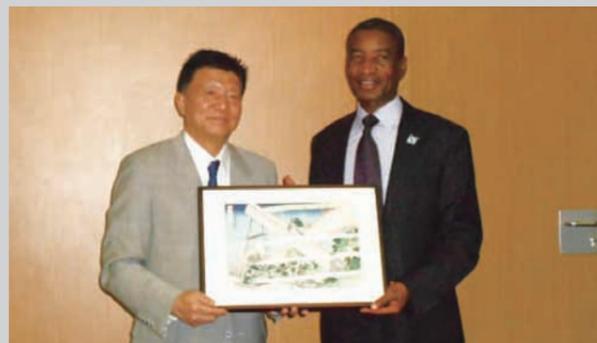
Several Presidential visits to Japan have been witnessed over the years. In 1990, His Excellency Mr. Quett Masire, then President of the Republic of Botswana, attended the Taiso-no-Rei (the Funeral Ceremony of His late Majesty). His Excellency also paid an official working visit to Japan in 1992. Furthermore, in the following year, His Excellency participated in the TICAD I held in Tokyo (one of the five heads of state from Africa). His Excellency Mr. Festus Mogae, then President, visited Japan three times, to attend the TICAD II in 1998, the third World Water Forum in 2003, as well as Botswana Week (a series of events held in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two

countries) in 2006, respectively. This was followed by several visits by His Excellency Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, Incumbent President of the Republic of Botswana. In 2005, His Excellency in his then capacity as Vice-President visited Japan at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. In 2010, His Excellency paid a working visit to Japan and received an audience by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. In 2013, His Excellency visited Japan to participate in TICAD V, and to have a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. In addition to the Presidential visits, Cabinet Ministers including the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, have visited Japan.

## 2) Visits to Botswana

From Japan's side, many VIPs including Japanese Economic Missions to Botswana, have made visits to Botswana. Some of the notable visits were made over the years. In 2007, His Excellency Mr. Akira Amari, then Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry visited Botswana. Also, in 2009, His Excellency Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, Former Prime Minister of Japan, as special envoy of the Government of Japan, together with His Excellency Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, then Minister for Foreign Affairs visited the country. During the 2009 visit, Minister Nakasone co-hosted the TICAD Ministerial-Level Follow-up Meeting with his Botswana counterpart while Former Prime Minister Mr. Fukuda paid a courtesy call on His Honour Lt. Gen. Mompoti Sebogodi Merafhe, then Vice President of the Republic of Botswana. In 2014, His Excellency Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo, then Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications visited Botswana to discuss matters on digital migration with His Honour Mr. Mokgweetsi

Masisi, then Minister for Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, current Vice President, as the Government of Botswana adopted the digital broadcasting system developed in Japan called ISDB-T. Many more visits made by State Ministers, Parliamentary Vice-Ministers as well as Members of the Diet have been witnessed over the years.



His Excellency Mr. Yoshitaka Shindo, then Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications with Honourable Mr. Nonofo Molefhi, then Minister of Transport and Communications (Current Minister of Infrastructure, Science and Technology).

# Economic Relations

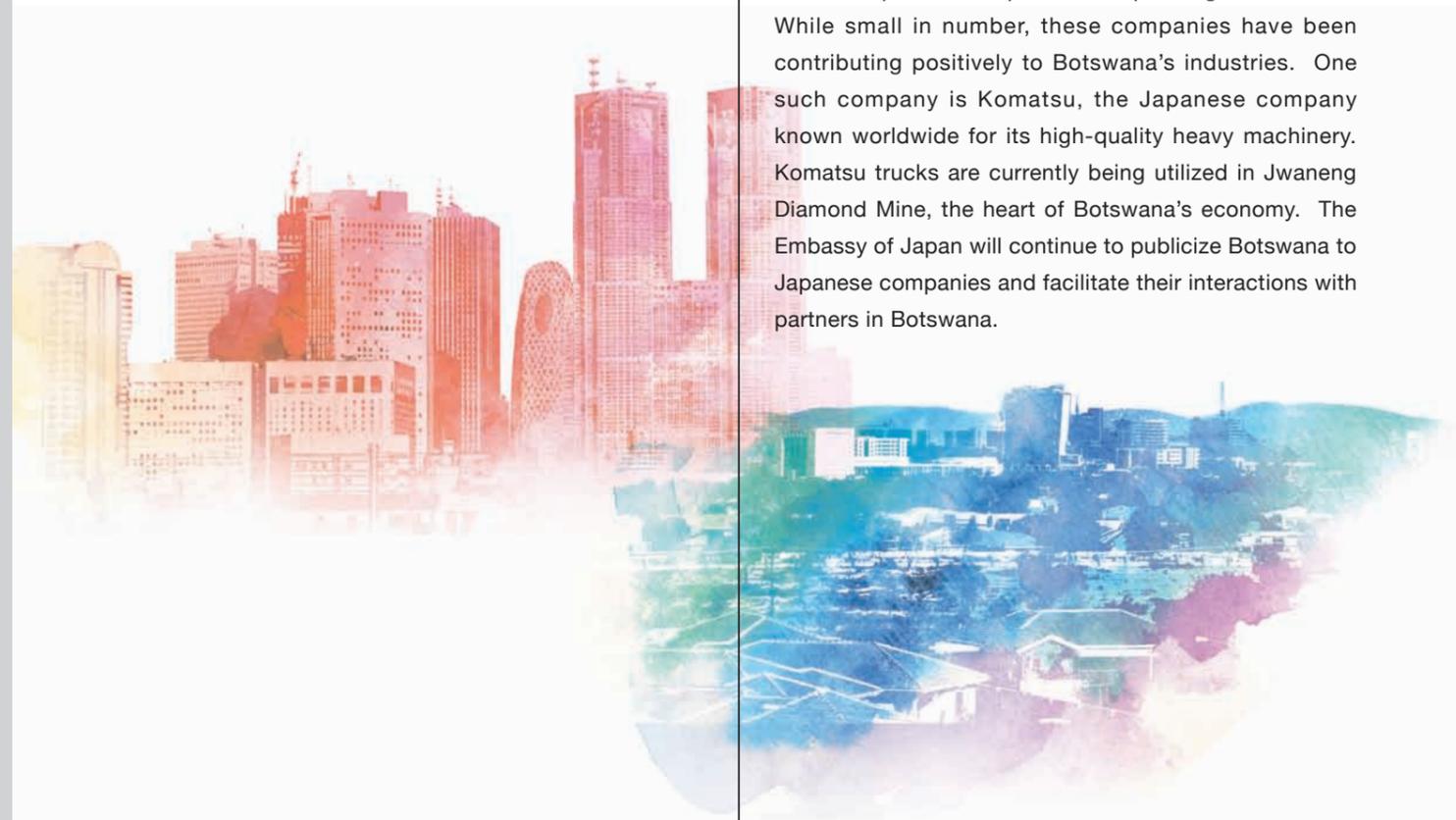
## 1) Trade Relations\*1

- (a) Import from Japan to Botswana: 3.3 billion JPY
- (b) Export to Japan from Botswana: 1.8 billion JPY
- (c) Main import items from Japan: automobiles, semiconductors
- (d) Main export items to Japan: diamonds (Japan is one of the world's largest importers of diamonds)

\*1 Data for 2014. Source: Ministry of Finance of Japan

## 2) Japanese Companies in Botswana

Ever since its inception in 2008, the Embassy of Japan in Botswana has been approaching Japanese companies to encourage further investment in Botswana. As of March 2015, 5 Japanese companies are operating in Botswana. While small in number, these companies have been contributing positively to Botswana's industries. One such company is Komatsu, the Japanese company known worldwide for its high-quality heavy machinery. Komatsu trucks are currently being utilized in Jwaneng Diamond Mine, the heart of Botswana's economy. The Embassy of Japan will continue to publicize Botswana to Japanese companies and facilitate their interactions with partners in Botswana.





Jatropha Trees at Sebele Project Field

# Economic Cooperation Projects

Japan has been assisting its partner Botswana in the latter's development. Listed below are the major ongoing and past economic cooperation projects and schemes.

## 1) Current Items

### A. Implementation of the Digital Migration Project

The Government of Botswana officially announced the adoption of ISDB-T for its digital broadcasting standard in February 2013. ISDB-T (Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting-Terrestrial) is one of the digital broadcasting standards originally developed in Japan and modified in Brazil. One of the features of that standard is that it is capable of transmitting broadcasting signals to fixed and mobile receivers from one transmitter. In order to assist Botswana's smooth migration from analogue to digital for terrestrial broadcasting, JICA experts were dispatched to the Media Complex in September 2014 to assist the Department of Broadcasting Services and Botswana Communication Regulatory Authority in terms of technology, legislations, and even Public Relations. It is expected that digital migration will be completed by the end of this project.

### B. Project for Enhancing National Forest Monitoring System

The national forest monitoring system is designed to provide reliable forest resource information for sustainable forest resource management. The purpose of the project is to regularly and accurately update the state of Botswana's forests through the use of the national forest monitoring system. The following are the project's expected outputs: 1) development of a nationwide forest distribution map by using remote sensing technology, 2) establishment of a methodology to create a national forest inventory system, 3) construction of a forest GIS\*1 database system, and 4) development of a national forest monitoring plan.

The Department of Forestry and Range Resources (DFRR) of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism is currently implementing the project with assistance from JICA. Experts from a consortium of Oriental Consultants Co. Ltd. and the Japan Forest Technology Association have been dispatched to Botswana through JICA. They are currently working closely with their counterparts from DFRR as part of capacity development. The project started in July 2013 and is expected to take three years.

\*1 Geographic Information System

### C. Jatropha Research Project

In order to combat climate change, the Government of Botswana has been searching for alternative sources of energy to minimize their current reliance on fossil fuels. In this regard, the Government of Japan has been assisting in a project towards the future commercial production of biodiesel in Botswana, which will not only increase Botswana's energy security, but will do so in an environmentally sustainable manner. The project aims to ascertain optimal farming methods to grow these Jatropha plants in drought- and cold-prone Botswana, as well as to determine how to cultivate drought-resilient, cold-resilient and high-yield Jatropha varieties. The project will also research characteristics of Jatropha oil products and technologies to utilize non-oil

Jatropha biomass, as well as assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of Jatropha production and biomass use in Botswana. The project is being implemented conjointly by JICA, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture, with cooperation from the University of Botswana, Tottori University, University of the Ryukyus, RIKEN of Japan (Japan's largest and most comprehensive research organization), among many other actors. There are currently two JICA experts implementing the project in Botswana, who are not only conducting research but are also sharing their expertise with their counterparts in Botswana.

### D. One Stop Border Post (OSBP) Project

Difficulty in logistics is one of the largest inhibitors of business and trade within Southern African. Being located at the heart of Southern Africa, Botswana has much to benefit from increased trade and traffic within the region. It is for this reason that the Government of Japan has decided to assist in a project to facilitate cross-border transport between Botswana and Namibia. The project aims to singularize the border crossing procedures, so that the burden of immigration and custom procedures will be limited to a once off procedure for both sides, rather than once on each side of the border. The reduction in the detention time of people, goods and vehicles is expected to increase the speed and volume of traffic along the Trans Kalahari Corridor,

connecting Walvis Bay with the rest of Southern Africa, through Botswana. After the experts from Japanese government went back to Japan accomplishing the first stage of the project, another expert was dispatched at the end of March 2015 for a 2 year-mission to follow up the project. The project is being implemented by the Botswana United Revenue Service (BURS) and the Namibia Customs and Excise (NCE), with support from JICA. Thus far, JICA has contributed to the project through the dispatch of 3 long-term and 12 short-term experts, the organization of training in Japan for Botswana and Namibian counterparts, and the provision of necessary equipment for skills transfer.

### E. Kazungula Bridge Project

Another project which is expected to revolutionize road transfer within the Southern African region is the Kazungula Bridge Project. The project goal is to build a bridge across Zambezi River, at the border between Botswana and Zambia. It will also include the construction of the necessary surrounding infrastructure such as roads to

access the bridge, as well as border posts. Kazungula Bridge will be located right at the heart of the North-South Corridor, running from Durban all the way north to Lubumbashi in the DRC. The Government of Japan is granting an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan to the Government of Botswana for the part of this project.

## F. Provision of Broadcasting Content to BTV

In 2013, the Governments of Japan and Botswana entered into an agreement for a grant to provide BTV with broadcasting content. The grant, amounting to roughly 40 million Japanese Yen (approximately 4 million Pula), was procured around 40 titles of documentaries and educational

programmes produced by the Japanese public broadcaster, NHK. This will not only augment BTV's current broadcasting content, but will promote better understanding of Japan's culture, society and technology, as well as assist in education and skills development in Botswana.

## G. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers & Senior Volunteers

In its overseas cooperation, the Government of Japan has been placing great emphasis on the transfer of skills and technology. It is for this reason that the Japanese Government, through JICA, has been sending volunteers to Botswana since 1992. To date, Botswana has received approximately 300 young and senior volunteers from Japan, in the fields of public administration, computer technology, rural development, automobile maintenance, nutrition, dressmaking, environmental education, graphic design, judo and carpentry, among others. As of February 2015, there are 20 volunteers located in Gaborone, Mahalapye, Sowa, Letlhakane, Masunga, Selebi-Phikwe, and Mogonye Gorges. These volunteers not only transfer their skills to their counterparts, but also promote better understanding of Japan in Botswana and vice versa when they return to Japan.

## H. Training by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

The Government of Japan, through JICA, also promotes transfer of knowledge and technology to developing countries through the provision of training courses for government employees. Every year, government employees of Botswana are invited to around 35 of these training courses, the areas of which cover private-sector development, regional development and environmental management. The courses take place either in Japan or a third country, and lasts between several weeks and several months, depending on the course. The courses not only impart skills and knowledge, but also assists in networking, as participants meet their counterparts from other developing countries.

From this year, some trainees will be dispatched to Japan for their post graduate courses and internship in private companies by ABE Initiative committed in the occasion of the TICADV.

## I. Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP)

Japan's economic cooperation is not limited to Government to Government aid. The Government of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) supports projects addressing social problems and/or aiming at community development at grass-roots level. This is done through grants of a maximum of 10 million Japanese Yen (approximately 900,000 BWP), given directly from the Embassy of Japan to registered Non-profit organizations, such as, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, educational institutes, medical institutes and local governments. Over the years, the Government of

Japan has extended the grants to more than 40 organizations in Botswana, especially in the areas of education and skills development and the empowerment of vulnerable groups such as women, children and the disabled. The past projects involved, for example, the provision of facilities and equipment to brigades, as well as the electrification of primary schools and the construction of a pre-school. With regards to projects relating to vulnerable groups, Japan's GGP has been utilized for the construction of facilities that support abused women and/or children as well as the procurement of a Braille printer for a brigade for blind people.



G-1 : All JICA volunteers. G-2 : JICA volunteer teaching dress making. H-1 : JICA's former trainees. H-2 : JICA's former trainees have formed alumni. I-1 : At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony on 24th February 2015, the recipient - Palapye Administrative Authority Central District Council. They are to construct a school building at Masupe Primary School for students with disabilities. I-2 : Ambassador Onishi attended the Handover Ceremony of the project for the Electrification of Primary Schools in Mahalapye Sub District on 3rd March 2015. A-1 : The Botswana Karate Association constructed a dojo under the GCGP assistance. A-2 : Under the GCGP assistance, the Botswana Judo Federation is able to provide judokas with judo-gi (uniforms) and tatamis (mats) for both practice and competition. B : The Phakalane Solar Power Plant

## 2) Past Projects

### A. Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (GCGP)

The Government of Japan has supported through another scheme. Japan's Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (GCGP) provides financial assistance to support the implementation of cultural and higher education projects (including sports) related to Japanese culture conducted by non-profit organizations. In the past, the Embassy of Japan awarded a grant to the Botswana Karate Association to construct a Karate Dojo, and to the Botswana Judo Federation to purchase Judo equipment.

### B. Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant

The Government of Japan has been assisting Botswana in achieving a low carbon energy portfolio by utilizing solar energy. The Government of Japan extended a grant of 1.11 billion Japanese Yen to the Government of Botswana for the construction of a 1.3 megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant in Phakalane. The construction was completed and commissioned in August 2012. The project was designed and implemented by the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC), and the power plant, which has 6,000 solar power panels, is currently connected to BPC's electricity national grid. The project was designed as a pilot project for larger-scale solar power generation facilities which the Government of Botswana may wish to construct in future. This project, now completed, is a symbol of Japan's commitment towards assisting in climate change countermeasures within African countries.



# Cultural Exchange

Origami Class by Embassy Staff

## 1) Japanese Cultural Events in Botswana

The Embassy of Japan in Botswana organizes several cultural events each year. Every year, the Embassy hosts the Japan Film Festival at New Capitol Cinema, where over a course of a week, four Japanese films are shown free of charge to the public. The Embassy also participates in the Botswana Consumer Fair at the Gaborone Fairgrounds every year. During this event, Botswana-Japan relations are explained and Japanese culture such as calligraphy and Yukata (traditional garments for summer) are showcased to the public. In order for the public to appreciate exotic Japanese culture, they are invited to try their hand at calligraphy and to try on the Yukata. Another cultural event that takes place is Origami classes at primary schools. During the class, students learn how to fold papers to create figures of animals, plants or tools. In 2014, a painting exhibition between two schools in Botswana and Japan-namely Ben Thema Primary School and Chigasaki Primary School in Yokohama city, started. Paintings from students in Botswana were displayed in Japan and vice versa. In March 2015, the Embassy hosted Japanese Food Demonstration which is the event where guests learned how to cook authentic Japanese dishes such as tempura and rolled sushi. In addition to this annual event, the Embassy invites Japanese artists to come and perform in Botswana, from time to time. The Embassy of Japan's cultural events are very important in promoting a better understanding of Japanese culture and society in Botswana.

## 2) Academic Exchange

### A. Scholarships

Every year, the Government of Japan offers scholarships to prospective students in Botswana at postgraduate levels. In February 2013, around 20 students who studied in Japan gathered to create the association, "Friends of Japan", so that former students could exchange their experiences in Japan and work together to promote Japan in Botswana. In February 2015, they gathered at the Ambassador's residence to enjoy their reunion and discuss their future activities.

### B. Inter-University Cooperation

Direct cooperation between academic institutions in Japan and those in Botswana have been growing over the years. The Akita University in Japan has entered into schemes for cooperation with the University of Botswana (UB) and the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) respectively. The academic cooperation lies mainly in the field of mining engineering, where Akita University has strength. The Faculty of African Research at the Kyoto University in Japan has also entered into a scheme for cooperation with their counterparts in UB, and Kyoto University and UB are working towards expanding their areas of cooperation. Also there are some Japanese universities, such as Waseda University and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, have developed exchange programs with UB.



President of "Friends of Japan"

Former students and new students.



Painting Exhibition at Ben Thema Primary School



