



Kyoto



National Diet Building



Sushi



Tokyo Sky Tree, the tallest tower in the world



Mount Fuji



Himeji Castle



Kimono

General background

Japan is an island nation in East Asia. Located in the Pacific Ocean, it lies off the eastern coast of the Asian mainland, and stretches from the Sea of Okhotsk in the north to Japan Sea in the southwest. It has a population of around 126 million.

Government

The Diet (legislative branch) comprises the 475-seat House of Representatives (Lower House) and the 242-seat House of Councillors (Upper House). The executive branch is the Cabinet organized as a parliamentary cabinet system, which is under the leadership of the Prime Minister, appointed by the Emperor after being designated by the Diet from among its members. Judicial power has been granted to the Supreme Court and high courts as well as district and other inferior courts.

The Imperial Family

The Emperor is the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people and has no governing power. All acts of the Emperor in matters relating to the state are based on cabinet recommendation and approval. The present Emperor, Akihito, acceded to the throne in 1989 as the 125th in the imperial lineage. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are blessed with three children and four grandchildren.

Foreign Relations

Japan has been an active member of the UN since December 1956 and is actively involved in various activities for the realization of peace, prosperity and stability in the world. While seeking solutions to terrorism, the world economy, environmental protection and other global issues, Japan plays an active role in assuring stability in regional issues that could potentially impact the international community.

Under the theme of Africa's development, in 1993 Japan launched the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners. The TICAD has also evolved into a major global framework to facilitate the implementation of measures for promoting African development under the dual principles of African "ownership" and international "partnership".

Economy

The postwar economy of Japan expanded at a remarkable pace, maintaining an average annual growth rate of 8% from 1953 to 1973, ranking now third in the world after the United States and China in terms of GDP. Japan has a large industrial capacity, and is

home to some of the largest and most technologically advanced producers of motor vehicles, electronics, machine tools, steel and nonferrous metals, ships, chemical substances, textiles, and processed foods. As an island nation surrounded by the sea, the people have developed a taste for seafood. The nation ranks 6th in the world, in the total annual catch of fish.

Culture

The Japanese people have taken many ideas from abroad over the years, including technology, custom and other cultural elements, and developed their unique culture. The Japanese lifestyle today is the mixture of traditional culture with Asian influences and a modern culture reflecting western influences.

Clothing: Traditional Japanese clothing 'Kimono' distinguishes Japan from all other countries around the world. Japanese still wear it today on special occasions by women, men, and children.

Cuisine: The Japanese meal consists principally of rice; meat and seafood; and pickled or boiled vegetables. The healthy Japanese meal is often believed to be related to the longevity of Japanese people. Japanese food has become fashionable and popular in the United States, Europe, and many other areas. Dishes such as sushi, tempura, noodles, and teriyaki are some of the foods that are commonly known.

Japan as your tourism destination

Japan is a country consisting of four main islands, Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, as well as thousands of other smaller islands. Covered with forest for the most part, the country is blessed with beautiful scenery in each of the four seasons and a rich cultural heritage nurtured by history and tradition. Japan attracted 19.7 million international tourists in 2015 and increased by 21.8% to attract 24.0 million international tourists in 2016.

The loftiest mountain in Japan, Mt. Fuji (3776m/12,385ft) is adorned by a number of beautiful lakes and woodlands. It is a well-proportioned cone-shaped strato-volcano with a long sloping base that has been quiet for about 300 years. The Japanese people have worshiped Mt. Fuji since ancient times as a holy mountain. It joined the ranks of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in 2013. As another famous tourist spot, Kyoto is known as the thousand-year old capital, abounding in shrines, temples, gardens and streets representing old eras, so it can be regarded as the home of the Japanese culture.

Japan-Botswana Relations

Embassy of Japan in Botswana



Judo Dojo constructed through cultural grant assistance



Media practitioners touring the solar power plant



Japanese drum performance



Embassy of Japan stall at the consumer fair

General background

The diplomatic ties between Japan and the Republic of Botswana dates back to the time when Botswana attained its independence from Britain in 1966. The Embassy of Japan in Botswana was later established in 2008, with the aim to nurture the long term cordial relations between the two countries. The Government of Japan, through the Embassy of Japan in Botswana has and will continue to maintain and promote friendly relations based on the sharing of fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law, respect of human rights, etc. This is accomplished through economic cooperation, continuous trades, investment promotion activities, official visits and cultural exchanges.

Economic Relations

Japan export value to Botswana was about 268 million BWP with largely automobiles and semiconductors, on the other hand, Botswana export value to Japan was about 270 million BWP with mainly diamond (2016). In order to further promote and enhance economic relations between both countries, the Embassy of Japan in Botswana has received the delegation from the Japanese Business Federation (KEIDANREN) in 2016, and also held the Japan Business & Investment Mission to Botswana together with Botswana Investment & Trade Centre in 2017.

Economic Cooperation Projects

Japan has contributed to Botswana through various assistances such as technical cooperation, grant aid and yen loan to promote cross boarder economic and cultural exchanges.

JICA volunteers and trainees programme

The bilateral cooperation to date have marked big footprints through the volunteers and trainees programme provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Under the programme about 300 Japanese volunteers have been dispatched and about 600 Botswana trainees have been accepted in Japan, covering areas of private sector development, regional development, and environmental management, etc.

Renewal Energy Project

In 2012, the Government of Japan extended a grant aid of about P 84 million (the price at that time) to

Botswana for the construction of the 1.3 megawatt photovoltaic solar power plant at Phakalane. The station uses about 6000 photovoltaic modules rated at 220 watts peak each to generate electricity from the sun. Japan also assisted Botswana with the aim of finding alternative sources of energy to combat climate change with Jatropa Research Project.

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. Since then Japan has continued technical assistance for digital migration in Botswana. Now almost all of transmission facilities over the country have been already set and BTV started broadcasting of digital programmes.

Project for Enhancing National Forest Monitoring System

Amid a significant decline in forest land recently seen in Botswana, Japan assisted Botswana with forest preserving measures, for example, the distribution map of forest in Botswana and the designing of a forest Geographic Information System database for the sustainable management of forestry.

Kazungula Bridge Construction Project and OSBP

Japan has financially supported Botswana in a part of the Kazungula Bridge Construction Project and One Stop Border Post (OSBP) Project, a North-South corridor located between Botswana and Zambia. The OSBP Project was implemented in order to facilitate cross-border procedures including Customs, Immigration and Quarantine. Japanese experts were dispatched to Botswana to extend technical assistance.

Grant assistance for grass roots human security projects (GGP)

This grant scheme assists non-profitable organizations, thorough supporting various development projects which have direct and immediate impact on the wellbeing of disadvantaged communities at grassroots level. About 50 projects in Botswana have been funded by Japan since this grant scheme was introduced to Botswana in 1997. Examples are construction of preschool facilities and construction of classes for disabled students.

Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (CCGP)

The Embassy of Japan in Botswana has immensely contributed towards Sports development in Botswana. Various local sporting codes have benefited from this grant scheme, through construction of sport facilities such as Training Halls for Karate and Judo. Botswana Softball has also been awarded the Grant for improvement of Softball equipment.

Several Scholarships

The Government of Japan offers scholarships to international student, which is a great opportunity to young Botswana. Aside from this scholarship, some students or professionals study in Japan on a scholarship such as 'African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)' which offers opportunities to study and experience internships, 'Human Resource Development in the Mining Sector (KIZUNA Program)', the Botswana Government scholarship and the Exchange Programme between universities.

Cultural events

The Embassy of Japan organizes various cultural promotion activities such as Japanese Dram concert, and Japan traditional art exhibition and even partake in some local events where we provided people with information on Japanese culture, tourism, national scholarship program, grants assistance, and other services we offer.

Cultural interactions offered at such events as the Consumer fair & cultural diversity day among others enables our stall visitors to experience Japanese culture. This usually includes trying on a Japanese traditional outfit (kimono & happi), Origami (the art of folding paper) and basic Japanese conversation lessons. The most popular activity is the Japanese calligraphy where the attendees' names are written in Japanese characters.

At the Embassy's events such as the Food Demonstration, guests are given a chance to practice preparation of simple Japanese Cuisine such as sushi rolls. Such events are usually accompanied by the Japanese tea ceremony and flower arrangements, which are also valuable elements of Japanese Tradition.



Embassy of Japan in Botswana

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