

Commemorating the 55th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Botswana

26th October, 2021

On the 26th of October 2021, Embassy of Japan hosted a reception, at Thapong Visual Arts Centre, to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Botswana. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1966, the same year the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland gained Independence as the Republic of Botswana.

Honourable Mr. Kabo Morwaeng, Acting Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, attended the reception as the Guest of Honour along with many distinguished guests who contributed in building and strengthening the bilateral relations.

In his welcome remark, Ambassador of Japan in Botswana, His Excellency HOSHIYAMA Takashi, expressed his delight to host the reception and touched upon the path of collaborative relation that the two countries have walked over the past 55 years. He recollected on the various assistance and support Japan received from Botswana, in bilateral, regional and international sphere, and thanked especially for the generous donation the Government of Botswana and its people gave to Japan when the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake hit Japan ten years ago. Looking towards the next 55 years, Ambassador Hoshiyama pointed out the many areas that the two countries can cooperate in this globalized world and looked forward to seeing a more trusting bilateral relations supported by strong partnership.

Honourable Mr. Kabo Morwaeng, in his remarks, recognized Japan as one of the first countries that Botswana established her diplomatic relations with and that Japan has been and still is one of the major development partners supporting Botswana. Honourable Minister congratulating the long standing relations pointed out the importance of taking stock of past and present achievements and to re-commit to propel the already excellent relations to greater heights in the new decade.

During the reception, Mr. EGUCHI Hideo, Resident representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Botswana, and Dr. ISHIKAWA Nobuaki, General Manager of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) Botswana Geologic Remote Sensing

Centre, each made a presentation introducing the history and projects of respective organization in Botswana over the years.

The reception also celebrated the opening of the Photo exhibition displaying over 150 photos taken by Japanese and Batswana of their stays in their respective host countries. The exhibition is one of the many events the Embassy has been hosting throughout the year to commemorate the 55th Anniversary,

After the reception, the attendees took a tour of the photo exhibition. They enjoyed the photos of Japan taken by Batswana, uniquely portraying how Batswana see Japan and interact with Japanese people, as well as the photos of Botswana taken by Japanese residents, providing an opportunity to see Botswana through the lens of people who came from a different background. The exhibition will be open to public until the 8th of November.



