

# Celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan & Botswana - Towards the future



## Message by H.E. Hoshiyama Takashi



Ambassador of Japan to Botswana

What is the first image that comes to mind when you think of Japan?  
Do you think of cars, TVs, electronic gadgets? Or maybe animation, sushi, or samurai?  
Is it the just ended Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics or karate or judo? Each of these images is correct and portrays an integral part of Japan.

Did you know that Japan was one of the first countries to recognize Botswana as an independent state after Botswana gained Independence? Actually, this year marks the 55th Anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.  
Over the 55 years, Botswana has been an important partner of Japan, sharing the fundamental values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. We have assisted Botswana through Japanese Yen loans, grant assistance and technical cooperation to develop indispensable infrastructure in Botswana, to improve the environment for industrial diversification, and to improve human capacity. As of 2019, the total amount

of development cooperation to Botswana amounted to approximately 35.7 billion Yen (approximately 3.5 billion Pula).  
The first governmental development cooperation between the two countries took place in 1981 when Japan extended grant aid to supply laboratory equipment for schools.  
Since then we have provided several other grant aids with one of the most recent signed in 2020, to provide medical equipment in the fight against COVID-19.  
Japan's first Yen loan to Botswana was extended in 1986 for the Morupule Powerstation Expansion Project to meet Botswana's great need for energy supply.  
Japan then extended Yen loans for 4 more projects,

namely, the Railway Rolling Stock Increase Project (1988), the Trans-Kgalagadi Road Project (1991), the North-South Carrier Water Project (1995), and the Kazungula Bridge Project (2012).  
Furthermore, Japan has approved 63 Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) since 1997 to support small-scale projects which have a direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities.  
As part of our effort to bring Japan closer to Botswana, on the occasion of 55th anniversary, the Embassy hosted a string of events, throughout the year, for Botswana to experience and participate in.  
These events included

a logo design competition, children's painting competition, food tasting events and art and photo exhibitions. In the 56th year and beyond, I hope to forge a stronger and more trusting bilateral relation. I am not able to do this on my own, nor can it be done only by our two Governments, we need the people of Botswana's participation as well, so please come and join us whenever the Embassy holds an event or show your enthusiasm to learn more about Japan.  
Team Botswana's men's 4 by 400 meters relay did not obtain a bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games just through individual skills, but did so through team work.  
So let us join our hands together to make our relations stronger!

## Upcoming TICAD 8

TICAD stands for Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The government of Japan has been leading this conference since 1993, co-hosted by United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and African Union Commission (AUC).  
TICAD7 was last held in 2019 in Yokohama city, Japan, with over 10,000 attendees, including 42 African leaders from 53 African countries, 52 development partner countries, 108 heads of international and regional organizations, and representatives of

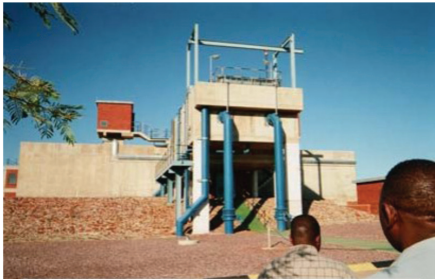
civil society and the private sector. With its existence of over a quarter of a century, TICAD has over the years, continuously supported African-led development by raising the awareness of the international community towards African issues, under the basic principle of "African ownership" and "international partnership".  
Next year, in 2022, TICAD 8 will be held in Tunisia. The Japan-Botswana cooperation will continue, as we look towards the success of TICAD 8.



TICAD 7 (Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

## Towards Economic Development

Take a look at some of the assistance Japan provided to Botswana to develop indispensable, strategic infrastructure and to improve the socio-economic environment! As of 2019, the total amount of development cooperation to Botswana amounted to approximately 35.7 billion Yen (approximately 3.5 billion Pula).



North-South Carrier Water Project: Palapye Water Treatment Works



Provision of Bed-side Monitors



Railway Rolling Stock Increase Project



Construction of Primary School



Trans-Kalahari Road Construction Project



Kazungula Bridge Construction Project



Digital Terrestrial Television providing information in Setswana



Morupule Power Station Expansion

## Cooperation in Action!



**Japan International Cooperation Agency (Botswana Office)**  
JICA's first cooperation started in 1977 when they first started their training program. Since then, JICA provided 44 million Yen worth of Grants, 5 Yen Loan projects (22 billion Yen), and dispatched more than 230 experts.

Did you know that over 1,000 Batswana have received training in Japan and over 40 Batswana have received Japanese Government scholarships

Sending off ceremony of Scholarship Students, Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET) Participants, JICA Long-Term Training Participants (2021)



Tsubomi - chan

**JOGMEC**  
**Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation**  
Since JOGMEC Botswana Geological Remote Sensing Center opened in 2008, JOGMEC offered training, conducted analysis and survey of mineral resources. JOGMEC transfers technology using remote sensing to the Southern African Development Community and, since its establishment, over 1,800 people have participated in the training.



Project for Implementation of the Digital Migration Project: Filming Stadium (JICA)



Chukyo University team teaching soft ball techniques to local schools (JICA)



Remote Sensing Workshop: A geological field inspection by Japanese Specialist and Batswana colleagues (JOGMEC)

## Looking back on the 55th Anniversary Year

### APRIL



100 Days Countdown Pep Rally Reception for the Tokyo Olympic Athletes

### JULY



Batswana who studied in Japan reunite on the Star Festival, Tanabata

### AUGUST



Japanese Art Exhibition - Variation and Autonomy

### OCTOBER



Award ceremony for Logo and Character Competition



Food tasting events

### OCT - NOV



55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Botswana  
26 October - 8 November 2021  
9:00 - 16:00  
Venue: Theopang Visual Arts Centre  
Admission Free



Check out a movie on the 55years of relations