

The First Ladies of African Countries

Surprising Discovery!

Wow!!

# The Amazing Power of School Lunch

The 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit  
November 28 - December 1, 2022 in JAPAN



## African First Ladies Gather for Children

Organizer : The 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit Executive Committee  
Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Association

Sponsor : Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

The First Ladies of African Countries

**Surprising Discovery:**

**The Amazing Power of School Lunch**

The 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit

November 28 - December 1, 2022

## Chairperson, The 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit Executive Committee

Organizer: Fukuyo Nakamori (former member of the House of Representatives)



**Fukuyo Nakamori**  
Former member of the House of Representatives

### It began with "For the Happiness of All the Children"

#### Children will Unlock the Future of the Planet

The environment surrounding children has become progressively more severe with the increase in abnormal weather, natural disasters, terrorism, and conflicts. It is our responsibility as adults to foster a wholesome environment for children. The role of women and mothers is particularly important, as mothers possess the instinct to protect their children.

Mothers who spare neither money nor their lives to secure their children's well-being and give them undivided love and care are now required to join forces and cooperate for their children's growth. Educational background, wealth and poverty are irrelevant when it comes to the love we have for our children.

However, there are many children who are forced to live in difficult circumstances due to financial and social reasons.

For children, borders, religion, and politics do not matter. We have invited the First Ladies of each nation to participate in this event because they are the mothers of their respective nations. The children of these countries are just as important to the First Ladies as their own children.

#### Summit for the Children by the "Mother of Nation"

The "1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit" is truly a "Summit for the Children" by the "Mother of the Nation."

The First Ladies who participated in the Summit emphasized the importance of cooperation, stating, "If the mothers of each nation collaborate, they can become a great power. We can accomplish anything." However, the global situation forced us to postpone the conference three times, and I am overwhelmed with regret that there were more lives that could have been saved.

The pandemic spread across the globe over three years, delaying this Summit, which was originally scheduled for 2019, to be held in 2022. During that time, Africa faced a food crisis due to an attack by desert locusts. The First Ladies of Africa sent a letter to our Association. Under the



Origin of Activities Uganda 2007

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guidance of Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary-General, and with the cooperation of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, as a nation, promptly provided emergency aid with the TICAD7 budget.

## **First Ladies Who Wished to See the Summit Put Into Practice in their Respective Nations**

As the Summit's organizer, my objectives were (1) to increase future food self-sufficiency for the children of Asia Pacific Africa and (2) to promote mutual cooperation in the face of global climate change. After World War Japan's national focus on providing school lunches resulted in significant improvements in the growth of malnourished children at the time. It is important to discuss improving school lunches and securing safe drinking water in Africa as well. Hoping that this would lead to more concrete discussions, we included special classes and school lunch experiences at elementary schools in this Summit for the visiting First Ladies.



Origin of Activities Uganda 2007

The First Ladies stated, "We want to create an environment where children have access to safe and clean water, at least while they are at school, so they can get water at school, bring it home, and drink it there." This is because some children cannot attend school, procuring water from distant locations is time-consuming, and some children are abducted while fetching water.

## **The Collaboration of the First Lady Will Save the Children**

For children, borders, religion, and politics do not matter.

The Joint Declaration and public announcement of the First Ladies as the "Mothers of the Nation" at this Summit served as a powerful catalyst for the next step in ensuring the well-being of children.

During the meeting with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, he expressed to the First Ladies, "There is an urgent need for international cooperation, addressing the global food crisis, and providing assistance for women and children. The Japanese government remains committed to protecting women and children." The First Ladies were deeply moved by the meeting and expressed their heartfelt gratitude for its meaningfulness, which gave them renewed hope for the children in their respective countries.

The desire to hold a summit for children originated with an official visit with Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki, and it was subsequently supported by the decision of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Secretary-General Toshihiro Nikai to hold this significant event.

Prime Ministers Yoshihide Suga and Fumio Kishida further facilitated the Summit's execution. This demonstrates the high value that Japan places on its children. I am sincerely grateful to all those involved.

As I mentioned earlier, I want to express my gratitude to the First Ladies, who, despite being unable to attend this year's event due to scheduling conflicts, have shown great understanding despite the multiple postponements.

## For the future and smiles of our children

For our children, for their bright future, Mothers stand tall and sure.  
No distance too great, no path too steep,  
United we march, our vigil we keep.

Our children's tomorrow, a shining light,  
Treasures we hold with all our might.  
Entrusted to us, our future's grace,  
Together we will help them find their place.

No challenge too tough, no burden too heavy,  
Hand in hand we will journey steady.  
To see our children smile, our work is never done.

For our children, we will never rest,  
We will strive to give them our very best.  
With love and care, we will guide their way,  
The mothers stand strong today.

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# The 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit Executive Committee

## Greetings from Toshihiro Nikai, Supreme Advisor

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**Toshihiro Nikai,**  
Member of the House of Representatives  
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Former Secretary General of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan

Ensuring the safety of children during times of food shortage is a global concern. Your participation and perspectives as “Mother of the Nation” in this meeting are highly valuable.

As the saying goes, “A woman is weak, but a mother is strong.” This inaugural Asia Pacific Africa Women’s Economic Summit will provide a platform to harness the power of strong mothers. I firmly believe that this will strengthen the future of our children. The international community must cooperate with Africa, understanding its current situation fully. Japan aims to provide assistance and cooperation by investing in people. I welcome any comments or suggestions regarding Japan’s role and improvements that can be made. Empowering women is crucial for a society where women play an active role. I sincerely wish you all the best in your endeavors.

## Greetings from Sadakazu Tanigaki, Counselor

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**Sadakazu Tanigaki**  
Former Member of the House of Representatives Former President of the Liberal Democratic Party

I express my gratitude to the First Ladies of Africa for representing their countries at the Summit. I am deeply moved and proud that the focus of this Summit is “Sustainable Food and Water for Children.” I vividly recall my distress when I visited Uganda in 2007 and witnessed the significant drop in water levels at Lake Victoria, a valuable water source for the region.

After fifteen years, this Summit has finally become a reality.

The First Ladies have unanimously declared their commitments to the world, emphasizing “mutual cooperation in times of disaster” and “technical cooperation in agriculture and climate change.” as a joint declaration. I hope that the “community of cooperation for the future of our children” established here in Tokyo, as the mothers of our nations, will lead to a significant leap forward for our children’s future.



# Courtesy Visit to the Prime Minister of Japan



## Courtesy Visit to the Japanese Prime Minister

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hosted the First Ladies of Africa on December 1.



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

## Greeting from Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

Let me first begin with my heartfelt welcome on your visit to Japan for the 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit.

I heard the summit focuses on ensuring food security and disaster risk reduction.

Amid concerns about the food crisis due to the Ukraine invasion, it is increasingly important to carry out mutual cooperation to secure food. In particular, there is an urgent need for assistance for women and children.

At the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development held this year, we discussed women's access to quality education, promoting women's participation in the community, and human resource development in the agricultural sector. Japan will continue our efforts to protect women and children.



DR Congo

Burundi

Uganda

At the Prime Minister's Office

Gambia

Malawi

Tanzania



**Seiko Hashimoto**  
Member of the House of  
Councillors

**Zimbabwe**

**DR Congo**

**Burundi**

**Prime Minister  
Fumio Kishida**

**Gambia**

**Uganda**

**Malawi**

**Tanzania**

**Fukuyo Nakamori**  
Former member of the House  
of Representatives



**Spouse of Prime Minister of Tanzania  
H.E. Mrs. Majaliwa**



**First Lady of Malawi H.E. Mrs. Chakwera**



**Prime Minister of Uganda  
Rt. Hon. Nabbanja**



**Spouse of Prime Minister of the DR Congo  
Distinguished Mrs. Mwepu**



**First Lady of the Gambia  
H.E. Mrs. Barrow**

**First Lady of Burundi  
H.E. Mrs. Ndayishimiye**

# Reception Party held by Foreign Affairs Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi



## Strong Africa!!

The reception was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomatic mission at the Iikura Guest House. The opening address was made by Mr. Kenji Yamada, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who could not attend due to a schedule conflict. He concluded his speech by wishing the success of the Summit.



**Kenji Yamada**,  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs



**Yoshimasa Hayashi**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Formerly held Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, and others

## Greeting from Yoshimasa Hayashi

Welcome to this reception. During your stay in Japan, you all are scheduled to participate in the 1st Asia Pacific and Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit, and I would like to thank Chairperson Fukuyo Nakamori, who is here today, for her great efforts to make this Summit possible. This year's Summit will focus on children in the areas of ensuring food security, environment, and disaster risk reduction.

With the recent occurrence of large-scale disasters around the world due to climate change, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure food security when disaster strikes and to cooperate with each other internationally for this purpose. In particular, measures for securing the safety of women and children are urgently needed as they are the first to suffer from the negative impacts of large-scale disasters. We hope that this Summit will serve as a launch pad for discussions on this

important issue.

Japan has long walked hand in hand with Africa. At the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) held in Tunisia this August, the Government of Japan announced a plan to support capacity building for 200,000 people in the agricultural sector in the area of the food security from the perspective of "investment in people," which is a priority for Japan. As a partner that grows together with Africa, Japan will continue to cooperate in realizing a resilient Africa that Africa itself aims to achieve.

I hope that you will engage in lively discussions from your own perspective during this Summit and that you will bring back the results of these discussions to your own countries and use them to improve the environment in your countries.

I would like to conclude my remarks by wishing the 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit a successful event.

Thank you. Merci beaucoup.



**Seiko Hashimoto**  
Member of the House of  
Councillors

**Tanzania**

**Malawi**

**DR Congo**

**Yuko Kishida**  
First Lady of Japan

**Kenji Yamada**  
State Minister for  
Foreign Affairs

**Uganda**

**Gambia**

**Burundi**

**DR Congo**

**Fukuyo Nakamori**  
Former Member of the House  
of Representatives



Mrs. Yuko Kishida, First Lady of Japan, circulated to all the tables and engaged in pleasant and cordial conversation from beginning to end. When Ms. Nakamori consulted her about the Summit, Mrs. Kishida responded with a smile and a nod, saying, “I think it’s an excellent and important thing. Women understand children the best,” and also expressed her support.

### Greeting from Mrs. Yuko Kishida, First Lady of Japan

Good evening, everyone. I am Yuko Kishida. To those of you from overseas, welcome to Japan, and ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ensuring food security, environment, and disaster risk reduction are critical issues for our children, who are the essential bearers of our country’s future. I am concluding my remarks by expressing my sincere hope that the 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women’s Economic Exchange Summit will be a forum for lively discussions based on your rich experience and that it will lead to the further development of Japan-Africa relations.



First Lady of Japan  
Yuko Kishida

First Lady of Malawi  
H.E. Mrs. Chakwera



At Iikura Guest House

First Lady of Japan  
Yuko Kishida

Fukuyo Nakamori  
Former member of the House  
of Representatives

First Lady of the Gambia  
H.E. Mrs. Barrow

# Visiting Chairperson, Headquarters for Promoting the Establishment of the Disaster Resilient Japan

A meeting with Toshihiro Nikai, Chairperson, Headquarters for Promoting the Establishment of the Disaster Resilient Japan

He greeted the First Ladies and conveyed,

**“Nothing is superior to a mother for a child. No man in the world can ever surpass his mother.”**



**Toshihiro Nikai**

Member of the House of Representatives  
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry,  
Former Secretary General of the Liberal  
Democratic Party of Japan

## Expressing Gratitude for Support during the Desert Locust Disaster

Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Nabbanja of Uganda expressed her heartfelt appreciation to Chairperson Nikai for his prompt support during the desert locust attack. She also emphasized the importance of disaster prevention technology and requested technical support during such crises.

Distinguished Mrs. Mwepu, the Spouse of the Prime Minister of DR Congo, raised a specific request, stating, “We would greatly appreciate guidance on initiatives that enable victims of sexual violence to reintegrate into society and find employment in the agricultural sector.”



Reference

**Fukuyo Nakamori**  
Former member of the House  
of Representatives

**Toshihiro Nikai**  
Member of the House of  
Representatives

**Director-General**  
International Cooperation Bureau  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Toshihiro Nikai, Secretary General of Japan’s Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), receiving a report on the support for the food situation for children in Africa from Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (At the time) Covid 19 pandemic and Desert locust invasion hit Africa in 2020. Japan has provided aid to the most impacted countries through the “TICAD 7” budget.



**Burundi**  
H.E. Mrs. Ndayishimiye

**DR Congo**  
Distinguished Mrs. Mwepu

**Uganda**  
Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Nabbanja

**Toshihiro Nikai**  
Member of the House of  
Representatives

**Katsuei Hirasawa**  
Member of the House of  
Representatives



**Tanzania**  
H.E. Mrs. Majaliwa

**Malawi**  
H.E. Mrs. Chakwera

**Gambia**  
H.E. Mrs. Barrow

**Zimbabwe**

## Absence of Disaster Prediction Means

Countries including Burundi, Tanzania, Malawi, and the Gambia find themselves in a situation where they lack the means to anticipate where disasters may occur. They requested Mr. Toshihiro Nikai's understanding and expressed their strong desire to learn from Japan's expertise in disaster prevention technology.



**Toshihiro Nikai**  
Member of the House of Representatives

**First Lady of the Gambia**  
H.E. Mrs Barrow



**Toshihiro Nikai**  
Member of the House of Representatives

**Katsuei Hirasawa**  
Member of the House of Representatives

## Mutual Assistance in Japan

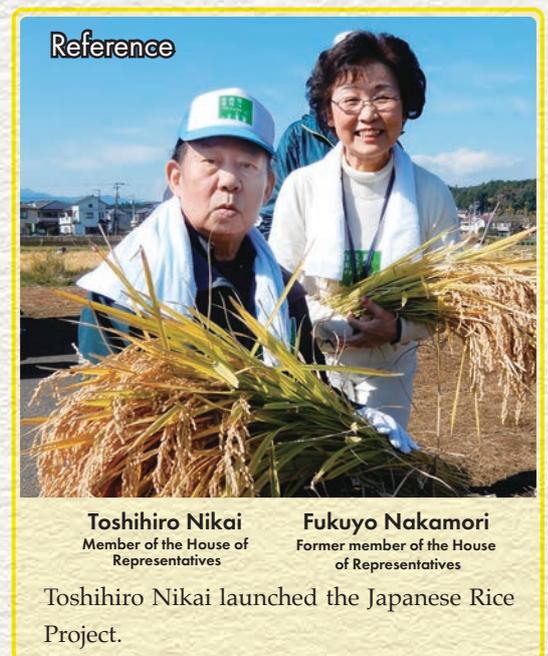
Malawi's First Lady, H.E. Mrs. Chakwera, and the Gambia's First Lady, H.E. Mrs. Barrow, both expressed their commitment to supporting one another in Japan for the sake of their children's futures. They highlighted that all participating countries seek guidance in disaster prevention knowledge.

## Japan's Expertise in Disaster Prevention

"Disaster prevention is a field in which Japan excels," affirmed Toshihiro Nikai. "We are more than willing to collaborate in any possible way," he added unequivocally.



**Spouse of Prime Minister H.E. Mrs. Majaliwa of Tanzania**



### Reference

**Toshihiro Nikai**  
Member of the House of Representatives

**Fukuyo Nakamori**  
Former member of the House of Representatives

Toshihiro Nikai launched the Japanese Rice Project.

## There will be No War

In his closing remarks, Mr. Nikai expressed his support and encouragement, stating,

**"If women play a central role in politics, we can ensure that conflicts and wars will not occur."**

## Declaration

November 29, 2022

*We, the representatives of our respective countries gathered here today, declare to the world our firm commitment to “ensuring sustainable food production and clean water that children need to survive.”*

*In recent years, the environment surrounding children has faced many challenges and difficulties. Extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and historic storms, plagues of locusts, as well as infectious diseases and childbirth in unsafe conditions, have had an immeasurable impact on children.*

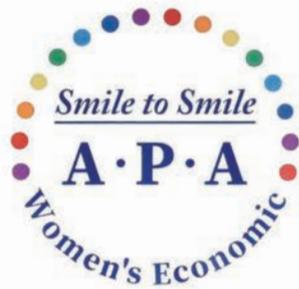
*Our wish that “the children of the future will grow up strong and healthy” is shared across borders and beyond religious beliefs by mothers all over the world.*

*And we will continue our efforts to ensure that no children in Africa shed tears over war. To make this ardent wish come true, we must acquire the food security technologies of advanced countries.*

*We fervently hope that advanced countries will provide the technologies and technical guidance. That will greatly inspire courage and wisdom among children living in Africa.*

*To protect the precious lives of children at a time when the whole world is greatly impacted by climate change, we will go forward into the future in a spirit of cooperation and mutual encouragement.*

*We pledge this as Africa’s mothers.*



## **“To cope with food crises for the future” The 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women’s Economic Exchange**

【主催】アジア太平洋アフリカ女性経済サミット実行委員会、(一社)アジア



Fukuyo Nakamor  
Former member of  
the House of  
Representatives

Zimbabwe  
H.E. Dr.  
Auxillia Mnangagwa

Uganda  
Prime Minister, Rt. Hon.  
Robinah Nabbanja

Tanzania  
Spouse of Prime Minister,  
H.E. Mrs. Mary Benjamin  
Mbawala Majaliwa

Malawi  
H.E. Mrs. Monica  
Chakwera

Gambia  
H.E. Mrs. Fatoumatta  
Bah Barrow



DR Congo  
Spouse of Prime Minister,  
Distinguished Mrs. Guido  
Banza Mwepu

DR Congo  
Mrs. Nathalie Domai  
Chief of Cabinet of the  
Spouse of the Head of State

Burundi  
H.E. Mrs. Angeline  
Ndayubaha  
Ndayishimiye

Seiko Hashimoto  
Member of the House of  
Councillors

# The Summit Venue Overflowed with Enthusiasm

## A Vision for a Peaceful and Safe World for Children

Ms. Nakamori's vision for the Summit was conceived in Uganda 15 years ago during a official visit with Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki, shortly after his retirement as Minister of Finance. Witnessing wars erupting in neighboring countries and children suffering from hunger, she strongly felt, "Every child has the right to live and learn. We must take action."

## Conflict, Violence, and Global Warming

Children are always the most vulnerable victims of conflicts, violence, and global warming. If we cannot rescue children from the hardships of food and water shortages, there is no hope for the future of humanity. The 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit was initiated out of a deep concern for the well-being of children.

## Words of Encouragement from Mr. Nikai: "It is Essential to gather as Mother of the Nation"

The words of Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, former Secretary General of the Liberal Democratic Party, resonated with me and became the driving force behind this Summit. He emphasized the importance of the First Ladies gathering at this event for the sake of their children and as the mothers of their countries. With



**Chairperson, Seiko Hashimoto**  
Member of the House of Councillors



**Vice-Chair, Fukuyo Nakamori**  
Former member of the House of Representatives

the support and guidance of Mr. Nikai, Mr. Tanigaki, and other senior politicians, I was able to expand my network of experts and valuable friends both in Japan and abroad. Numerous obstacles, both major and minor, had to be overcome. However, finally, on November 28, 2022, the First Ladies of seven African nations convened in the "International Conference Hall" of the First House of Representatives to discuss and unite as the "Mothers of Nations."



**Gambia Vice Chair Burundi Zimbabwe**  
With NERICA Rice Expert Mr. Tatsushi Tsuboi



## International Conference Hall

The First Ladies, dressed in an array of colorful and elegant attire, ranging from traditional fashion to suits, greeted each other with warm smiles. The conference hall radiated with the grace and dignity of these remarkable women, transcending the challenges of the global situation. After the opening address by Counselor Sadakazu Tanigaki (delivered by his representative), the Summit Chairperson, Seiko Hashimoto, and Vice



**Sadakazu Tanigaki**  
Former member of the House of Representatives



Read on behalf :  
**Shinpei Matsushita**  
Member of the House of Councillors



DR Congo Mrs. Nathalie Domai, Zimbabwe's First Lady  
H.E. Dr. Mnangagwa

Chairperson, Fukuyo Nakamori, delivered their remarks, followed by speeches from each country. Chairperson Hashimoto, a current member of the House of Councillors holding a senior position, had parliamentary duties during the Summit. In her absence, Vice Chairperson Nakamori will take turns serving as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The venue was filled with a strong desire for cooperation among the First Ladies. The officials from each country who accompanied their First

Ladies also expressed the same purpose for the sake of the children. As communication and mutual trust continued to strengthen, the 1st Asia Pacific African Women's Economic Exchange Summit was concluded with smiles on their faces, signing of a joint declaration. While the Summit as Mothers of Nations may have marked a humble beginning, the four days the First Ladies of each nation spent advocating for their children's future will serve as a valuable guiding light. We believe this "Summit of the Mothers of the Nations" will be one of the cornerstones illuminating the lives of our children.



DR Congo's Spouse of Prime Minister Distinguished Mrs. Mwepu



# Exchange of Views with Japan-African Union Parliamentarians for Friendship



**Ichiro Aisawa**  
Member of the House of Representatives

## Ichiro Aisawa, Chairperson of Japan-African Union Parliamentarians for Friendship

Member of the House of Representatives, served as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Budget Committee Chairman, and various other roles.

Having visited more than twenty African nations, I deeply understand the importance of collaboration. I aspire to see a harmonious coexistence and shared prosperity between Africa's breathtaking natural beauty and its people. In Japan, the concept of "Kaizen" represents continuous improvement, eliminating losses and inefficiencies to enhance efficiency. It brings me joy to learn that this Japanese mindset has become part of the local culture in Ethiopia and other countries. I assure you that I will continue to provide diverse assistance to African nations.

**Discussions with Female Members** The discussions encompassed various crucial topics, including the need for support for women, improving children's lives, and enhancing education. Let us, as women in Japan and Africa, strive together to achieve our best! The meeting took the form of an open discussion.



**Karen Makishima**  
Member of the House of Representatives



**Emiko Takagai**  
Member of the House of Representatives



**Takako Suzuki**  
Member of the House of Representatives



**Toshiko Abe**  
Member of the House of Representatives

The meeting was conducted in the form of an open discussion

### Words of Appreciation at the Conference

- Efforts to build a low-cost pharmaceutical manufacturing base. Currently, under the guidance from Japan, they are in phase 3 of WHO approval
- The technical support for the turbine project
- The hospital and road construction
- Volunteers from Japan
- The weather satellite

### Cooperation Requested from Multiple Nations

- Death of an infant from aflatoxin – Guidance on knowledge in the medical field to support research facilities (e.g., construction of pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities).
- Protection against sexual violence and guidance on psychological care
- Guidance on agricultural technology (drought, irrigation facility support) (Development of experts, cultivation of NERICA rice)
- Support school cafeteria programs from a nutrition perspective



**Hideki Makihara**  
Member of the House of Representatives,  
Head of the secretariat of Japan-African  
Union Parliamentary Friendship League

# Words of Encouragement for the First Ladies

**Toshiaki Endo**, Member of the House of Representatives  
(served as Minister of State for Tokyo Oly-Para, etc.)

## Chairman of the Diet Member's Group for Building Schools for Asian Children

I am delighted to see the organization of my esteemed fellow Diet member, Ms. Fukuyo Nakamori, sponsoring a conference on food security for children. I want to express my admiration for this inaugural effort to bring together the First Ladies of Africa for meaningful discussions. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the numerous African athletes who have participated in Tokyo, where Chairperson Hashimoto and I have served as Ministers of Olympic Affairs. Despite facing challenging circumstances such as droughts and export restrictions due to climate change, we would be immensely grateful if this Summit could serve as a catalyst for “ensuring food security for children.” We are committed to making further efforts in collaboration with you to address these pressing issues.



**Toshiaki Endo**  
Member of the House of Representatives

**Katsuei Hirasawa**, Member of the House of Representatives  
(served as Minister of Reconstruction, etc.)

I believe it is essential for Japan to strengthen its friendships with Africans. Please don't hesitate to contact our Parliamentarians regarding any topic and let us know how we can help you. I will conclude by reiterating our commitment to assist you in any way possible.



**Katsuei Hirasawa**  
Member of the House of Representatives

### At the Diet members' cafeteria

**Ken Saito, Minister of Justice,**  
(Formerly served as Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)



Mr. Ken Saito, Minister of Justice and former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, brought his extensive knowledge on water and agriculture issues to the Summit. In his address, he expressed a strong desire for deeper cooperation between Africa and Japan. Despite the demanding national Diet session, he graciously made time to join the Summit.

**Satoshi Fujimaru, Deputy Minister of the Cabinet Office**

Mr. Fujimaru, a member of the House of Representatives, welcomed all the participants and emphasized the increasing importance of the relationship between Africa and Japan. He encouraged the strengthening of the cooperative ties by pooling their collective strengths together. During the Diet session, Mr. Fujimaru also joined the First Ladies for a lunch meeting.



# JICA Lecture on Nutrition and Rice

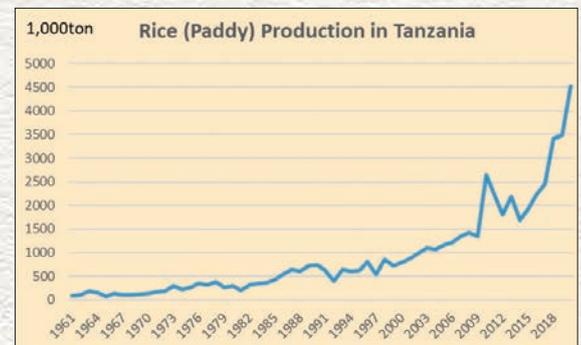
**memo** Seventy-five years ago, Japanese children suffered from malnutrition. School lunches were first established at the elementary school level. Now, African children are suffering from malnutrition problems. On the first day of the Summit, we had a lecture on “JICA’s efforts to increase rice production and nutrition in Africa”, the subjects which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has continuously been focusing.

## Ms. Sachiko Imoto Board of Directors JICA

### Abstract

On December 7th, 2021, JICA announced its Nutrition Declaration entitled ‘Nutrition for All: Ten-Point Commitment to Realize Human Security’.

In addition, we launched the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), an initiative aimed at doubling rice production in Africa, now active in 32 countries, including Uganda and Zambia. Concrete actions include the dispatch of agricultural planning advisers, sustainable use and operation of irrigation systems, and the planning of rice development programs. We believe that JICA has effectively helped lay the foundation for substantial increases in rice production with the involvement of women in Tanzania, with training sessions held across the country since the 1970s covering a wide range of topics related to rice production, including gender and farm equipment.



Rice has become established as a cash crop and ranks third in Africa in production. Tanzania now exports rice to neighboring countries.



### With enhanced cooperation in Africa on food and nutrition, JICA will:

- ensure that people in Africa have access to nutritionally adequate food;
- help protect children who will be responsible for the future; and
- further promote women’s empowerment.

# Planting Seeds in Africa and Bringing Smiles with Rice



**Mr. Tatsushi Tsuboi, JICA,**

## Abstract

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda set a goal at TICAD 4 in 2008 to double rice production in Africa within ten years, which was accomplished in 2018. The **New Rice for Africa (NERICA)**, a land rice created from crossbreeding Asian and African rice, has contributed to this doubling of yield. NERICA consists of 18 varieties, with NERICA 4 being the most popular. NERICA has more enormous panicles, with almost twice as many grains per panicle as traditional upland rice varieties, resulting in higher yields. Additionally, it can be harvested in a relatively short period of approximately 115 days after sowing. NERICA cultivation requires at least 20mm of rainfall over five days. NERICA can be grown in upland fields without a rice paddy, and it is as simple as sowing and covering the soil without requiring the production of seedlings or the need for transplanting. Furthermore, rice grows well even in flooded areas during the rainy season.



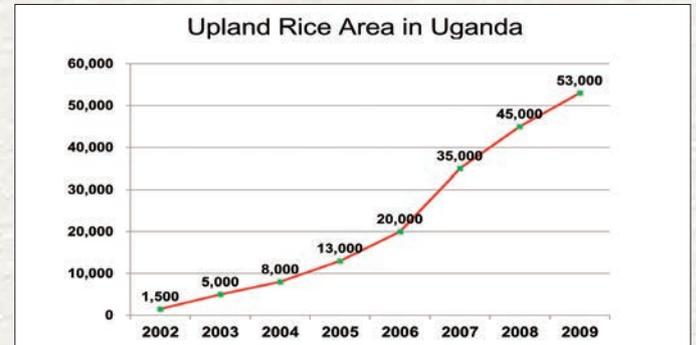
## The Key is to Maintain Soil Moisture.

Various trials in Uganda have demonstrated that terraces (terraced fields) on slopes help retain soil moisture by preventing precipitation from flowing downhill.



The difference in yield between terraced and unterraced fields is more than double.

## Uganda's Agricultural Land, from 1,500 to 53,000 Hectares



The graph shows that the area planted with upland rice increased from 1,500 hectares in 2004 to 53,000 hectares in 2009. In addition, areas where neither field crops nor rice was cultivated during the rainy season when we visited Ethiopia in 2004 were transformed into NERICA fields in 2013, as shown in the photo below.



## Africa Has 240 million Hectares of Wetland.

Of that area, 40 million hectares are fit for rice production. Training local farmers to cultivate rice will increase rice production. This will require Japan to continue its support for rice cultivation.

*memo* Ms. Nakamori, the Vice-Chair, says she still remembers how fifteen years ago, Mr. Tsuboi told Mr. Tanigaki that he would do his best to increase rice production on behalf of Japan while pointing to "NERICA rice" that was being grown in the pilot field in Uganda. In 2022, he told Ms. Nakamori that even if Japan supports new rice varieties, fertilizers, and irrigation equipment, rice cultivation will not spread or take root in Africa unless Japan provides farmers with training in cultivation techniques."

# Special Class was Full of Surprises



Special class by H.E. Mrs. Chakwera of Malawi

## At Saitama Municipal Misono-Kita Elementary School

The First Ladies generously dedicated 30 minutes each to give a special class to fourth through sixth-grade students, with one First Lady from a different country assigned to each class.

The class was filled with delightful surprises from the beginning. The First Ladies had prepared educational materials showcasing the wildlife, landforms, children of the same age, and music from their respective countries.



Display by children (the children had performed extensive research on African countries and had been looking forward to the visit)



Special Class by the Zimbabwean Youth Delegation

Each class had its unique lesson, leaving the children amazed and thoroughly enjoying this unique experience and opportunity. The students, who had learned about the First Lady's home country in advance, welcomed her with warm remarks and displayed posters throughout the classrooms. The joy and surprise on the First Lady's face were evident. The mayor, superintendent of education, and the school's principal had also made



“Any question?”

H.E. Mrs. Ndayishimiye of Burundi

extensive preparations with the students, focusing on the First Lady’s home country. Principal Toshiharu Sato expressed his gratitude, stating, “I am thankful that the students had the opportunity to receive heartfelt lessons directly from the First Lady.”

He firmly believed that this unique experience would leave a lasting impression on the children’s hearts and contribute to a prosperous future, not limited to Japan and Africa.

Witnessing the affection the First Ladies, as the mothers of their respective nations, have for their children deeply moved us.

The First Ladies, with a smile on their faces, expressed the following heartfelt words after interacting directly with the children of Japan: “Children are the same all around the world, with their eyes shining brightly. It is wonderful to see this opportunity deepen the interaction among children and build even better relationships.”



Display by children (the children had performed extensive research on African countries and had been looking forward to the visit)



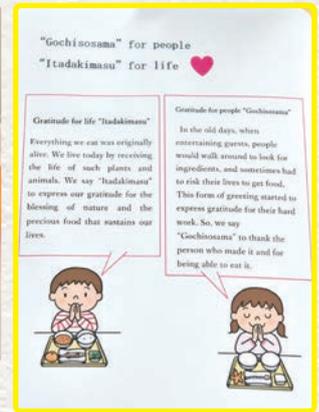
Distinguished Mrs. Mwepu of DR Congo, posing for a photo with the student.

# School Lunch was Amazing!

Seven First Ladies came to Japan with the aim of ensuring a steady supply of food for children. The “Mothers of the Nations” from seven nations visited Misono-Kita Elementary School in Saitama City and had the opportunity to experience Japanese school lunch alongside the children.



200yen per meal



## After World War, Japan Faced Severe Food Shortages

The introduction of school lunch programs was a crucial step in improving the nutritional status of children. In Japan, school lunches prioritize safety and security, and the daily menus are carefully designed to meet the dietary needs of children at each developmental stage.

## School Lunchtime Nurtures Cooperation

H.E. Mrs. Ndayishimiye, the First Lady of Burundi, wearing a white apron, actively participated in



The children served school lunch to Uganda’s Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Nabbanja.



Spouse of Prime Minister, H.E. Mrs. Majaliwa, of Tanzania, asked about school meal menus.

...serving food to the children. In her home country, it is customary for adults to serve children, and children do not serve each other. She was pleasantly surprised by the Japanese-style meal serving, where students actively participated. The First Ladies were amazed by several aspects, such as the tradition of joining hands together to express gratitude for the meal, the menus providing essential nutrients, and the daily variation in the menu. Rt. Hon. Nabbanja, the Prime Minister of



Students eating together with Spouse of Prime Minister, Distinguished Mrs. Mwepu of DR Congo

Uganda, expressed her intentions to incorporate many of the practices she observed into the development of school lunch programs in her home country.

### Cleaning the Classroom by Students

After lunch, the First Ladies were astonished to witness students diligently cleaning their classrooms. They couldn't believe that children took responsibility for cleaning their own spaces, even the first graders. They remarked, "From a young age, the Japanese have the custom of cleaning up the classrooms they use at school.



High-five with the students, H.E. Mrs. Barrow of the Gambia

Now we understand why the streets are clean in Japan." Rt. Hon. Nabbanja, the Prime Minister of Uganda, also expressed her surprise at the spirit of cooperation and mutual aid that naturally developed in school life.



Students are scrubbing the floor.



Students are mopping the floor.

# Safe Water for Children at School

Access to clean water is a primary concern for many African nations. Representatives from various African embassies in Japan emphasized the importance of providing children with access to clean water to prevent infectious diseases. They shared concerns such as children being unable to attend school due to water-fetching duties, high child mortality rates resulting from drinking contaminated water, and the lack of access to safe drinking water in rural areas.



Left : Black device converts seawater to pure water.

Right : Filtration equipment with filter

## The Japanese-made Filters which Eliminates Pathogens, has size of 0.2 Microns



Equipment for producing water from the air

In Africa, numerous small villages face various challenges, including inadequate water quality, even in areas with water sources and desert regions. However, Japanese engineers are eager to provide support. We have prepared three devices to

demonstrate how to obtain potable water from the air, deliver clean water using filters, and produce fresh water from seawater. As an example, water from a municipal pond was extracted and filtered using Japanese filters, known for their exceptional ability to remove microorganisms such as cholera bacteria. The resulting water, now safe to drink, was tasted before the First Ladies. This demonstration prompted questions about the amount of water that can be secured, the associated costs, and the requirements for electricity.



Nakamori consumes filtered water



DR Congo  
Spouse of Prime Minister,  
Distinguished Mrs Mwepu

Fukuyo  
Nakamori

Uganda  
Prime Minister,  
Rt. Hon Nabbanja

Malawi  
H.E. Mrs.  
Chakwera

Burundi  
H.E. Mrs.  
Ndayishimiye

Tanzania  
Spouse of Prime Minister,  
H.E. Mrs. Majaliwa

# Contribution Letter from Motohiro Ohno, Governor of Saitama Prefecture

I would like to congratulate once again on implementing the “Tree Planting Activity Program of the Asia-Pacific Africa Women Leaders” and welcome First Ladies from African countries to



At Minuma Nature Park

Saitama Prefecture. This program aims to promote the importance of agricultural development to secure food for the world’s children and establish a mutually cooperative system in to respond to disasters to protect lives, which are important topics aligned with the SDGs. Minuma Rice Paddies, where we planted the trees, is a valuable green space left in the suburb on the outskirts of Tokyo. Its use is not restricted to agriculture; it is a place where residents can come to enjoy nature, and the area also plays a major role in flood control. With such history and functions, I consider it very meaningful that the tree-planting event took place in Minuma Rice Paddies. In closing, I would like to express my sincere wishes for the development of each country in Africa, and for the further strengthening of Japan-Africa relationships.

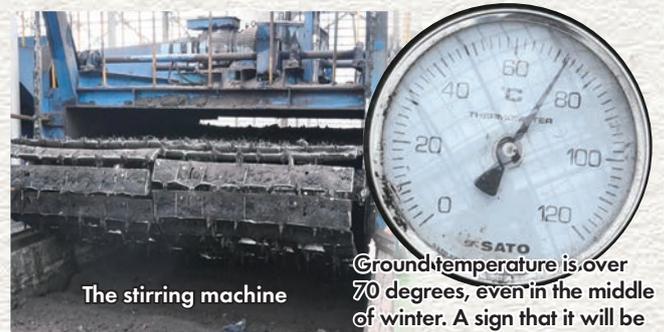


Motohiro Ohno, Governor of Saitama Prefecture

## Creating “Rich Soil” No Flies

Leftover food, manure, and weeds have been used as valuable fertilizers for the fields since ancient times. In the past, composting techniques required about a year, but now they can be completed in a much shorter period. By incorporating the aforementioned leftover food and other materials into the soil and introducing bacteria, a useful field soil can be produced in just 20 to 25 days. In a 300 square meters space (100 m x 3 m = 300 m<sup>2</sup>), there are only a few flies, if any. The wholesome fields required for a nutritious harvest must be utilized to their full potential, particularly in light of the available natural forage. Due to COVID-19, we were not permitted to leave Tokyo to visit the site, so we presented with video coverage, which we have partially included in this Publication.

In 25 days, a good field’s “soil base” is completed.



The stirring machine

Ground temperature is over 70 degrees, even in the middle of winter. A sign that it will be good soil



Food residues are added to the soil.



# First Lady of the Republic of Burundi H.E. Mrs. Angeline Ndayubaha Ndayishimiye



First Lady of the Republic of Burundi,  
H.E. Mrs. Angeline Ndayubaha Ndayishimiye

## Abstract

 I cannot start my speech without expressing gratitude to the Good Lord for this honorable opportunity He has bestowed upon us to be here in Tokyo and participate in this conference. The primary goal of this conference is to address the food crisis of our children. It is a significant challenge faced globally, especially in developing countries and desert regions that are confronted with epidemic emergencies and natural disasters.

## Nutritious School Lunch is the Goal

“We have been actively involved in various food production initiatives in the Republic of Burundi. Fortunately, Burundi has experienced few disasters; however, in recent years,

heavy rains have caused extensive damage to Burundi’s infrastructure, including roads, waterways, and school buildings. In response, we have launched the ‘Zero Malnutrition by 2020 Campaign.’ As the leader of the Office of the First Lady for Development in Burundi, my focus is on providing medical care to widows and orphans. However, one major issue we face is the high child mortality rate, particularly among children under the age of 5. Although the percentage of malnourished children has decreased from 6% to 4% since the launch of the campaign, there is still a shortage of drinking water in schools, and students require nutritious meals.”

## I Would Like to Expand School Lunches Nationwide

“Since assuming the role of First Lady, I have taken the initiative to implement school meals. My vision is to see this school cafeteria program expanded throughout the entire nation. I am also eager to learn from the expertise and know-how of Japanese school meals.”



Serving school lunch

## Strong Desire for Japanese Technical Guidance

“Japan and Burundi have maintained an excellent relationship since 1963, and we consider Japan as a sisterly country. I hope our bond will endure for a long time and bring great benefits to both nations. Burundi is currently focused on advancing its agriculture and pastoralism, which are crucial for our food security. As a developed nation, Japan possesses numerous advanced technologies. I hope that Japan will continue to provide guidance on cutting-edge



At Narita International Airport



At Minuma Nature Park

technologies, such as sustainable agriculture and technical expertise in the processed food industry. As a developing nation, we seek development partners. We are lacking in human resource development and disaster prevention equipment, and we aspire to make progress in these areas.”

## Let's Strengthen Our Cooperation

“This Summit is an opportunity for us to strengthen our friendship, collaboration, and commitment to changing the lives of many children around the world.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude



likura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with First Lady of Japan, Mrs. Yuko Kishida

to the organizers. This event serves as a platform for us to deepen our bonds of friendship, enhance collaboration, and reinforce our shared commitments to making a positive impact on the lives of children worldwide. I express my hope that the next summit will take place in Burundi, allowing us to continue our important work together.



With NERICA Rice Expert Mr. Tatsushi Tsuboi

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

Messages  
from  
the First Lady

**Distinguished Mrs. Guido Banza Mwepu,**  
Spouse of Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**Madame Nathalie Domai,** Chief of Cabinet of the Spouse of the Head of State



Spouse of Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,  
Distinguished Mrs. Guido Banza Mwepu



Chief of Cabinet of the Spouse of the Head of State,  
Madame Nathalie Domai

### Abstract

 It is a great honor for me to participate in the Asia-Pacific and Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit, focusing on the protection of children from food crises. Although the distinguished First Lady of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madame Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi, regrets not being able to join us personally due to her demanding schedule, her thoughts are with us today.

During this conference, it is evident that billions of



likura Guest House of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
with First Lady of Japan, Mrs. Yuko Kishida

people around the world are in dire need of food and facing a crisis of hunger. This fact is undeniable and unsustainable. Therefore, this conference is a golden opportunity to find joint solutions for our children, along with Africa and other regions of the world.

### Cooperation and Unity to End Hunger

“The world, especially the African continent, is experiencing a growing number of disasters, such as droughts, which are leading to an increase in hunger. Vast agricultural lands are transforming into deserts, and the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the issue. Additionally, conflicts and wars contribute to this vicious cycle. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the armed group M23 has caused long-standing conflict in the eastern region, worsening security and food situations. As a result, children in the affected areas suffer from malnutrition and hunger. It is distressing to acknowledge that hunger is not solely a natural consequence of disasters but is also caused by human factors. Given these circumstances, it is imperative that every country redouble its efforts and cooperate to address this issue.”



At the Prime Minister's Office, shaking hands with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

### Japanese Technology and Guidance on Electricity Infrastructure

“It is evident that both short and long-term funds are required to tackle this issue. We hope that Japan can provide guidance on various technologies, including infrastructure and disaster response, to assist African countries, including the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite the recent destruction of power facilities and lines due to heavy rains, we remain committed to helping those in need.”

### Adopting Japanese Agriculture Technologies for Development

“The Democratic Republic of the Congo possesses vast cultivable and arable lands with high potential. With guidance in agricultural technologies, we



A tour of the water system

believe the country can further develop. We are also grateful for Japan's assistance in healthcare, as we received support materials such as water purifiers and tents in 2021. We intend to continue

our unified efforts, working with the government, private sector, and civil society, to address these challenges.”

### Call for Support of Sexual Violence Victims

We would like to bring attention to the issue of care for victims of sexual violence, particularly in conflict areas. They endure significant psychological trauma and require facilities and programs to support their reintegration into society. Our goal is to create a society where women and children can escape such circumstances.



At the Summit venue

If this conference can make a significant contribution to those goals, it would bring us immeasurable joy.”

The First Lady of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is dedicated to working alongside our neighboring regions in Asia, the Pacific, and Africa during this summit. Together, we will enhance the food security of our children, with a focus on accelerating the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and achieving SDGs 2 of the UN 2030 Agenda. Thank you.



## First Lady of the Republic of the Gambia H.E. Mrs. Fatoumatta Bah Barrow



First Lady of the Republic of The Gambia, H.E. Mrs. Fatoumatta Bah Barrow

### Abstracts



I am delighted to be able to participate in the Asia Pacific African Women's Economic Summit. This significant forum focuses on securing food sufficiency for future generations. I would like to express my appreciation for organizing this summit to discuss these common issues.

### Access to Food is Challenging Due to Ukraine War

I attended this summit, recognizing its immense

importance for the children of Africa. The world is heading towards a food crisis that is very alarming. The number of people suffering from hunger is rapidly increasing as a result of the combined impact of conflict, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increasing cost of food due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. More than enough food is being produced to feed the global population, but there are still malnourished children in this world.

For children affected by the global hunger crisis, nations should adopt a human-rights-based approach,

children-sensitive measures and urgent measures to move closer to Sustainable Development Goal 2, for a world without hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Presently, the Gambia ranks 72nd out of 116 countries in terms of hunger levels and faces significant vitamin deficiencies."



Outside of Summit venue



**Seiko Hashimoto**  
Member of the House of Councillors

**Fukuyo Nakamori**  
Former member of the House of Representatives



**With the Prime Minister of Japan**

### Sustainable Food Technical Guidance

“While we are currently in dire need of assistance with food and water, we also have a strong desire to acquire sustainable techniques that will enable us to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance in the future. We earnestly hope to receive guidance in technology from experts. We firmly believe that the development of skilled professionals will lead to remarkable improvements in our country. For instance, our ability to deal with flood disasters is currently limited to reactive measures. Currently, it is difficult to predict rainfall patterns and weather, which poses a significant challenge for those involved in agriculture. However, with scientific and technical tools for predicting disasters, African countries could be spared devastating consequences. Our country

lacks irrigation facilities, food storage facilities and



**In front of the headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party**

requires land improvement for increased food production. Additionally, food processing techniques are crucial, particularly in regions with high salt content where agriculture is currently impossible. We are in desperate need of technological guidance, more than monetary support.”

### Unity as the Way Forward

“I firmly believe that the active participation of women leaders in the discussions at this Summit will play a pivotal role in shaping the future. Open-channel communication is of paramount importance. We, as the mothers of our respective countries, are here together, and it is crucial that we cooperate and stand united. I am fully committed to working collaboratively with all of you. My hope is that the next Summit will be held in Africa.”

I would like to conclude by reminding all of you that achieving the fundamental right to freedom from hunger globally deserves no less.

I thank you for your kind attention.



**Chatting with children at Misono-Kita Elementary School**



# The First Lady of Republic of Malawi

## H.E. Mrs. Monica Chakwera

### Abstract

 I am honored to participate in the historic Asia-Pacific-Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit, where we will address challenges faced by our children, including the increasing number of climate change-related disasters and their impact on droughts, floods, storms, and food insecurity. Our aim is to find solutions that create a safer and better environment for our children. I extend warm greetings and best wishes from His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, the President of Malawi, to His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan, and the people of Japan, expressing gratitude for the hospitality.



The First Lady of Republic of Malawi, H.E. Mrs. Monica Chakwera



At the Prime Minister's Office

### Expanding Food Production: The Next Step

“Agriculture holds immense significance for Malawi. To address the food crisis, it became crucial to increase agricultural productivity and promote industrialization. Malawi possesses rich soil and ample water resources. With the cooperation of Japanese technology and other forms of aid, the government has been able to support over 3.7 million farmers and expand food production. However, we have faced challenges, including droughts and crop losses caused by cyclones. While coping with climate change may be daunting, we need measures to overcome it. I strongly believe that technology for food processing and storage will be indispensable in shaping our future.”

### Distress Over a Child's Misfortune

“As the theme of this Summit suggests, children are the most affected when the world faces challenges. We have made elementary education tuition-free, but it is disheartening to witness many children dropping

out due to a lack of food. In Malawi, 4% of children under the age of 5 suffer from acute malnutrition, and malnutrition accounts for 23% of child deaths. Despite the availability of preventable measures, malnutrition still claims the lives of 40,000 children annually.”

### Education Builds a Nation.

“Research has shown that stunted growth in children leads to a 3% loss of GDP annually. Moreover, girls often face safety risks when fetching water, and the literacy rate among girls is alarmingly low. I firmly believe that educating girls is the key to building a stronger nation. Child safety and girls’ education are my top priorities, and I am committed to persistently



School lunch experiences at the elementary school

working in these areas. In Malawi, women account for 85% of our agricultural production. Therefore, providing educational opportunities to all, including those in the most vulnerable social positions, will transform our country.”

### A Future of Mutual Cooperation and Collaboration

“Participating in this Summit was of great significance to me as I attended as the mother of the nation. It reminded me of the importance of cooperation and collaboration with one another. To achieve this, we must continue to establish a more profound communication system moving forward. I am willing to do everything in my power to contribute to this effort. Let us unite as African nations and seek



Fukuyo Nakamori  
Former member of the House of  
Representatives

Seiko Hashimoto  
Member of the House of  
Councillors

Japan’s guidance in agriculture and food processing technology. Together, we can create a brighter future.” Programs like AIP are a lifeline for Malawian families of vulnerable children.

With your support and investment, I am confident that one day, soon, Malawi will produce enough food to also feed your children because your children are our children, too. Thank you for listening.



With Spouse of Prime Minister of Tanzania, H.E. Mrs. Majaliwa at the Summit Venue



# Spouse of Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Mrs. Mary Benjamin Mbawala Majaliwa



Spouse of Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Mrs. Mary Benjamin Mbawala Majaliwa

## Abstract



I want to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality we have received since arriving in Tokyo for the first Asia Pacific and Africa Women’s Economic Exchange Summit. On behalf of the government and people of Tanzania, I would like to thank the government of Japan and Her Excellency Fukuyo Nakamori, the chairperson of the summit, for organizing this important event. I also commend the Secretariat for their excellent facilitation and organization of this gathering.



With H.E. Mrs. Ndaishimye of Burundi at the Summit venue

## The Health of Children

“For any nation to prosper, it is crucial that children are healthy. As leaders who are also mothers of our nations, we must work together to ensure food security, access to clean water, and education. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations provide a vital framework for us to follow. Our country is actively promoting sustainable agriculture as we strive to increase productivity and protect every child from hunger and malnutrition. Despite facing uncertainties such as climate change-induced drought, the COVID-19 pandemic, and rising food prices, we have the capability to overcome these challenges through our collective efforts and wisdom. It is our responsibility to create a world that can meet the needs of our children’s future.”

## Initiatives of the Tanzanian Government

“The nutritional status of children under the age of five in Tanzania is deteriorating, with millions of children lacking sufficient food. To address this issue, the Tanzanian government is implementing the following measures:

1. The government has made substantial investments in developing irrigation infrastructure so as to mitigate the impact of climate change on the production of food and guarantee food security.
2. The government has introduced modern ways of food processing and handling, like the use of cold rooms and special ways of doing the transportation of highly-perishable foods.
3. The government continues to conduct a national campaign on the consumption of a balanced diet based on all kinds of available food products.
4. The government has given priority to the baggage allocated for agricultural activities.
5. The government seeks to help small-scale farmers access advanced, high-yield, and drought-resistant seed varieties.
6. The government has created a suitable environment for the private sector to invest heavily in agriculture to ensure maximum production of quality food.

Despite facing challenges such as earthquakes, droughts, and our coastal location in the Indian Ocean, we refuse to be defeated by these adversities and will persevere in our efforts.”

**Creating Peace together is Important**

“There are numerous challenges that persist worldwide, including supporting local markets, reducing food waste, and ongoing conflicts. I firmly believe that efforts toward global peace are of utmost importance for the well-being of children. The Tanzanian government is committed to international collaboration, aiming to benefit not only



**Signing the Joint Declaration**

Japan but also Asia and Africa.”  
 In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of the Tanzanian government to strengthen bilateral and economic cooperation with Japan, as well as with countries in the Asia Pacific and Africa regions. We believe that by working together, we can achieve mutual benefits and prosperity for our respective peoples. Thank you for your attention, and I extend my heartfelt appreciation. Arigato.



**With First Lady of Japan, Mrs. Yuko Kishida, at Ilikura Guest House**



**At the Hotel New Otani**



Republic of Uganda  
Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja



Republic of Uganda, Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja

**Abstract**



“On behalf of the First Lady, who couldn’t attend due to her schedule, I am honored to deliver the message from Uganda to all of you. Today, we gather here as Mothers of the Nation to extend our support to the children. Mutual support is the key to success in our collective endeavor.”

**Improving Orphans’ Living Conditions**

In the mid-1980s, Uganda emerged from a period of turmoil and conflict. The First Lady was deeply moved by the plight of orphans and initiated the



At the Tea room of The First Building of the House of Representatives

Uganda Women’s Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO) to unite women from all walks of life in providing assistance. She played a critical role in improving the welfare of these children and bringing hope to them by providing meals, tuition fees and a home where they would find peace, love, and comfort.

**Reform of Food from Zero to Everything**

I would also like to share the experience of the work of the First Lady that she did during her leadership as the Minister responsible for Karamoja Affairs in the government of Uganda. “Karamoja, a remote rural region in Uganda, faced severe agricultural conditions, a lack of supplies and technology, and recurring droughts, leading to chronic food shortages. The government took bold action by investing in sustainable development initiatives. They provided agricultural tools, guidance, and promoted the cultivation of crops suitable for tractor-tilled soil, resulting in remarkable outcomes. Within a year, the number of vulnerable households decreased from 65%

to 34%, and it further declined to 20% the following year. Over the course of three years, the percentage dropped to 10%. This measure was implemented from 2011 to 2016. As food security improved, fewer children dropped out of school. Our goal is to ensure the health of children and empower mothers to be confident and proud of their work.” Significant progress was made, but unfortunately, it has been rolled back due to the impact of COVID-19 and prolonged drought periods.

### Let’s Collaborate Closely

“Uganda currently hosts approximately 1.5 million refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and other countries. With the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the number of refugees worldwide is expected to rise. It is crucial that we provide food and education for refugee children. We



With Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in his Office

call upon Japan to support refugee programs, offering their expertise, as the demand for such assistance is likely to increase globally. Let us collaborate to achieve food security and education, establish a sustainable society, eradicate poverty and hunger, and work towards global gender equality.”

In conclusion, I express my gratitude to the convenors of this engagement for providing an excellent opportunity to address food insecurity and challenges affecting children. I appreciate the unity we have as leaders and as mothers. Additionally, I acknowledge the efforts of the Chairperson in reaching out to us. To the Excellencies and distinguished guests, I commend your support for the development of women and children in your nations. May God bless you all.



Tree Planting at Minuma Nature Park



Outside of Summit Venue



# First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe

## H.E. Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa



First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E. Dr. Auxillia Mnangagwa

### Abstract



I am greatly honored to attend this inaugural Asia Pacific and Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit.

This summit takes place at a time when some nations in the Asia Pacific region and Africa are facing food challenges due to natural disasters such as drought and flooding.

### Advocated for Agricultural Reform

"Zimbabwe, being an agricultural country with the majority of its population engaged in farming, has taken significant steps to address food shortages and poverty. The government has implemented various reforms, focusing on agricultural mechanization, modernization, and industrialization. Collaborations between the state and private sectors have played a crucial role in advancing food security and sustainable agriculture, despite challenges posed by climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and armed conflicts. The country's self-sufficiency is a key priority, and the government has introduced the 2030 Vision, a national development strategy aiming to achieve an 'upper middle-class economy.' This



Seiko Hashimoto Member of the House of Councillors

strategy involves developing rural areas, supporting small-scale farmers, promoting goat and poultry farming, and increasing the income of those involved in agriculture."

### Spotlight on Women

"The genuine smiles of children are precious, which is why we strive for greater involvement of mothers. We believe in enhancing the status of women, recognizing their influential role in agriculture. Therefore, we are committed to providing comprehensive training opportunities for women across the nation."

## The Angel of Hope Foundation

The Angel of Hope Foundation, which I established to assist vulnerable members of the community, particularly women and children.

Our foundation is dedicated to protecting the rights of children, including the right to food, ending hunger, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

## ZimSat-1

“Our partnership with the Japanese government is of the utmost importance, particularly in ensuring food security. The ZimSat-1 satellite has been instrumental in forecasting crucial weather variables, enabling us to develop effective agricultural strategies for each season. We also appreciate the support for solar energy, water storage reservoirs, and irrigation systems, which are indispensable resources for our country. Furthermore, we have made significant strides in expanding plant cultivation across various regions.”



Discussing with Toshihiro Nikai, Chairperson, Headquarters for Promoting the Establishment of the Disaster Resilient Japan

## The Summit's Continuation is Necessary

“I firmly believe in the importance of continuing the Summit, as it provides a platform for future program exchange and validation. By emphasizing the value of cooperation and communication, we can collectively address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.” We must ensure a bright future for our children. I thus call upon developed nations, including Japan, to partner with developing countries in agriculture modernization and value-added beneficitation.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize the vital role of women in agriculture and in achieving food security and nutrition. It is important to move beyond this Summit and establish women-and-children exchange programs to share experiences, leveraging the power of information and communication technologies (ICTs). Thank you.



First Members' Office Building of the House of Representatives Tea Room



With Mr. Tatsushi Tsuboi, NERICA rice expert



Charge d'affaires and youth delegation enjoying a school lunch experience

# Reflections on the Summit: A Discussion with the Chair and Vice-Chair



## Chairperson Seiko Hashimoto

Member of the House of Councilors, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Low Fertility, Minister of State for Tokyo Oly-Para Games, etc. Bronze medalist in Speed Skating 1500m at the Albertville Olympic Games (The first Japanese woman to win a medal)

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## The Futures of Children Connected by the Mother of the Nation

### Vice-Chairperson Nakamori

Thank you for successfully chairing the “1st Asia Pacific Africa Women’s Economic Exchange Summit” over the course of two days. Despite some challenging moments during the discussions, the First Ladies expressed

their utmost satisfaction with your exemplary management of the proceedings. Each country extended their congratulations to you for your outstanding chairmanship.

### Chairperson Hashimoto

While the presentations by each country proceeded smoothly without much commotion, the discussions on the second day became truly intense. It made me realize that a First Lady holds a statesperson's position in her own right. Perhaps, the Presidents of each country had provided some guidance.

### Nakamori

Prior to addressing the First Ladies, Mr. Ichiro Aisawa (Chairman of Japan-African Union Parliamentarians for Friendship) asked me in surprise, “Are all First Ladies this articulate?”

### Hashimoto

Mr. Aisawa contacted me before the Summit and said, “There will be an exchange of opinions between the First Ladies of Africa and the Japan-African Union Parliamentarians for Friendship, and I would like you to attend.” I replied, “As a matter of fact, I am the chairman of the Summit,” and he laughed.

## The Signing of the Joint Declaration

### Nakamori

The Joint Declaration was shared with each country in advance as a proposed plan. However, discrepancies in the interpretation of certain terms led to conflicting claims among participating countries.

### Hashimoto

As Chairperson, I initially followed the programmed agenda. However, with the multitude of perspectives being expressed, I realized that I needed to speak from my position as a parliament member to bring the discussions to a resolution.

### Nakamori

That’s why I emphasized the “significance of this summit” from the Chair’s seat. I believe the intense discussions stemmed from the high expectations of the First Ladies and their genuine desire for meaningful exchanges. Consequently, the depth of the Summit’s content increased.

### Hashimoto

Initially, each country shared their current status and hopes as the “mother of the nation.” However, on the second day, opinions expanded, diversifying from the perspective of each country. I was surprised to see government officials and experts from each country sitting beside the First Ladies with serious expressions, actively engaging with the audience and not being interrupted anymore (laughter).



Declaration is being revised

**Vice-Chairperson Fukuyo Nakamori**

Former member of the House of Representatives; Chairperson, Asia Pacific Africa Women’s Economic Exchange Association; Member, Ogasawara Islands Promotion and Development Council, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Founder of Community Safety Division



**Nakamori**

I was determined to ensure that all participants signed the Joint Declaration even if it meant extending the meeting time if necessary. When we exceeded the allocated time by an hour and twenty minutes, you asked me to pause the discussions, and we took a break in the conference room. What were your thoughts at that moment?

**Hashimoto**

I shared the same sentiment. Even a single word can be interpreted differently depending on how it is understood. That’s why I believed it was best to thoroughly discuss the matter without worrying about time constraints. I made a spontaneous decision to allow them to speak freely and express their thoughts to their heart’s content. To be honest, if it were an official meeting, we might not have been able to do that, and I would have concluded the meeting once the purpose was clear in the statement.

**Nakamori**

It was indeed a significant discussion, with explicit remarks and thoughts voiced as “the Mother of the Nation.” As a result, everyone left feeling pleased, and we achieved our goal of having everyone sign the Joint Declaration.

**Support Requires Ingenuity**

**Hashimoto**

During my time as an athlete, I had the opportunity to travel through Kenya on a motorcycle alongside athletes from around the world for a television project. This experience, combined with my role as State Minister of Foreign Affairs, reinforced my belief that supporting individuals is more crucial than material possessions. In the context of Official Development Assistance (ODA), the development of individuals should be the focus.

**Nakamori**

I couldn’t agree more. The First Ladies of each country, along with Uganda’s Prime Minister as the sole participating politician, expressed their desire for assistance in this area. Technical aid from Japan is highly sought after.

**Hashimoto**

You’re absolutely right. If we fail to provide such support, economic disparities will persist, and the future will be grim. Japan should take the lead in offering technical and instructional assistance. For instance, Japan excels in freezing technology, medical advancements, and processing technologies.

**Nakamori**

I share your agreement. The participating countries are indeed eager for Japan’s technological expertise. Prime Minister Kishida also addressed the First Ladies in response to the joint declaration, stating, “Let us collaborate for the benefit of women and children in vulnerable positions.” Japan has established multiple processes to ensure the selection of appropriate support methods and to guarantee safe and secure work. However, it is recognized that the decision-making process can be time-consuming. Nevertheless, Japan has demonstrated its ability to respond promptly in cases such as the desert locust invasion and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Hashimoto**

The Summit was an extraordinary gathering where we worked together as “the Mother of Nations.” Let us continue to exert our best efforts in realizing the multitude of perspectives shared during this Summit.

**Nakamori**

We must ensure the continuity of this Summit in our pursuit of securing a bright future for our children. Thank you all very much.



Declaration is being revised

## Editorial Review

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who supported the publication of “Surprising Discovery: The Amazing Power of School Lunch” at the 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women’s Economic Exchange Summit. Since my presentation at the Conference of African Ambassadors to Japan in January 2020, I have had numerous meetings with the Ambassadors to exchange views. I was deeply moved to learn that the Ambassadors’ wives were organizing tea ceremonies and flower arrangement exhibitions to honor and preserve Japanese traditions and culture.

The Summit provided an excellent opportunity for us to take steps towards our goal of safeguarding children’s health by promoting access to clean water in schools and enhancing nutrition, particularly through rice. We will continue to prioritize our efforts to ensure safe water in schools, which are not only places of education but also crucial for children’s well-being. Additionally, Mr. Tatsushi Tsuboi, a JICA expert who spoke at the Summit, will conduct a “Study on NERICA Rice Breeding” in Zimbabwe in March 2023 as part of our rice initiative.

We are committed to addressing the various issues raised during the Summit and taking “STEP by STEP” towards the next gathering. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the domestic and international contributors who supported the Summit. Special thanks go to Mr. Toshihiro Nikai, the Supreme Advisor of the Summit Executive Committee, Mr. Sadakazu Tanigaki, the Counselor, and Mr. Toshiaki Endo for their invaluable guidance and support.

To all those who have supported us, I kindly ask for your continued support and kindness.

Asia Pacific Africa Women’s Economic Exchange Association  
Chairperson, Former Member of the House of Representatives  
Fukuyo Nakamori  
January 2023

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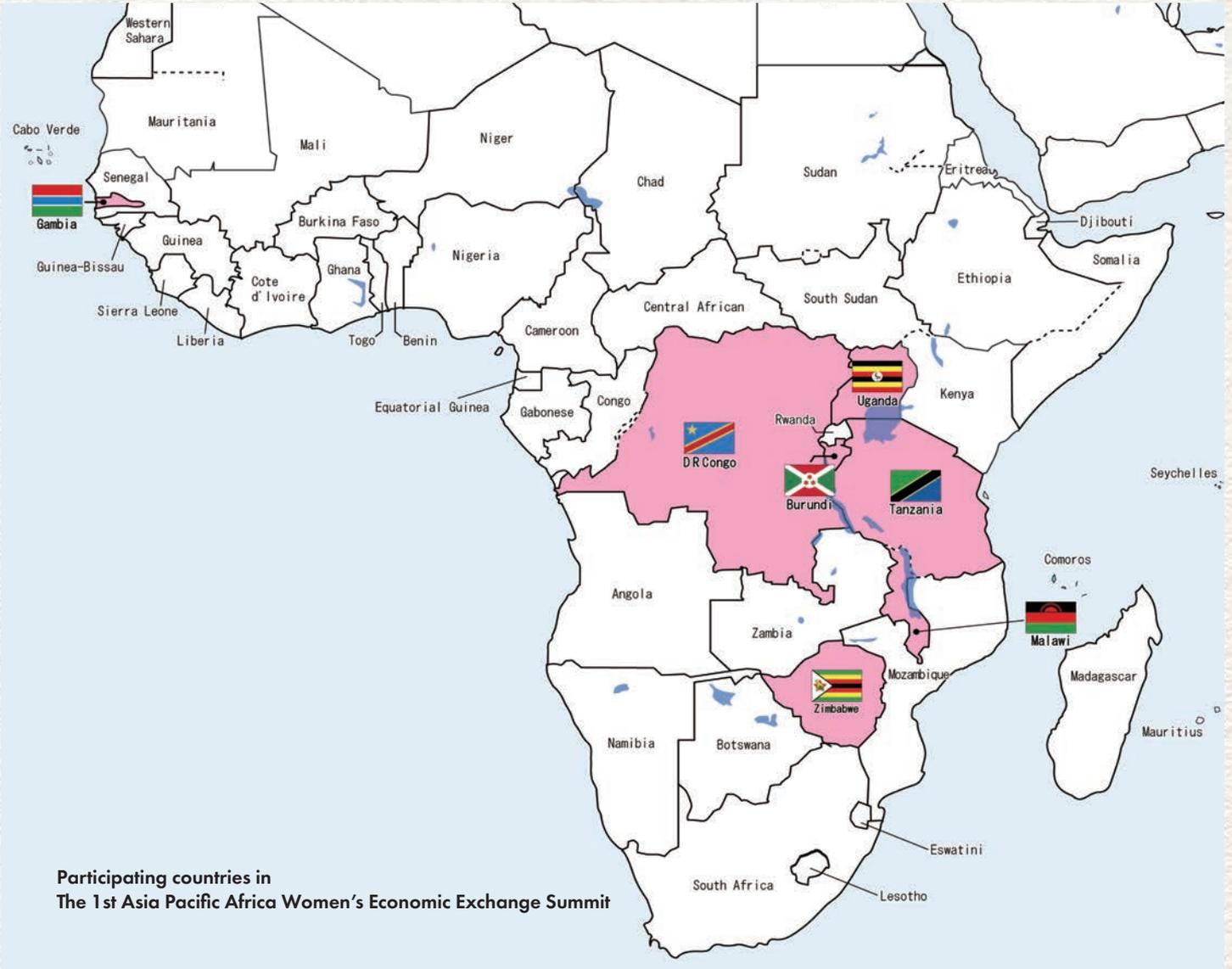


Kalanchoe



At JICA Ichigaya Bldg.

**African Ambassadors' Meeting in Japan in January 2020.**  
**Fukuyo Nakamori and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan have participated.**



**Participating countries in**  
**The 1st Asia Pacific Africa Women's Economic Exchange Summit**

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The First Ladies of African Countries  
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*Thank you*

