

Facts About Malawi Society of Japan

<i>Key Facts and Figures</i>	
Name	Malawi Society of Japan (<i>Nippon Malawi Kyokai</i>)
Date of establishment	February 26, 1983
Chairman	Mr. Motoyoshi Noro, Former Ambassador of Japan to Republic of Malawi
Number of members	202
Society journal	"Kwacha" (twice a year)
Address	c/o JOCA, 23-3, Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Homepage	http://www.japan-malawi.org
Telephone	03-6688-9873

1. Background

Republic of Malawi has been receiving volunteers of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) since 1971. Ex-volunteers ever dispatched to Malawi organized an OB/OG group named "Society of *Muli Bwanji*" (*Muli Bwanji* is an idiom meaning "how are you?" in Chichewa, a national language of Malawi) with a view to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries. The Society of *Muli Bwanji* sought for ways and means to make culture, nature and people of Malawi well known to Japanese people and to promote cooperation. In December 1981 they deliberated establishing Malawi Society of Japan for the purpose. In September 1982 the OB/OG group formulated a plan for establishing such Society and accordingly supported preparatory meetings.

The Malawi Society of Japan was formally founded on February 26, 1983 in Tokyo, aiming at fostering Japan-Malawi cooperation in a wide range of perspective. At the same time Society of *Muli Bwanji* was merged into Malawi Society of Japan and the former's activities were succeeded to the latter.

2. Objectives

Malawi Society of Japan is a voluntary organization established in 1983 in Japan with the aim of promoting mutual understanding between people of Japan and Republic of Malawi through cooperation in such fields as culture, sports, economy, science and technology, thus contributing to the mutual prosperity.

3. Membership and Organization

3.1 Membership

The Society's membership is open to those individuals who agree with the aims and objectives of the Society. They include former and current volunteers to Malawi of JOCV and their families at home, as well as other individuals in general public who support the aim of the Society. The Society is open to non-profit or public organizations and juridical persons, too. Current members of the Society amount to 202, including those who are abroad.

3.2 Chairperson and Advisor

Malawi Society of Japan has been chaired by, since May, 2013, its Chairman Mr. Motoyoshi Noro, former Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Malawi, the first Japanese Ambassador to the Republic in residence.

Retrospectively, to facilitate a wide range of mutual understanding and cooperation between people of Japan and Malawi, Japanese key figures in the field of international cooperation generously accepted to assume the Society's Chairmanship as follows:

- Mr. Toshio Urabe The first Japanese Ambassador to Malawi
(Period of Chairmanship: Feb.1983 – Apr. 1993)
- Mr. Tadamasu Akiyama Former Trustee, The Supporting Organization of JOCV
(Period of Chairmanship: May 1993 – Apr. 1999)
- Mr. Takanori Kazuhara Former Director General, Secretariat of JOCV
(Period of Chairmanship: May 1999 – May 2013)

The Society's Advisor is its former Chairman Mr. Takanori Kazuhara, who had been Director General of the Secretariat of JOCV and Ambassador to Ireland and to Nigeria.

3.3 Secretariat

Society's day-to-day management is handled by Secretariat comprising voluntary staff members who hold monthly coordination meetings for its activities.

4. Major Activities

In order to attain its objectives, the Society is engaged in a wide range of activities including: (i) publishing journals and referral documents for Japanese people; (ii) organizing and participating in cultural events for disseminating Malawian cultures; (iii) conducting cooperation and assistance in support of Malawian people and; (iv) promoting interaction between the people of the two countries:

4.1 Publishing journals and referral documents for Japanese people

<i>Type</i>	<i>Name of Publication</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Note</i>
Journal	Society's Journal "KWACHA"	Twice a year	Aggregate number: 51 since 1983
Dictionary	Chichewa Dictionary: Version 1	1987	Published by JOCA ⁽¹⁾
	Chichewa Dictionary: Revised	2000	
	Chichewa Dictionary: Version 2	2012	Delivered to all prefectural libraries in Japan. Sent to JICA ⁽²⁾ Malawi Office, etc.
Guidebook	Malawi: The Warm Heart of Africa 1	1984	
	Malawi: The Warm Heart of Africa 2	1994	
	Travel Guide "Travel to Malawi" 1	1997	
	Travel Guide "Warm Heart of Africa. Land of Lakes and Savanna" 2	2000	
Others	The Heaven Shop	2005	Cooperation in editing Suzuki Shuppan co.

⁽¹⁾ JOCA: Japan Overseas Cooperation Association

⁽²⁾ JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

4.2 Organizing and participating in cultural events for disseminating Malawian cultures

Cultural Events which the Society organized

<i>Cultural Events</i>	<i>Date</i>
1. Nsima Eating Party	Every year
2. Country Seminar on Republic of Malawi	Since 1995. Every year in July

Cultural Events which the Society took part

<i>Cultural Events</i>	<i>Date</i>
1. Gathering on Africa 1994	20 Feb 1994
2. International Festival Misato, Ibaraki Prefecture	21 Sep 1997
3. Cultural Festival, Kawaguchi Kita High School, Saitama	Aug-Sep 1998
4. Seven Countries in Southern Africa. Tourism Promotion	1 Dec 2000
5. Seven Countries in Southern Africa. Cultural Festival	2 Jun 2001
6. "Evening of Malawi" event by Kinki Nippon Tourist	28 Jul 2001
7. Reporting Seminar by Ex JOCV Volunteers. Tochigi	20 Oct 2001
8. Lecture. Faculty of Letters, Rikkyo University	13 Dec 2002
9. JICA Volunteer Festa. 40 th Anniversary of JOCV	29, 30 Oct 2005
10. African Festa 2006. Exhibition by Malawian Embassy	20 May 2006
11. Lecture for Social Education at Megro Ward, Tokyo	3 Dec 2006
12. Introduction of Malawi by International Center, Urayasu	10 Dec 2006
13. First JOCV Festa by JOCA	21, 22 Apr 2007
14. Second JOCV Festa by JOCA	19, 20 Apr 2008
15. Third JOCV Festa by JOCA	25, 26 Apr 2009
16. Fourth JOCV Festa by JOCA	3, 4 Apr 2010
17. Fifth JOCV Festa by JOCA	21, 22 Apr 2012
18. Sixth JOCV Festa by JOCA	20, 21 Apr 2013
19. Global Festa (formerly known as International Cooperation Festa)	1994 ~ 2013 (October every year)

4.3 Conducting cooperation and assistance in support of Malawian people

<i>Cooperation/Assistance Activities</i>	<i>Date</i>
1. Installation of traffic light, Lilongwe	Apr – May 1990
2. Preliminary study for establishing Malawi Embassy in Japan	Aug 1991 – Feb 1992
3. JICA Malawi's Malawian secretary invitation program	Sep – Nov 1991
4. JICA Malawi's Chichewa language lecturer invitation	Sep – Oct 1992
5. Fund raising in support of Malawi (Fuji TV)	Apr – Jun 1994
6. Japanese martial art "Kendo" promotion fund	Sep 1994 – Mar 1995
7. Support to Japan-Malawi elementary schools cooperation (Takada Elementary School in Shimane Prefecture)	Oct 1997 – Oct 2000
8. Medical material support for Kasungu National Hospital	Oct 2000
9. Malawi "Warm Heart Project"	Started Nov 2000
10. Food Support fund 2002	Jul – Dec 2002
11. Food Support fund 2005	Oct 2005 – Feb 2006
12. Supplementary support for Food Support	1 Jun 2007
13. Bridging recipient and donor Kusatsu Rotary Act Club	Mar – Apr 2007
14. Support to JICA "For Smiles of the World" program	Mar – Apr 2007
14. Bridging recipient and donor Mothers of Malawi	Nov 2007 – Mar 2008

4.4 Promoting interaction between the people of the two countries:

Under the JICA training program in Japan a number of Malawian trainees visit and stay in Japan. Malawi Society of Japan provides support to them including advices of daily life in Japan, organizing and participating welcome parties and farewell parties, etc.

A number of important Malawian figures visit Japan in the past 30 years, including President, Vice President of the Republic, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Malawi Society of Japan takes honor of paying courtesy call on them.

Especially noteworthy in the activities of the Society include the following:

- In the face of food crisis in Malawi in 2001-2002, the Society conducted campaigns to raise funds. The amount of approx. US\$ 14.2 thousand was used for donation of the food (twenty tons) to Malawi through WFP.
- In the face of poor crops of maize in Malawi in 2005, the Society conducted campaigns to raise funds, which resulted in donation of US\$ 10.8 thousand.
- President of the Republic of Malawi had a meeting with the Chairman of the Society on October 7, 2003 in Tokyo. The discussions there led to Chairman's visit to Malawi on invitation in October/November in the year.
- President of the Republic received courtesy call in Tokyo by Chairman and trustees of the Society on March 14, 2006.
- President of the Republic was welcomed at a reception held jointly by the Malawi Embassy and the Society on May 31, 2013 in Yokohama City.

5. Way Foreward

Malawi Society of Japan envisages that an increasing number of ex-volunteers to Malawi as well as general public proactively join the various programs of the Society to further enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between people of the two countries. It also wishes to deepen cooperative relationship with current JOCV volunteers and their candidates.