

AfriMag

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[あふりまぐ]

宮城アフリカ協会

特集

アフリカのグリーン・イニシアチブを探る

Exploring Africa's Green initiatives



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Welcome, dear readers, to our historical showcase, where we pay homage to remarkable figures who shaped the African continent. In this edition, we turn our spotlight on iconic individuals whose legacies continue to inspire generations. Let's dive into the history and explore the lives of these extraordinary leaders.



Chinua Achebe

Chinua Achebe (1930年 - 2013年)

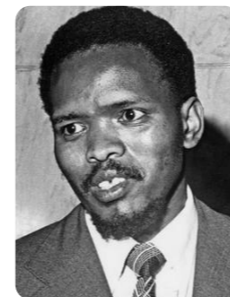
In the realm of literature, we spotlight Chinua Achebe, often hailed as the “father of African literature.” His novel “Things Fall Apart” introduced African perspectives to a global audience, becoming a timeless classic.



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Transitioning to Liberia, we celebrate economist and politician Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. As the first elected female head of state in Africa, she played a pivotal role in post-civil war reconstruction, earning her the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.



Steve Biko

Steve Biko (1946–1966)

Journeying back to South Africa, we remember Steve Biko, an anti-apartheid activist and leader of the Black Consciousness Movement. His writings and activism emphasized black pride and consciousness, sparking international outrage upon his tragic death in police custody.



Jomo Kenyatta

Jomo Kenyatta (1897–1978)

Finally, we turn our attention to Kenya's nationalist leader and first President, Jomo Kenyatta. Instrumental in Kenya's fight for independence, Kenyatta focused on nation-building and economic development during his presidency.



In a land full of rich forests, vast deserts, and incredible animals, Africa is a place where nature is both beautiful and fragile. But just like in other parts of the world, Africa faces challenges like deforestation, pollution, and climate change. However, many people across the continent are coming together to protect the environment and live in a way that is kind to the Earth. This is the story of how Africa is embracing eco-friendly practices and sustainable living.

One of the most inspiring things happening in Africa is how communities are coming together to restore forests and plant trees. In Ethiopia, a huge project called the “Green Legacy” has seen millions of people planting billions of trees to bring life back to barren lands. In the Sahel region, which stretches across the northern part of Africa, communities are working on the Great Green Wall, a massive project to plant trees and stop the spread of the desert. These trees not only provide shade and fruit but also help hold the soil together, preventing erosion.

African communities lived in harmony with nature. They understood the land, the animals, and the seasons. For example, the Maasai people in East Africa have always known how to take care of their land by moving their cattle from one place to another. This way, the grass and soil can rest and grow strong again, ensuring that there is enough food for the animals in the future. This practice, known as rotational grazing, is a simple but smart way of keeping the land healthy.



Education is another powerful tool in Africa's journey towards a greener future. Many schools and community groups are teaching young people about the importance of taking care of the environment. These programs often involve planting trees, cleaning up litter, and learning about recycling. In some communities, women and youth are leading the charge, showing that everyone has a role to play in protecting our planet.

Many African farmers also follow traditional methods to grow their crops. They plant trees and crops together, which helps keep the soil rich and full of nutrients. This method, called agroforestry, not only protects the land from erosion but also creates homes for birds and insects, making the farms livelier and more diverse. These farmers often avoid using harmful chemicals and instead use natural ways to keep pests away and make the soil fertile, like composting.

Of course, there are challenges. Africa is a large and diverse continent, and not everyone has the same resources or opportunities to go green. Poverty, lack of infrastructure, and political issues can make it hard to carry out big sustainability projects. But there is a lot of hope. With its young population, rich natural resources, and growing awareness of environmental issues, Africa has the potential to be a leader in sustainable living.

In many African countries, people are finding new and creative ways to protect the environment. One of the biggest changes is the use of renewable energy like solar and wind power. For example, in Kenya, many homes are now powered by the sun, thanks to solar panels that turn sunlight into electricity. This not only reduces pollution but also helps people in remote areas, where there is no connection to the electricity grid, to have light at night and power for their devices.



The story of eco-friendly practices and sustainable living in Africa is one of hope, creativity, and determination. By blending old traditions with new innovations, African communities are showing the world how to live in harmony with nature. And as more people join in these efforts, the future looks brighter for both Africa and the planet as a whole.



Introducing Republic of Senegal

AFRICAN RENAISSANCE MONUMENT - DAKAR, SENEGAL

The Gateway to Africa

Have you ever dreamed of visiting a place where history, culture, and nature come together in a vibrant and exciting way? If so, let us introduce you to Senegal, a fascinating country on the west coast of Africa. Known as the “Gateway to Africa,” Senegal is a land of welcoming people, colorful traditions, and stunning landscapes. Let’s dive in and explore what makes Senegal so special!

Where is Senegal?

Senegal is located on the western edge of Africa, right next to the Atlantic Ocean. A place where you can walk on golden sandy beaches, explore lush green forests, and even visit a bright pink lake! The capital city of Senegal is Dakar, a lively place where the modern world meets traditional African culture. Dakar is also famous for its music, art, and bustling markets.



Visit Senegal

Cap Skirring Beach Resort



The beaches of Cap Skirring are arguably some of the most beautiful in West Africa. Stretching for miles, the golden sands are fringed by coconut palms and gently lapped by the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Historic city of Saint-Louis



Saint-Louis is renowned for its distinctive colonial architecture, which earned the city a UNESCO World Heritage designation in 2000. The city is built on an island in the Senegal River, connected to the mainland by bridge.

Why you should visit Senegal?

Senegal is known as the “Land of Teranga,” which means hospitality in Wolof. This is a place where visitors are welcomed with open arms and big smiles. Whether you’re exploring the exciting streets of Dakar, wandering through the historic city of Saint-Louis, or relaxing on the beautiful beaches of Cap Skirring, you’ll feel right at home.

Senegal is a country where the past and present come together in a beautiful and exciting way. It’s a place where you can learn about history, enjoy incredible music, see amazing wildlife, and taste delicious food—all while making new friends. So, if you ever have the chance to visit Senegal, take it! It’s an adventure you’ll never forget.



AERIAL PANORAMA OF SAINT LOUIS, A UNESCO HERITAGE CITY IN NORTHERN SENEGAL

Senegal

Food Culture

Thiebouidienne, a traditional Senegalese dish that is often considered the national dish of Senegal. The name “Thieboudienne” comes from the Wolof words “ceeb” (meaning rice) and “jën” (meaning fish). The dish typically consists of rice, fish, and a variety of vegetables such as carrots, cabbage, eggplant, and cassava, all cooked in a tomato-based sauce.



SENEGAL TRADITIONAL FOOD - THIEBOUDIENNE

Let's Cook Thieboudienne!

Ingredients

Fish (white fish like grouper or snapper)	4-5 bay leaves - crushed
2 cups dried lima beans	5-6 garlic cloves - chopped
1 lb. winter squash - sliced – skin on, no seeds	½ 6-oz. can tomato paste
1 lb. sweet potato - peeled and sliced	2 tablespoons sea salt
½ 6-oz. can tomato paste	¼ cup olive oil
½ bunch cilantro - chopped	1 small bag frozen lima beans
1 large onion - chopped	

Instructions

【Step 1】 Marinate the Fish:

Start by cleaning the fish and marinating it with garlic, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. Let it sit for at least 30 minutes to absorb the flavors.

【Step 2】 Prepare the Vegetables:

While the fish is marinating, chop the vegetables into large chunks. Set them aside.

【Step 3】 Cook the Fish:

Heat some vegetable oil in a large pot and fry the fish until it's golden brown on all sides. Remove the fish and set it aside.

【Step 4】 Make the Sauce:

In the same pot, add chopped onions, garlic, and tomatoe paste (or tomato). Cook until the onions are soft. Add water to the sauce and bring it to a boil.

【Step 5】 Cook the Vegetables:

Add the chopped vegetables to the sauce. Cook until they are tender but not too soft. Once the vegetables are cooked, remove them from the pot and set them aside.

【Step 6】 Cook the Rice:

Add the rice to the same pot with the sauce, stirring to coat it evenly. Add more water if needed and bring it to a boil. Reduce the heat, cover the pot, and let the rice simmer until fully cooked and has absorbed all the flavors.

【Step 7】 Combine and Serve:

Once the rice is done, arrange the cooked fish and vegetables on top of the rice. Serve hot, with extra sauce on the side if desired. Serve with the fish and vegetables placed on top of the rice. Everyone eats from the same dish. It's a dish best enjoyed with family and friends!

KidsStory

The Magical Baobab Tree

In a village near the vast savannahs of Kenya lived a curious girl named Amina. Amina loved exploring and learning new things.

At the center of her village stood a towering Baobab tree, ancient and mysterious.

The villagers believed it had magical powers, but no one knew the full extent of its magic.

The elders often told tales of the tree's wonders.

They spoke of how the Baobab tree could grant wisdom to those who sought it with a pure heart. Amina's curiosity grew with each story, and she decided she needed to discover the truth for herself.

One evening, as the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a golden glow across the savannah, Amina quietly slipped away from her home and made her way to the Baobab tree. The air was filled with the sounds of crickets and the rustling of leaves. As she approached the tree, she felt a warm, welcoming presence.

Suddenly, Amina heard a gentle voice. "Welcome, Amina," it said. She looked around but saw no one. To her astonishment, she realized the voice was coming from the tree itself! The Baobab tree spoke to her, and its branches swayed as if waving hello.

"Do not be afraid," said the Baobab. "I have seen your curiosity and bravery. I will share my magic with you."

Amina's eyes widened with wonder. As she sat beneath the tree, animals from the savannah began to gather around her. There was Kito the wise old elephant, Juma the playful monkey, and Lela the graceful gazelle. Each animal had a story to tell, and Amina listened intently.

Kito told her about the importance of patience and strength, Juma shared the joy of laughter and play, and Lela spoke of the beauty of grace and kindness. Amina realized that the true magic of the Baobab tree was in the wisdom and stories it held.

The tree then revealed a secret: "The magic lies not just in me, but in the stories and knowledge we share. Remember these lessons and share them with others."

Filled with newfound wisdom, Amina thanked the Baobab tree and her animal friends. She hurried back to her village, eager to share what she had learned. The villagers gathered around as Amina told them about her magical night and the lessons from the Baobab tree.

Amina's stories captivated everyone, young and old. The village began to thrive, with people showing more patience, joy, and kindness toward one another. Amina became a beloved storyteller, and the Baobab tree remained a symbol of wisdom and unity.

And so, the story of Amina and the Baobab tree became an unforgettable legend, teaching everyone the power of knowledge, stories, and the importance of living with a pure heart.



Rhythms of Africa

“Every sound is a beat
Every movement a dance
Every day a festival

Welcome to the magical world of African music! From the vast deserts of the Sahara to the bustling cities of South Africa, African music is as diverse and vibrant as the continent itself. Let's embark on an exciting journey to explore the sounds, instruments, and traditions that make African music so unique.



The Heartbeat of Africa: Drums

At the core of African music is the drum, a storyteller and timekeeper. The most famous is the djembe, a goblet-shaped drum from West Africa that produces a range of sounds from deep bass to high tones. Used in ceremonies and celebrations, the djembe is a central part of many African cultures.

Melodies from the Past: Traditional Instruments

African music is rich with traditional instruments like the kora, harp-lute from West Africa with a soothing sound perfect for storytelling. Another fascinating instrument is the mbira or thumb piano from Zimbabwe, which produces enchanting, rhythmic melodies.



Dancing to the Beat: Movement and Rhythm

In Africa, music and dance are inseparable. Traditional dances like the Adumu of the Maasai in Kenya involve high jumps and rhythmic stomping, symbolizing strength and unity. In Ghana, the Kpanlogo dance combines lively drumming with energetic movements, inviting everyone to join.

Modern Sounds: African Pop and Hip Hop

While traditional music remains vital, genres like Afrobeat and Hip Hop are hugely popular. Afrobeat mixes African rhythms with jazz and funk. Some African Hip Hop artists blend local languages and beats with global hip-hop culture.



Social and Cultural Significance

African music isn't just for entertainment; it's full of social and cultural meanings. Songs tell stories, teach lessons, and celebrate life. In South Africa, mbube singing, known globally as a cappella, became a symbol of hope during apartheid. The song "Mbube" by Solomon Linda, which became "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" shows how African music can cross borders and touch hearts.

So, whether you're dancing to the drum's beat or swaying to the kora's melodies, African music is a never-ending adventure. Let its rhythms guide your feet and its stories spark your imagination.



Children and Soccer in Africa

Children and soccer in Africa form a vibrant and integral part of the continent's cultural and social fabric. Soccer, often referred to as football in most African countries, transcends being just a sport—it becomes a source of joy, unity, and hope for many young individuals across the diverse nations.

One of the most striking aspects of children and soccer in Africa is the sheer passion and love for the game. Walk through any neighborhood, and you're likely to find children kicking a makeshift ball around, using anything from discarded plastic bottles to bundled-up rags. Soccer is not just a game; it's a universal language that brings children together, fostering camaraderie and friendship.

In many African countries, soccer acts as a means of escape from the challenges that children often face. Economic hardships, limited educational opportunities, and health issues are prevalent in some regions, but soccer provides a glimmer of hope and a way for children to channel their energy into something positive. Many African footballers who have risen to international acclaim started playing the sport in makeshift fields, displaying the resilience and determination that characterizes the continent's youth.

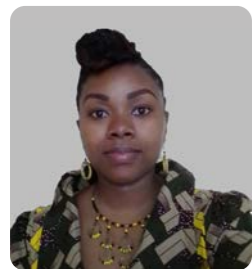
Local communities often organize impromptu soccer matches, with children of all ages participating. These matches not only serve as a form of entertainment but also as a platform for talent identification. It is not uncommon for scouts to discover talented young players during these grassroots games, paving the way for them to potentially join professional football clubs.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the potential positive impact of soccer on children's lives in Africa. Various organizations and initiatives are working towards providing better infrastructure, coaching, and opportunities for young talents to flourish. This includes partnerships with local schools, the establishment of youth academies, and collaborations with international football organizations to create pathways for aspiring players.

Children and soccer in Africa share a unique and intertwined relationship that goes beyond the boundaries of a mere sport. Soccer serves as a unifying force, offering solace, fostering dreams, and creating pathways for personal and communal development. As the passion for the game continues to thrive, so does the potential for positive change and empowerment among the youth across the continent.



Promoting Japanese Language Education in Kenya



Njeri KAGEMA

PhD Candidate, Tohoku University

Chairperson, Japanese Language Teachers' Association of Kenya

Hello everyone! I'm Njeri Kagema, a Kenyan lecturer and interpreter of Japanese. Today, I'll give you a snapshot of Japanese Language Education (JLE) in Kenya. I recently delved into this topic as the keynote speaker at the 15th Hasekura Seminar, hosted by Tohoku University and Sophia University on October 24, 2023.

2023 marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kenya and Japan, a milestone that has fostered deep connections between our countries across various sectors. Japanese Language Education began in Kenya in 1975 and has been evolving ever since, with its fair share of triumphs and hurdles. The three main pillars supporting JLE in Kenya are the Japanese Language Teachers' Association of Kenya (JALTAK), the Embassy of Japan in Kenya, and the Japan Foundation.



Most Japanese language programs in Kenya are offered at tertiary institutions. The reasons Kenyans pursue Japanese vary by age group. Young people are often drawn to Japanese pop culture, especially anime and manga. Many students express a love for the Japanese language inspired by these media and seek to learn it for themselves. For middle-aged learners, the motivation is business opportunities, with a belief that "the East is where the future lies." At the primary and secondary levels, students engage with Japanese through cultural clubs, focusing on greetings and basic cultural elements. The Study in Japan Global Network Project, which ran from late 2019 to March 2024, also played a role in boosting interest in JLE. This initiative, led by the Hokkaido University Africa Office in Nairobi, aimed to encourage more Kenyans to study in Japan, heightening awareness of Japanese language learning after the pandemic.



Kenya stands out in Sub-Saharan Africa for pioneering Japanese language education. JALTAK, established in 2001, was the region's first such association. Kenya also hosted the first Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) in 2006, drawing examinees from neighboring countries. While JLPT has since expanded to Madagascar and Ghana, other countries like Uganda and Ethiopia still rely on Kenya's test site.

Kenya's influence extends to Japanese language education conferences. The First Conference of Japanese Language Education in Kenya, held in Nairobi in 2012, was later expanded to Eastern Africa and then to all Sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya hosted the conference in 2021 and 2023, while the First Conference of Japanese Language Education in Africa was held in Addis Ababa in 2019.

Another highlight is Kenya's annual Japanese speech contest, which began in 2004. This event allows learners to showcase their skills and fosters interactions between Kenyans and Japanese, often leading to job opportunities in Japanese companies based in Kenya.

Despite these achievements, JLE in Kenya faces challenges. It has been claimed that competition from languages like Chinese has impacted Japanese's popularity.

To overcome this, increased investment is crucial. This includes providing learning materials, training teachers, offering scholarships, and establishing dedicated Japanese language departments or institutes. Currently, Japanese is taught at only eight tertiary institutions and often within foreign language departments, unlike Chinese, which benefits from Confucius Institutes offering courses at various levels.

My PhD project aims to advance JLE in Kenya by developing Japanese learning materials for self-study, making it easier for Kenyans to learn Japanese independently.

Gambarimasu!



16TH JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST IN KENYA 2024

DAVID Kpodehou



An entrepreneur from Benin, Mr. Kpodehou is President of Africa Diaspora Network Japan (ADNJ), enhancing Africa-Japan business ties. He organizes the Osaka Africa Business Forum, co-founded Africa Samurai to provide IT training and job opportunities, and has been a business developer and program coordinator for Pasona Group's Awaji Youth Federation (AYF) since 2017. He holds degrees in Entrepreneurship and Applied English Linguistics.

1 CAN YOU PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE UPCOMING OSAKA EXPO, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGES?

According to Minister Foreign Affairs Japan (MOFA), 161 countries and 9 international organizations have confirmed their participation in Expo2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan and approximately 28 million visitors are expected. The Expo will be a global platform for international cultural exchanges, bringing together the participating nations to showcase their unique traditions and innovations. We expect lively displays of art, music, cuisine, and technology, all aimed at fostering mutual understanding and collaboration. The Expo will highlight the interrelation of cultures and the importance of global cooperation.

2 HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE OSAKA EXPO IMPACTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES HERE IN THE TOHOKU REGION, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF CULTURAL AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT?

The Osaka Expo will serve as a catalyst to increase cultural awareness and business opportunities across Africa - Japan and this will also include engagement in the Tohoku region. Particularly, our organization Africa Diaspora Network Japan (ADNJ) is working closely with AFAM for a business forum and Africa EXPO event in Tohoku before and during the Expo. This will bring global cultures, including those from Africa, closer to local communities, and we hope to inspire curiosity and a deeper appreciation for diversity. This can lead to more cultural events, educational programs, business matching, and opportunities for direct exchanges in the region.

3 HOW MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OSAKA EXPO, AND WHAT THEMES OR ASPECTS OF THEIR CULTURES DO THEY PLAN TO HIGHLIGHT?

Over 40 African countries are expected at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, getting ready to showcase the unique value their countries offer to the world including their cultural heritage. This will include the advancements in technology, sustainability, and richness of art and music, reflecting both the traditions and future aspirations of African countries.

4 WHAT LASTING IMPACT DO YOU HOPE THE OSAKA EXPO WILL HAVE ON THE CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN AFRICA AND JAPAN?

As ADNJ, we hope the Osaka Expo2025 will leave a lasting legacy of strengthened cultural and business relations between Africa and Japan. By fostering great connections and mutual understanding, ADNJ aims for long-term partnerships that will continue to grow and evolve well beyond the Expo. This legacy of collaboration and cultural exchange can serve as a model for future global relations.

TICAD9 Partner Certified Project

Connect with African companies at our 2-day event.
Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and experience the real Africa!
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OSAKA AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM 2024
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ADMISSION FREE

Organizer: ADNJ
Co-organizer: 東大阪市 (Toyouke City)

OSAKA AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM 2024
Contact to: info@adnjapan.org

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- 個人会員 1口 3,000円
- 団体会員（企業などの法人、任意団体など） 1口 10,000円
※ 1口以上、何口でも結構です。

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- 個人会員 アフリカ現地で購入したビーズブレスレットなど。
- 団体会員 アフリカ出身のAFAMメンバーが講師として、ご要望のテーマで出前授業。

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