



A bridge between Africa and Asia! Support activities for children in Uganda



As a new initiative of FGC, we have started a support project in the Republic of Uganda in Africa.

KOMOREBI Primary School, built in collaboration between Japanese and Ugandan people, is located in Omoro District in northern Uganda. In Omoro, the climate changes dramatically between the rainy and dry seasons, and during the rainy season, rivers swell and roads become flooded, making it impossible for children to walk through the roads and go to school. In collaboration with the NPO Gojo Club, which founded the primary school, we will build a bridge along the school route so that children can go to school safely, as well as build more classrooms at the school and work toward a continuous exchange.

We believe that building a bridge that children can cross safely is the realization of the SEISA Africa Bridge, a bridge between Africa and Asia, which SEISA Group has been working on.

December 2023 - Travel to Uganda

From December 21 to 28, 2023, FGC staff members traveled to the Republic of Uganda. Omoro District, where the primary school is located, is approximately 350km north of the capital Kampala, about a 6 to 7-hour drive. It gave the impression of being a very peaceful rural village, but it also has a history of suffering from conflict over the past 20 years, and education for children is especially needed in this area.



KOMOREBI Primary School building



Classroom and children

About the Republic of Uganda

Uganda is an equatorial country located on the eastern side of the African continent. Located at an altitude of 1200m, the average temperature is 23°C. The year is divided into a rainy season (October to December and March to May) and a dry season. The country is about the same size as Honshu, Japan, and has a population of approximately 44 million. Also known as the "Pearl of Africa," the country is so beautiful and full of nature. On the other hand, the country still faces many challenges, including high infant mortality, poor maternal and child health, an increase in premature pregnancies among girls, a lack of water and sanitation facilities, and a low completion rate of primary education.

Towards bridge construction

During the trip, we visited a primary school and a proposed bridge construction site in the area.

As shown in the photo on the right, there are areas where the land sinks and becomes a wetland. These areas get flooded during the rainy season. December, when we visited, was the dry season, but when we tried to walk, our feet were stuck in the swamp up to our knees, making it very difficult to cross. We were able to realize the urgent need to improve school routes and build a bridge.



Comprehensive collaboration agreement

Before the trip, we paid an official visit to the Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Japan, who assured us that they would back this support project as one officially recognized by the Ugandan government.

With the cooperation of the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in Japan, during our stay in Uganda, the three parties signed a comprehensive collaboration agreement for future collaboration in support of KOMOREBI Primary School, including the Chief Executive Officer of the local Omoro District Government, Hirotaka Ikeda, representative of NPO Gojo Club, and Keizaburo Tsuchiya, chairperson of FGC. Local media also covered the agreement and covered the event.



The crowdfunding target reached 5 million yen!

In conjunction with the start of the support activities, we conducted a crowdfunding campaign for two months from November, and we received a lot of support, ultimately raising 5,081,302 yen or 102% of our target.

Thank you very much everyone for your cooperation. During this trip, we were able to see many children's sparkling smiles.

At the same time, we were able to learn about the harsh current situation.

This year, we will put even more effort into our activities to ensure that the support we receive will lead to the support of children and their future. We look forward to your continued support.



The culmination of 12 years! Soma Soccer Exchange Program

One of the support and exchange activities that SEISA Group and FGC have been carrying out since the Great East Japan Earthquake is the soccer exchange program in Fukushima Prefecture. This time, the program was held in Soma City for two days, on January 13 and 14, 2024. The first day began with a training session for coaches, and in the afternoon the venue moved to a different location for lectures by Yasuhiko Okudera, the first Japanese professional soccer player, Makoto Ohno, who has been involved in training soccer players, including national team players, for many years and has also cooperated with SEISA's soccer exchanges, and Nanako Yamamoto, team doctor for Iwaki FC.

In addition, Tatsuya Ozaki, Secretary General of SEISA Kokusai High School, gave a report summarizing the support activities carried out by SEISA Group since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Soma City Mayor Hideki Tatsuya was also in attendance to express his gratitude for the city's longstanding support and was also presented with a letter of appreciation



Yasuhiko Okudera and members of Soma FC, winners of the "SEISA Okudera Cup"

from the Soma City Football Association.

On the second day, the "SEISA Okudera Cup" was held, with nine teams of third and fourth-grade elementary school students, about 100 people participated, and many exchanges took place throughout the tournament. The two days were a culmination of 12 years of exchange support through soccer.

"Education Through Empathic Understanding and Japanese Cultural Activities" JICA Training Program for Nikkei Communities was completed

Starting from January 15, 2024, for one month, we conducted a Nikkei communities training program in collaboration with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Yokohama, as we did last year, to host a person who will play a leading role in promoting cooperation between Japan and Japanese Nikkei communities in Latin America region. This year, the trainee was Ms. Cintia Kaori Yokota, a third-generation Japanese Brazilian who works as an English teacher in the field of education in Brazil. She came to Japan with a desire to learn about the Japanese education scene and an empathic understanding of education.

During the training, she visited SEISA educational institutions and observed how teachers warmly talked to students, created a friendly atmosphere, and responded to each student in a way that suited their

personalities, which gave them a deeper understanding of the importance of empathy and understanding education. She said that the customs of taking off shoes indoors and cleaning, which is common in Japanese education, should also be adopted in Brazilian education, as they help children develop the awareness of picking up their trash.

During the Japanese cultural experience, she learned about the differences between Shinto and Buddhism, was moved by the performance of Japanese drums, and was also exposed to the techniques of flower arranging, which reminded her of the importance of preserving Japanese culture and further strengthened her identity as a Japanese person.

Ms. Yokota's natural sociability and proactiveness earned her a warm welcome wherever she went.

She was also very impressed by seeing snow, which is something that is rarely seen in Brazil. After returning to Brazil, she said she would like to convey the various aspects of Japan to many Brazilians through her colleagues at work, her students, the Hokkaido Jinkai she belongs to, and through social media. She was really glad to have participated in this training. She expressed her gratitude to all the people who were involved with her during the training.



Ms. Cintia Kaori Yokota at the completion ceremony at JICA



Visit to SEISA Kokusai Kamoji



Alumuni

Great work by Mr. Dejen from Eritrea! Won the Kagoshima Marathon

Mr. Dejen Tesfalem Weldu came to Japan from Eritrea in 2017 as a SEISA sports scholarship student and went on to SEISA Kokusai High School Shonan and SEISA University, graduating last year. After graduation, he was fortunate enough to be employed by Nansatsu Tokyo, a company in Kagoshima, where he continued to work as an athlete on the company's track and field team, winning local competitions and being featured in the newspaper. Under the warm support of everyone at work, he worked hard and also enjoyed interacting with local children.

He achieved an amazing feat in his first full marathon.

He won his first victory at the Kagoshima Marathon, held on March 3, 2024, with approximately 7,400 runners participating in the full marathon, in a time of 2:14:50. His success was widely covered by the local media and aired on the news.



Dejen working hard at his job

FGC and SEISA staff were heartened by the wonderful progress made by the graduates. Please look forward to his future endeavors.



The moment of victory at the Kagoshima Marathon Dejen at the award ceremony



At the Awards Ceremony

From the Office

We are looking for individual and corporate members for 2024

The new fiscal year of FGC started in January. Last year, we were able to carry out our activities with the support of 441 individual members and 90 corporate members.

This year, we are looking for more people to join us in reaching out to children around the world. Please join us in creating a better future for our children.

- Supporting Member

Individual Member

Annual fee 6,000 yen/share

Corporate Member

Annual fee 120,000 yen/share

- Donation

We accept donations of any amount at any time.

- Request for installation of donation-type vending machines

Currently, FGC is actively developing "donation-type vending machines" in partnership with various beverage manufacturers. A portion of the proceeds from the drinks purchased will be donated to the foundation, thus contributing to the children's future.

There are no installation costs or management/operation fees for vending machines. If you are even slightly interested or would like to install one, please feel free to contact us.

For more information, please visit the FGC website or feel free to contact our office.



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