



**H.E. BARAKA H. LUVANDA, AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA TO JAPAN
(from 2021 to 2025)**

Significant Records/Achievements¹ during Ambassador Luvanda's tenure in Japan:

- i) According to the recently released data, the Japanese Government successfully administered to Tanzania more than \$1.0 billion in ODA loans, \$1.2 billion in grant funding, and \$0.9 billion in technical assistance through JICA.

Recent exchanges between Tanzania and Japan (from 2022) include:

- a) In 2022: Three (3) Grant and Concessional Loan Agreements were signed for the implementation of:
- The Project for the Rehabilitation of Kigoma Port of 2,726 million yen (grant)
 - Arusha-Holili Road Improvement Project of 24,310 million yen (loan)
 - Zanzibar Urban Water Distribution Project of 10,864 million yen (loan)
- b) In 2023: A 10-billion-yen loan for the "Tanzania Agricultural Input Support Project" and grant aid of 150 million yen for fishery equipment under the "Economic and Social Development Program."
- c) In 2024 and 2025: Grant aid for grassroots projects, including:
- 11,676,099 yen for a health clinic in Maragosi, Iringa.
 - 12,496,318 yen for a maternal and child outpatient wing at Sumbe Hospital, Mwanza.
 - 14,196,899 yen for a girls' dormitory at Kagera Junior High School.
 - 1.527 billion yen for medical equipment aimed at enhancing maternal and child healthcare services.
- d) In 2024 and 2025: ODA projects include:
- Rehabilitation of Kigoma Port (Additional financing 548 million yen, making a total of 3.274 billion yen).
 - Dodoma Ring Road (4.07 billion yen).
 - Two-step loans to farmers through the Tanzania Development Bank (TADB) totaling about 22.74 billion yen.
- ii) In between August 2022 to January 2025, several projects have been completed including:
- Project for Improvement of Transport Capacity in Dar es Salaam phase I&II

¹ provided are from year 2022. H.E. Ambassador Baraka Luvanda started his tour of duty in Japan from December 2021.

(Gerezani bridge) grant amounting to Yen 1,440 million completed in April 2023;

- Development of Malindi Fish Landing Marketing Project in Zanzibar grant amounting to Yen 1,353 million completed in August 2023;
- Project for Widening of New Bagamoyo Road Phase 2 (Morocco-Mwenge Section 4.3 Kms) grant amounting to Yen 3,851 million completed in December 2023; and
- Tanzania – Kenya Power Interconnection Project loan amounting to Yen 11,847 million completed in May 2024.

iii) Successfully coordinated Tanzania's High-Level participation at the TICAD 8 Summit in Tunis, Tunisia, in August 2022 and the recently concluded TICAD 9 Summit in Yokohama, Japan in August 2025. As a result, through Multilateral Diplomacy under the TICAD framework:

- In March 2023, Tanzania received USD 900,000 from Japan to feed (provide food for) 200,000 refugees in Nyarugusu and Nduta camps in Kigoma through the UN World Food Programme.
- Project for Strengthening Maritime Security and the Rule of Law at Sea in Africa to maintain a Free and Open Maritime Space toward a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. On 28th May 2023, the Workshop “Southern Route Partnership Conference 2024” was held in Dar es Salaam under UNODC (USD 2,786,230)
- In March 2024, Project for Protection and assistance to asylum seekers from Democratic Republic of Congo in Kigoma region through United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (USD 360,000)
- In March 2024, Project for Delivering life-saving sexual and reproductive health intervention in refugee camps and host communities in Kigoma region (USD 359,964)
- In March 2024, Project for Enhancing Inclusive recovery and resilience Building for Flood-Affected Communities in Mtwara (Japan provided agricultural assistance to smallholder farmers in flood-affected rural areas of Mtwara to help them adapt to climate change) by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (USD 328,467)
- In April 2024, Project for Tackling Illegal Activities in Indian Ocean whereby Japan has provided a grant amounting to Yen 500,000 million for patrol boat United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (USD 400,000)
- Japan has also supported 7 Tanzanian start-ups to date since 2021 through Project NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan), a project designed to promote economic growth in developing countries by helping start-ups create innovations, address local social challenges, and generate new industries and job opportunities. 7 Tanzania start-ups include: Agrinfo Company Limited; Tanzania Maji Jibu Company Limited; Toolboksi Technologies Limited; Agripoa Company Limited; EcoAct; Mrembo Naturals; and Mipango Fintech.
- On 17th December 2024 the Government of Japan, following the Parliamentary approval of the supplementary budget, earmarked the contribution to the following four projects to be implemented in Tanzania through International Organizations in the Japanese fiscal year 2025 (April 2025 to March 2026):
 - Project for Enhancing Maritime Surveillance in Tanzania Coastal Waters Amidst the Red Sea Crisis implemented by United Nations Development

Programme – UNDP (USD 2,214,324)

- Project for Sustaining Basic Services for Refugee Children and Prevention of Cholera Outbreaks in the Two Refugee Camps and in Hosting Communities., implemented by UNICEF (USD 450,000)
- Project for Supporting Green Business Development for Biomass Waste Valorization with Technology from Japan implemented by UNIDO (USD 1,000,000)
- Project for Creating a Secure Trading and Customs Environment in the East African Community through Enhancing Border Security implemented by UNOPS (USD 1,000,000)

- iv) As of now, a total of 44 investors have been recorded, up from 40 in 2021, representing an addition of four companies, including TANJA through OSTI (a group company of AAIC Holdings Pte. Ltd.), which invested in large-scale farming of coffee, macadamia nuts, avocados, and tomatoes in Ngorongoro, Arusha. Of these, 24 had already registered with the Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA), mostly in infrastructure, agriculture, construction, transportation, and manufacturing. In addition, Japan's FDI inflows in Tanzania rose to US\$ 13.7 million in 2023 (from US\$ 0.3 million in 2021) while the FDI stock from Japan to Tanzania rose from 64.8 in 2021 to 80.2 in 2023 [data from the Bank of Tanzania (BOT) 2024 Tanzania Investment Report released on February 28, 2025].
- v) In 2023, Tanzania signed agreements valued at US\$667 million with three Australian companies, namely Evolution Energy Minerals, Eco Graf, and Peak Rare Earths, to extract rare earth minerals and graphite. These agreements marked a significant advancement in Tanzania's efforts to move forward with negotiations on long-delayed mining and energy projects.
- vi) In 2024 and 2025, two investment promotion missions were conducted in Japan; and three Japanese investment missions were successfully conducted in Tanzania, further strengthening economic ties between the two countries. The first mission in October 2024 brought together 60 Japanese investors to Tanzania, followed by a second in January 2025, which involved 50 enterprises from both the public and private sectors, and a third mission in July 2025, comprising 30 Japanese investors specializing in housing, urban development, and human settlement sectors.

These missions effectively created platforms for Japanese and Tanzanian companies to explore new partnerships and investment opportunities. More importantly, he succeeded in motivating and instilling confidence among Japanese investors, positioning Tanzania as a premier investment destination. As a result, major Japanese conglomerates such as ITO EN, TOYOTA TSUSHO, KUBOTA, SAKAI Heavy Industries, and many others, have conducted multiple business missions to Tanzania, demonstrating sustained interest in exploring and expanding business opportunities in the country.

- vii) In 2023 and 2024, Tanzania exported goods to Japan worth US\$67.95 million and US\$ 163.7 million, respectively [from the United Nations database on international trade], with the top three exports being coffee, sesame, and raw tobacco. For

instance, in 2024, Tanzania sold around 35% of its total coffee production to Japan, up from 32% in 2022, with approximately 15 million kilos (15,000 tons) shipped to Japan, making Japan the major and number one importer of Tanzania coffee.

- viii) In 2024, *TULLYS Coffee* established itself as the largest seller of Tanzania coffee in Japan, offering seven new brands in just two years (from 2022 to 2024) across more than 700 coffee restaurants in Japan.
- ix) In 2025, the introduction of Tanzania coffee single origin coffee namely, *Sun-Dried TANZANIA TUNDA*, at STARBUCKS outlets across Japan. This marked not only a recognition of our country's reputation for producing high-quality Arabica coffee but also a new commercial opportunity that strengthens Tanzania's presence in one of the world's most competitive coffee markets, i.e., Japan.
- x) In 2024, the Japanese Government designated Tanzania as a PILOT COUNTRY for a \$460,000 investment initiative to develop a sustainable coffee value chain in the southern region, targeting small-scale coffee producers (9 farmers' organizations/AMCOS in Mbeya & Ruvuma). Japan spearheaded the G7 initiative under its *G7 Leadership*, namely "Enhanced Linkages between Private Sector and Small-scale Producers (ELPS)", which was implemented jointly by the Japanese Government, IFAD, and two notable Japanese private sectors - Ueshima Coffee Co., Ltd. (UCC) and Marubeni Corporation.
- xi) In 2024, successfully launched the Tanzania dry pineapple market in Japan with the arrival of the first consignment from Kimele, Mapinga in Bagamoyo, facilitated through a business partnership between Elven Agri of Tanzania and Taishin Co. Ltd of Japan. Since then, Tanzanian dried pineapples have become available in Japanese supermarkets, including TOMIZAWA and LIFE Corporation, marking a significant milestone in the country's efforts to expand its agricultural exports and strengthen trade relations with Japan.
- xii) Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Tanzania witnessed a remarkable rebound in tourism from key markets in 2022. The number of Japanese tourists visiting the country increased significantly, rising from 596 in 2021 to 2,041 in 2022. Similarly, arrivals from Australia surged from 1,836 to 6,527, while visitors from New Zealand grew from 399 to 1,304 during the same period. These figures have been progressing to - date, underscore Tanzania's increasing appeal as a tourist destination and reflect the resilience and renewed confidence of international travelers following the pandemic.
- xiii) In 2024, the City of Dodoma successfully established sister-city relations with Nagai City of Yamagata Prefecture, Japan. This partnership has facilitated cooperation between the two cities across multiple sectors, including sports, tourism, education, and cultural exchange. Building on this relationship, during TICAD 9, Tanzania was recognized as a "Home City" for Japan in these areas, highlighting the tangible outcomes of people-to-people and municipal-level cooperation between the two countries.
- xiv) In 2023/2024 (Academic Year), MEXT Scholarships were reopened for the undergraduate programs for Tanzanians to study in Japan, after being seized in 2019. Likewise, the Japanese Government (MEXT) and ABE Scholarships Programs continued to provide Tanzanian students with opportunities to pursue higher

education in Japan. Up to 2024, approximately 22,100 Tanzania students and government officials have studied or trained in Japan or benefited through the Third Country and In-country Training programs.

- xv) Ambassador Baraka Luvanda was the Patron of the Tanzania Community living in Japan, which brings together the Tanzanite Society, the Tanzania Students in Japan (TSJ), and the Kilimanjaro Football Club. In 2024, he initiated the **MUUNGANO CUP** in Japan as part of the commemoration of Tanzania Union Day, a national event celebrating the historic union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar. The tournament brought together about 20 DIASPORA teams from across Japan, providing not only a platform for sports and recreation but also an opportunity to strengthen unity, tourism promotion, cultural identity, and national pride among Tanzanians.
- xvi) In efforts to promote cultural diplomacy and people-to-people exchanges, Kiswahili Language Trial Classes started in 2024, in collaboration with the **Yoga Community in Setagaya, Tokyo, Japan**. The sessions, conducted once every month, have created a unique platform where language and culture meet. To date, more than **50 Yoga community citizens** have benefited from these classes, gaining not only basic Kiswahili language skills but also becoming familiar with common Swahili words and expressions. This initiative has further deepened cultural understanding and strengthened the bonds of friendship between Tanzanians and the Japanese community.
- xvii) From 2022 to date, more than sixteen (16) Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and Memorandum of Cooperation (MoCs) have been signed between Tanzania and Japan. The most recent MoUs and MoCs are as follows:
 - 1) The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Human Resource Development in the Construction Sector, a landmark agreement designed to build the skills and capacity of Tanzanian engineers and technicians through targeted training, technology transfer, and collaboration with Japanese firms. Signed in August 2025, in Yokohama, by: Hon. *Amb.* Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and EAC.

The MoC is set for implementation over the next five years and is projected to significantly advance the development of high-quality infrastructure in Tanzania, while also promoting youth employment and supporting sustainable industrial growth.
 - 2) MoU on Health Cooperation and Kidney Transplant Centre among TOKUSHUKAI Medical Corporation, Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH), and the University of Dodoma (UDOM). The project will establish a Kidney Transplant Centre valued at JPY 1.5 billion (approx. TZS 28 billion). Signed by: Prof. Abel Makubi, Executive Director, BMH and Prof. Lughano Kusiluka, Vice Chancellor, UDOM.
 - 3) Memorandum of Cooperation on Carbon Credit and Environmental Partnership between the Vice President's Office - Union and Environment

(VPO-UE) of Tanzania and the Ministry of Environment of Japan. Signed on 28 May 2025 in Tokyo by: Hon. Hamad Yusuf Masauni (MP), Minister of State, Vice President's Office – Union and Environment.

- 4) Memorandum of Cooperation on Africa's Health and Well-being Initiative (AfHWIN) between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan (Office of Healthcare Policy, the Cabinet Secretariat of Japan). Signed in January 2025 in Dodoma, by: Hon. Jenista J. Mhagama, Minister for Health.
- 5) Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs of Tanzania and the Ministry of Justice of Japan on commercial legal affairs. Signed in August 2025 in Yokohama, by: Mr. Eliakim Chacha Maswi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs.
- 6) Agreement on Academic Exchange between Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and Kumamoto University to Strengthen collaboration at Institutional level and the MoU on the Establishment of the Kumamoto Liaison Office at MUHAS in Tanzania. Signed in September 2025, in Kumamoto, by: Prof. Appolinary Kamuhabwa, Vice Chancellor MUHAS.
- 7) MoU between the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) and Osaka University for Academic Cooperation in the Kiswahili Language. Signed in July 2025 in Osaka, by: Prof. Moh'd M. Haji Nishio, Vice Chancellor of SUZA.
- 8) MoU for the Establishment of the Sistership Relationship between the City Council of Dodoma – Tanzania and Nagai City – Japan. Signed in November 2024 in Nagai, by Hon. Prof. Davis George Mwamfupe, Dodoma City Mayor and Hon. Shigeharu Uchiya, Mayor of Nagai City.
- 9) MoU between the Ministry of Transport and Toyota Tsusho in project development in the transportation sector in Tanzania. Signed in August 2025 in Yokohama, by: Hon. *Amb.* Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and EAC.
- 10) MoU on Natural Gas Processing between the Ministry of Energy of Tanzania and JGC Corporation of Japan. Signed in May 2025 in Osaka, by: Dr. Khatibu Malimi Kazungu, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy.
- 11) MoU on Investment Facilitation and Promotion between the then Tanzania Investment Centre – TIC (*currently TISEZA*), and Axcel Africa of Japan. Signed in May 2025 in Osaka by: Mr. Gilead Teri, Executive Director, TIC (current, DG-TISEZA).
- 12) MoU on Investment Facilitation and Promotion in Zanzibar between the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) and Axcel Africa. Signed in May 2025 in Osaka by: Mr. Hamis Khaji Dunia, Marketing and Promotion Manager, ZIPA.

- 13) General Agreement of Cooperation on Education and Research between UDOM and the Association for African Economy and Development (AFRECO). The agreement supports efforts to elevate UDOM's Health Centre into a center of excellence for Africa. Signed in May 2025 in Osaka, by: Prof. Lughano Kusiluka, Vice Chancellor, UDOM.
- 14) Collaboration Framework Agreement on Geothermal Energy between Tanzania Geothermal Development Company Limited (TGDC) and TOSHIBA Energy Systems & Solutions Corporation. Signed in May 2025 in Osaka, by: Mr. Matthew P. Mwangomba, General Manager, TGDC.
- 15) Collaboration Framework Agreement between Tanzania Geothermal Development Company Limited (TGDC) and SUMITOMO Corporation. Signed in January 2025 in Dar es Salaam, by: Mr. Shakiru Kajugus, Director for Business Development (on behalf of General Manager), TGDC.
- 16) A Memorandum of Understanding between Government of Tanzania and Japan Tobacco Inc., (JTI) for Investment in Sustainability and Community Programs in Tanzania, worth USD 1,260,000 for three years (2023-2025). Signed in September 2023 in Dodoma, by: Hon. Dr. Festo John Dugange, Deputy Minister, President Office, Regional Administration and Local Government.
- 17) The Official Statements of Cooperation, made in May 2025, in Osaka by the:
 - a) TAFICO and ZAFICO of Tanzania together with SUZUKI Company of Japan on cooperation on blue economy activities.
 - b) Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), *currently TISEZA*, on cooperation with JICA to strengthen support for Japanese investors in Tanzania. As part of this cooperation, an Investment Attaché from JICA will be introduced at TISEZA to provide dedicated assistance and facilitate investment processes for Japanese companies in Tanzania. The JICA Attaché is expected to arrive at TISEZA headquarters in early October 2025, marking a significant step toward deepening investment ties between Tanzania and Japan.

xviii) Ambassador Baraka Luvanda has been instrumental in facilitating the excellent diplomatic relations between Tanzania and Japan, which continue to thrive across a wide range of sectors. Beyond bilateral relations, he has also played an active regional role. In his capacity as Dean of both the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Diplomatic Groups in Japan as well as Chairman and Committee member in a number of Committees in the Africa Diplomatic Corps (ADC), H.E. Ambassador Luvanda has contributed significantly to advancing the collective agendas of the ADC and the two regional blocs. His leadership has assisted in ensuring that the shared priorities of AU, EAC, and SADC are well-articulated and promoted in Japan, fostering mutually beneficial diplomacy and regional solidarity.