

Clean-Up Campaign at the Lilongwe Bridge

On 10 February 2026, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Malawi organised a clean-up campaign at the Lilongwe Bridge ahead of the official inauguration ceremony scheduled on 12th February. JICA Malawi Chief Representative, Mr. TANAKA Yukinari, welcomed Ambassador Naito and the Guest of Honour, Hon. Ben Phiri, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, to this special event in preparation for the inauguration of the bridge.

In his remarks, Ambassador Naito shared Japan's longstanding tradition of community-led clean-up activities, where neighbors regularly come together to maintain public spaces such as roads, parks, and community centres—even after football matches in stadiums. He noted that such efforts reflect a shared sense of responsibility and pride in keeping communities clean and safe.

The Guest of Honour, Hon. Ben Phiri, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development expressed his appreciation for the initiative and noted that he admires the long-standing Japanese tradition of community members coming together to clean public spaces.

Following the remarks, participants — including government officials, volunteers from JOCV, JICA and Embassy staff, among others—took to the streets and began cleaning the surrounding area. It was especially encouraging to see members of the public spontaneously joining the campaign, demonstrating a spirit of community participation.

On that day, a cleaning song composed by a JOCV was played, and traffic safety paintings drawn by elementary and junior high school students, who were pupils of another JOCV, were displayed at the intersection.

To read the ambassador's speech, please click [here](#).