Japan Alumni Networking Reception 2026
(Friday, 13 November 2026 at Japanese Ambassador's Residence)

On 13 November, the Embassy of Japan in Malawi hosted the Japan Alumni Networking Reception at the Japanese Ambassador`s Residence in Lilongwe.



Over the 62 years of diplomatic relations, the Government of Japan has awarded more than 4,000 scholarships to Malawian candidates through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Scholarship, and long and short-term Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) scholarships. In this regard, the Embassy organises this annual reception to reconnect with alumni, hear about their experiences since returning to Malawi, and to appreciate how they are applying the knowledge and skills gained in Japan. The reception also provides a platform for alumni to engage with representatives from government, the private sector, and other institutions, fostering professional connections and strengthening ties between Japan and Malawi.

The reception was attended by the Guest of Honour, Hon. Bright Msaka, SC, Minister of Education, Science and Technology; Mr. Yukinari Tanaka, Chief Representative of JICA; senior government officials; business sector representatives, alumni, and other invited guests.

In his remarks, Ambassador NAITO Yasushi highlighted that, with a network of more than 4,000 Malawians who have benefited from various scholarships and training programmes in Japan, there is a great opportunity to capitalise on this network and create further opportunities for collaboration. He further said that human bonds are the most important asset between Japan and Malawi, and that we wish to deepen and expand these bonds further.

On his part, Hon. Bright Msaka, commended the Government of Japan for its investment in the education and professional development of Malawians, who have gone on to make positive contributions across various sectors. He further emphasised that alumni serve as a bridge between Malawi and Japan, playing an important role in strengthening bilateral relations.

One of the highlights of the evening was hearing from alumni who had the opportunity to share their experiences. Among them was Miss Ethaya Juma, a MEXT Teacher Training Scholarship recipient and teacher at Chimutu Primary School, who shared how she is currently putting into practice some of the things she learnt in Japan. For instance, she has introduced waste sorting among her students, teaching them to separate litter into the correct bins for paper, glass and plastic.
She also expressed her gratitude for the scholarship, noting that beyond the educational experience, it also provided her with an opportunity to travel and learn more about Japan.

The evening ended with Mr. Tanaka making a toast and guest then went on to network while enjoying Japanese food.

The Government of Japan offers scholarships to international students, providing opportunities to study at Japanese universities and other educational institutions with financial support. In Malawi, the Embassy of Japan offers two MEXT scholarship programmes: the MEXT Research Scholarship, for applicants pursuing postgraduate studies at master's or doctoral level, and the MEXT Teacher Training Scholarship, for practising primary and secondary school teachers seeking professional development in Japan.
For more information about the MEXT Scholarship Programme in Malawi, please visit https://www.mw.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/11_000001_00102.html

Ambassador's speech: https://www.mw.emb-japan.go.jp/files/101119257.pdf



Speech by Ambassador Naito



Speech by Hon. Bright Msaka



Remarks by Dr Max Wengawenga
(JICA alumnus)



Remarks by Mr Donbell Mandala
(AOTS alumnus)



Presentation by Mr Hopeson Kasiya
(JICA/SATREPS alumnus)



Presentation by Ms Ethaya Juma
(MEXT/Teachers Training alumna)



Toast by Mr Tanaka,
JICA Chief Representative



Japan alumni