

To the people of Japan: Thank you!

Republic of Mali

Water Supply Project for the Kati District

Handover ceremony (April 24, 1997)

At the handover ceremony of water supply project for the Kati district, a well-prepared staging livened up the ceremony; a special tent, large national flags from both Japan and Mali flying in front of the water pipeline, multicolored ribbons decorating the water supply facility, a shower of blossoms dancing from a kusudama confetti ball as the tape was cut, and a large imitation key to start the water.

For many people suffering from water-related diseases such as cholera, Guinea worms, and diarrhea, access to drinking water was a long-held wish. Having safe water is not only a great contribution to improving residents' health and hygiene, but also to pull people out of a slump in agricultural production activities and slow down the outflow of farming families to other villages and cities.

Two thirds of the Republic of Mali is desert or semi-desert, and the majority of the population only have access to water from sources such as unsanitary reservoirs. This collaborative project has constructed deep wells with manual pumps and small water supply facilities for 79,000 people in 23 rural communities in the Kati area around the capital of Bamako, where there is a high population density and insufficient drinking water; this will increase the water supply ratio from 59% to 82%. In addition, Japan has been carrying out a project for water supply in rural areas in a number of regions in the Republic of Mali since 1981, and has funded construction equipment for wells and the construction of deep well facilities in order to develop groundwater.