

2019 Embassy of Japan TICAD Media Tour

To highlight the success of the bilateral relations between and South Africa, the Embassy of Japan hosted a media tour, on 13 March, to illustrate work done by various Japanese stakeholders in South Africa.

The aim of the tour was to take members of the media to the Komatsu Campus in Germiston, one of Japan's biggest engineering multinational corporations and have them see how the partnership between the countries has mutual benefits.

A total of six journalist from different media houses participated in the Press Tour as follows:

- 5 Journalist for print media / Online
- 2 Journalist for radio
- 1 Journalist for TV

Morning Session:

Komatsu Campus

Staff of the embassy and media visited Komatsu Campus in Germiston. The Komatsu Campus is the head office of the company in Africa. Occupying 300 000 square metres, it is a parts distribution Centre, equipment workshop and technical training hub for the manufacturing firm. Komatsu supports the expansion of the local economy through streamlined supply of equipment to the mining, construction and utilities markets. For the training centre, the learning hub features a technical, health and safety, and operator training 'dojo' focused on meeting employee and customer skills requirements. The topic of the inclusion of women in the engineering/ mining field was also explored throughout the visit. Komatsu also announced that they recently approved an investment of R300-million to build an extension of the remanufacturing plant.



Media Lead by Komatsu Managing Director, Mr. Mike Blom at the Komatsu plant



Lunch Session:

Minister of the Embassy of Japan, Shuichiro Kawaguchi, briefed the media on TICAD (Tokyo International Conference of African Development). TICAD 7 will be held in Japan in Yokohama City in Japan from 28 – 30 August 2019.

Afternoon Session:

Pink Drive

In the afternoon, the press was taken to the PinkDrive mobile clinics facility in Randburg. The mobile clinics equipped with medical devices provided by FUJIFILM are sponsored by the Embassy of Japan as part of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP). The specialized clinics provide screening services to aid in the early detection of cancer, with a focus on breast and cervical cancer, as well as basic infant services.

Among the VIP guests in attendance was Deputy Minister of Social Development, Henrietta Bogopane-Zulu who is in support of the PinkDrive initiative. The Deputy Minister shared the PinkDrive's vision to take the PinkDrive mobile vehicles out to the nation, to reduce breast and testicular cancer in South Africa. "Slowly men are also coming out to get checked and that adds to the success of the organization" she concluded. The CEO of PinkDrive, Ms. Noelene Kotschan added that PinkDrive is able to navigate screened people to the nearest clinics and hospitals, and that early detection prolongs lives.



Ms. Henrietta Bgopane-Zulu - Deputy Minister of Social Development, Minister Shuichiro Kawaguchi – Embassy of Japan, Ms. Noelene Kotschan - CEO PinkDrive



Different media reported on Japan's contribution towards Africa's development. Diplomatic Society featured an article titled "TICAD, the first and one of a kind. Engineering News (Creamer media) ran two articles regarding TICAD and Komatsu's future plans. The embassy was also interviewed on Channel Africa Radio and lastly, on Soweto TV.

External media coverage links:

Diplomatic Society

TICAD, The first and one of a kind

<http://www.thediplomaticsociety.co.za/home/16-home/2722-ticad-the-first-and-one-of-a-kind>

Engineering News

Japan stresses Africa's need to own its own development and promote private sector.

http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/japan-stresses-africas-need-to-own-its-own-development-and-promote-private-sector-2019-03-13/rep_id:4136

Japanese Capital equipment group remains confident about South Africa's prospects

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/login.php?url=/article/japanese-group-remains-confident-in-south-africas-prospects-2019-03-29>