



Benin Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation interacts with students at Kasama Elementary

Reporting Yokohama's Major International Projects

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 Editor's Desk: 045-671-4710
 ki-somu@city.yokohama.jp

Benin Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation visits Yokohama

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Benin, Mr. Aurélien Agbenonci, visited Yokohama and met with Mayor Hayashi on June 20. Afterwards, he also met City Council President Matsumoto and President Sato and Secretary General Kusama of the Japan-Africa Friendship Yokohama City Council Members' League.



Yokohama and Cotonou City, Benin, issued a joint proclamation in 2013 to promote youth exchange and cooperation in port/harbor technology.



The Minister next visited Kasama Elementary School in Sakae Ward. The school has previously taken part in exchange activities with Suru-lere Elementary School in Cotonou. Students are studying Benin as part of the "One School One Country" program before next year's TICAD7.



Minister Agbenonci paid a visit to the sixth grade's classroom to interact with the students before attending a welcoming assembly where students from the fourth through sixth grades participated and performed songs and dances and presented what they had learned about Benin in their studies.



Madagascar Ambassador visits Yokohama

H.E. Ms. Mireille Razanamalala RAKOTOMALALA, newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar to Japan this year, visited Yokohama and met with Mayor Hayashi on June 8.



During the meeting, the Ambassador and Mayor discussed collaboration on tackling challenges to urban development and on the "One School

One Country" and other programs leading up to the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) to be held in Yokohama in 2019.

The First Lady of Madagascar's visit to a Yokohama elementary school in December of last year also raised the topic of consensus for ongoing youth exchange.



New JICA Volunteers visit City Hall prior to deployment

Since 1965, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has dispatched volunteers to assist with socio-economic development or reconstruction efforts in developing countries.

Four times each year, around 1,000 volunteers travel to regions around the world, and about 40 come from Yokohama.



On June 15, 20 volunteers, newly recruited in 2018, who will head to various regions to work in a variety of fields, met with Deputy Mayor Watanabe, who offered the volunteers some words of encouragement for their future endeavors.