



Republic of Ghana
 Area: 238,537 Km² (Approx. 2/3 the area of Japan)
 Population: Approx. 25,500,000 people
 (as of 2012: United Nations Population Fund: UNFPA)
 Capital City: Accra
 Head of State: President John Dramani MAHAMA
 (Inaugurated in January 2013 for a four-year term)
 Legislature: National Assembly (275 seats, four-year term)
 From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website:
<http://www.mofa.gov.jp/molaj/area/ghana/data/html>

His Excellency Ambassador Parker-Alloley, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to Japan

Article Collaboration: Embassy of the Republic of Ghana

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From the "World" of Azabu



Ghana

Ghana: A Country that has taken the torch for Dr. Hideyo Noguchi's Yellow Fever Research and contributes to the Medical Care of Infectious Diseases

"Ghana is a country of abundant nature and resources. We would particularly like to establish a relationship between students," said His Excellency Ambassador Parker-Alloley, Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to Japan, in his colorful national costume, who arrived at his post at the end of last year. Ghana is famous for chocolate and football team. This time, we visited the Embassy of Ghana in Nishi-Azabu and heard about Ghana's history and its deep relationship with Japan.

History and Profile of Ghana

"The name "Ghana" originally came from a kingdom called "Ghana" that was located in the area from present Guinea and Mali (to the north of present Ghana). The kingdom prospered with gold and salt trading between the 4th to 13th centuries. Also, "Ghana" means "Wealth" in Arabic. This kingdom gained ascendancy and flourished on the Trans-Saharan Trade route." The Ambassador introduced his country Ghana, starting from the origin of the name. In the whole of West Africa, where current Ghana is located, various kingdoms came into and out of existence and reigned over the area. In this region, the gold trade with European countries, started in the 15th century, and the slave trade gathered momentum in the 17th century. Accordingly, castles and forts were constructed along the coast of current Ghana for accommodation and storage as the slave trade grew. Such facilities were also used as way stations for slaves. One of these facilities, the "Cape Coast



Bus of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi
 This is kept in the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in the University of Ghana in the capital, Accra.
<http://ghanachocolate.web.fc2.com/page10.htm>



Cape Coast Castle is registered as a World Heritage site, and was built by the Dutch as a trading base in the 16th century. It was owned by Great Britain in the 17th century and was used as a way station for slaves before being shipped to the US. After that, this building was used as a British Colonial Government building until the 19th century. It is currently a public museum.



National Parks
 Upper: The Kakum National Park is famous for its suspension bridge called "Canopy Walk."
 Left: The Mole National Park is a nature preserve with broad savanna and forests.



In these national parks, in addition to African bush elephants, there are a wide variety of animals and birds.

Castle," preserves this history for posterity and is registered as a World Heritage site. It receives many visitors from all over the world. In the 19th century when the slave trade was abolished, Ghana became a British colony.

After that, he explained about the independence of Ghana. "Ghana became independent from Great Britain. We were the first country independent from Great Britain in the African countries south of the Sahara. Then, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established with an appeal by our first president, Kwame Nkrumah, which supported the independence of neighboring countries." He gradually warmed up to this subject of history. "It was not enough that only Ghana became independent. Ghana hoped for the independence of all the countries of Africa, and was a founding member of OAU and also as a strong leader among African countries."

The Ambassador enthusiastically told us about the history of that time. We could easily understand his pride and respect for his ancestors from Ghana, which supported the independence of all African countries as the first independent country south of the Sahara. This spirit can be seen in their national flag. "Red represents our blood that flowed through the period of liberation of Africa, gold represents mineral wealth of Ghana, green symbolizes our abundant nature and agriculture, and the black star is a brilliant symbol of leadership in Africa," he explained. He added that progress after independence has not always been smooth because of repeated coup d'états.

To Control Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases

Ghana is the country where Dr. Hideyo Noguchi set off on a final life mission to research yellow fever, and ultimately passed away there. Still now, the name of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi is well known in Ghana. The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research was established in honor of his achievements, and continues to be a medical care facility for dealing with infectious diseases. This Institute supports the interaction of medical scientists all over the world, and as the surveillance center for tropical infectious diseases such as Lassa fever and dengue fever, besides yellow fever. When Ebola hemorrhagic fever broke out last year, this Institute served as the center for support activities from overseas. The work of the medical research institute supported medical research by representatives from West Africa, and analyzed the blood samples that contributed to reducing the spread of disease in the sub region. "No cases of Ebola have been identified yet in Ghana. There seems to be a good deal of misunderstanding about it, and the number of tourists to Ghana has significantly decreased." He told us with some chagrin. It is a serious blow for Ghana, because it has a lot of sightseeing spots, popular with Japanese tourists, including beautiful beaches, and the Mole National Park with its savanna and forests. We wish Ebola hemorrhagic fever to vanish as soon as possible, and to clear up such misunderstandings.

The Unexpected Relationship with Azabu District

When we asked him about the relationship between Ghana and Japan. He answered, "Our friendship has continued for about 55 years since the establishment of diplomatic

Ghana's Special Products

"Kente," Ghana's famous fabrics, are completely hand-made and have the remarkable features of vivid colors and complex designs. Ghana is also promoting spirits (strawberry and cocoa liqueur products), chocolates and accessories.



Woodworks



Shea butter products
 Shea butter is made from the oil taken from Shea tree fruit that grows wild in the north area of Ghana, and is processed into body cream or soap. The cream is used regularly as a natural skin moisturizer.

relations. Not only our political and economic relationship, but also the relationships between younger people such as students which is important. We promote the exchange of senior high school students in the Azabu district and Ghana." He explained about the activities that take advantage of the fact that Ghana's Embassy is located in Nishi-Azabu. Also, they accept visiting students from Minato City municipal elementary and high schools at any time. Last year, the students of four elementary schools visited Ghana's Embassy in December.

The Ambassador's Future Plans

As for the ambassador's future efforts he said, "At first, I need to arrange everything for our President's visit to Japan this year." He explained to us that this is the first time for the current President of Ghana to formally visit Japan on state visit. In addition to preparation and arrangement for the formal visit of their president, Ghana's Embassy is promoting their principal products such as cacao beans, timber, craft products, jewelry, seafood, cashew nuts, alcoholic beverages and Shea butter.

"Though being very busy, the Ambassador often finds the time to take strolls around the neighborhood. He loves the Roppongi area around the embassy best. We cannot help but keep our eyes on the developing relationship between Ghana and Japan in the future."

