

## Report on the Online Exchange Program Commemorating the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize

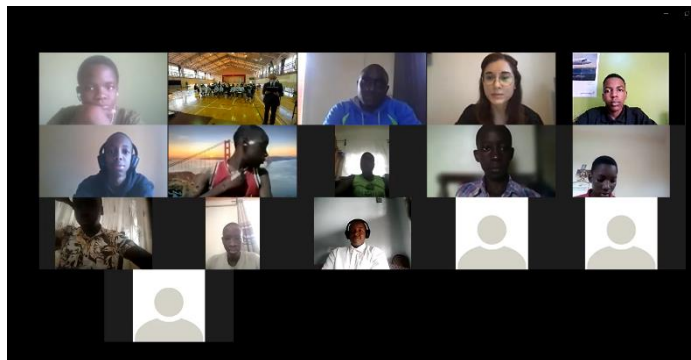
Date: Friday, 15 October 2021 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Venue: Azuma Junior High School in Inawashiro Town

Participants: 26 students from Grades 1-3 of Azuma Junior High School  
21 students of St. Mary's College Kisubi (SMACK)

Following the visit to Fukushima Prefecture in 2019 by Dr. Francis Gervase Omaswa, a winner of the 3rd Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize and an Honorary Goodwill Ambassador to Fukushima Prefecture from the Republic of Uganda, this online cultural exchange was held between the students of Azuma Junior High school in Inawashiro Town, where Dr. Noguchi was born, and those of St. Mary's College Kisubi (SMACK), Dr. Omaswa's Alma Mater.

With a COVID-19 lockdown underway in Uganda, the students of SMACK participated from their dormitory rooms.



### Program

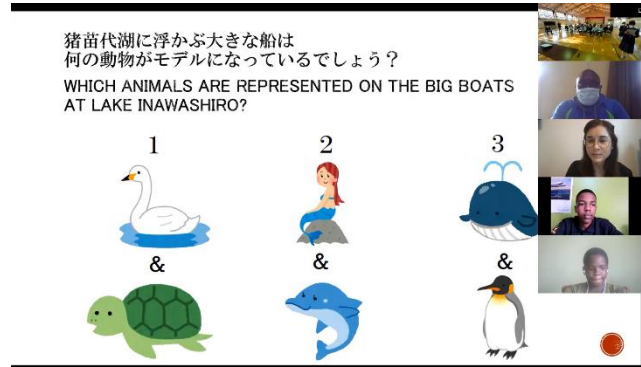
1. Opening remarks
2. An icebreaker game (quiz)
3. Introduction of a typical school day
4. Q&A session
5. Closing remarks from student representatives

### How the exchange went

#### Icebreaker game

As an introduction to the exchange activities, the students asked three multiple-choice questions to each other, which were about lakes, mountains and food in Japan and Uganda.

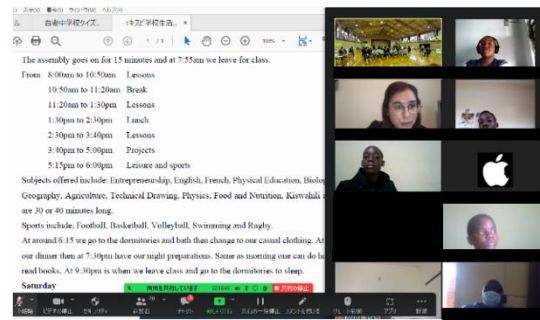
For example, the Azuma Junior High School students asked, "Which animals are represented on the big boats at Lake Inawashiro?", and the SMACK students asked, "What is the commonest food in Ugandan School?" Everyone was thinking of the answers carefully.



Introduction of a typical school day

The Azuma Junior High School students shared how their school day goes such as classes, school meals and club activities by showing a video.

Some representative SMACK students talked about their life at the dormitory, daily schedule and what subjects they are learning including entrepreneurship, English and French.



Q&A session

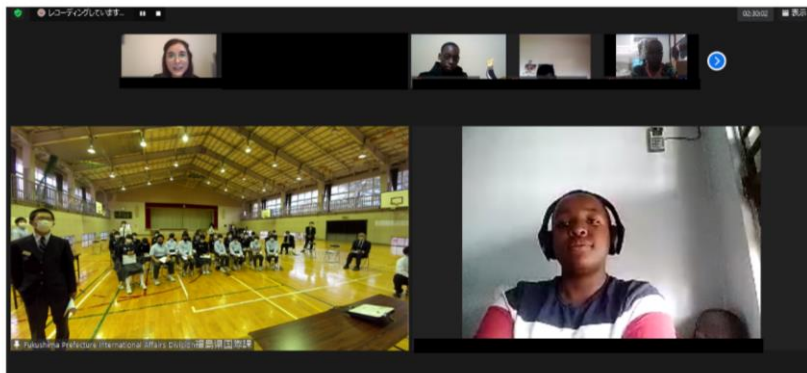
They were able to deepen their understanding of each other's culture and school life through questions including the following:

Q: Azuma: "What sports are Uganda good at?"

A: SMACK: "Uganda is good at rugby, but the people love soccer."

Q: SMACK: "How much time do you spend cleaning the school?"

A: Azuma: "About 20 minutes. We mop the floor, wipe the blackboards and do other things."





(Saying good-bye)

### **Thoughts on the exchange**

After the exchange, Azuma Junior High School students made comments such as, “I was amazed at how advanced education in Uganda is. They are studying various subjects. I am interested in international affairs, so I really enjoyed the exchange.” Also, “I was surprised by the differences between Uganda and Japan”, and “We were able to have this exchange with Uganda thanks to Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, so I realized how great he was”.

The coordinator at SMACK said, “Even though the students were under lockdown and couldn’t make a presentation using a video, I believe it was a valuable experience for the students at both schools”.

We hope that this exchange will become an opportunity for the students at both schools to start realizing how cross-cultural understanding and international exchange are enjoyable and how each country and region are special.

It is also our hope that they will be successful globally like Dr. Hideyo Noguchi and Dr. Francis Gervase Omaswa.