

## Non-Profit Organization “Global Bridge Network”

### Fiscal year 2017 Activity Report

1. Activity Period: 2016/6/23~2017/3/31

※In the first year, the starting date of fiscal year was from 6/23. From the second year, the activity period of fiscal year will be 2017/4/1 – 2018/3/31.

2. Activity Summary:

The Global Bridge Network (GBN) is a Japanese-based Non-profit organization that was registered in 2016/6/23. At the initial stage, we began with building GBN’s website (<http://globalbridgenetwork.org/>) and opening SNS accounts like FB and Twitter, to strengthen Public Relations. GBN also visited the fields in the Republic of Uganda and held meetings on possible projects with “SORAK” which is the local partnering NGO, “SORAK” has conducted extensive community-based activities, including school management, agriculture development as income generating activities, safe water supply, and HIV/AIDS support programs mainly targeting women. With far-reaching experience at the grassroot, SORAK has positively impacted communities in Mubende district through its extensive programs. Therefore, the collaboration with SORAK as a local actor would make our activities more efficient by solving the real needs of the targeted population.

GBN successfully managed to solicit for financial support from LUSH Japan and ERCA (Environmental Restoration and conservation Agency). We hope to use the funds to establish a firm foundation for field operations and ensure sustainable measures.

GBN is committed to keep the collaboration with the local NGOs, and people to improve operations and enhance human resource development to effectively implement and sustain our activities.



*SORK is listening to HIV/AIDS women's group on their current situations*



*Ms. Ohnishi, GBN representative, holding a meeting with SORAK members at Uganda in Aug. 2016*

“International Support” and “International Communication Promotion” are our main programs.

The details are below:

① International Support

1) Improvement of Educational Environment for School Girls

GBN proceeded with the project building and applied for the fund to start the following activities from next fiscal year.

Monthly menstruation is one of the major reasons for school girls’ dropouts in economically challenged communities. Many female pupils in their adolescent stage can hardly afford sanitary pads due to financial constraints. As a result, a big number of girls especially in countryside end up seeking for other alternatives like use of clothes. These alternative solutions are rudimentary and come with lots of consequences like infections and humiliation due to blood leakage, among others. The pupils with no options end up missing school during their menstruation periods which affects their performance at school. Blood leakage particularly has been spotted out as the main cause of bullying and teasing among male pupils towards their counterparts and this has led to psychological effects. As a consequence, a relatively big number of girls quit school to save themselves from such humiliation.

Thus, GBN built a project called “Improvement of school environment to combat Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) challenges to Stop Adolescent Girls’ school dropout in Uganda” in collaboration with SORAK (The project will run for several months from April 2017). The target is to support 1,000 female pupils in Mubende, Uganda. GBN plan to implement activities such as a baseline survey, training for reusable sanitary pad making, workshops on sex education and menstrual hygiene management, and gender awareness as

well as establishing Sanitary Pad Making Unit in a partner school. The target of the project is not only girls, but also boys, teachers, parents, and involve entire local people to support girls.

This project will begin in April and its extension will be supported by LUSH JAPAN CO. LTD. and started from April, 2017.



*Class of menstruation at Lwawuna Primary school in Mubende District Uganda.*



*Girls share their views on Menstrual Hygiene Management challenges.*

## 2) Environment Protection and Education

GBN proceeded with the project building and applied for the fund to start the following activities from next fiscal year. From 2011, Uganda in general and Mubende district in particular have had persistent drought. This is due to man's activities in search of arable land which has led to severe deforestation, with associated burning as well as the most recent worst trend of wetland encroachment through unrestricted wetland reclamation. This is further attributed to high levels of unemployment especially among youth and women who form the majority of Ugandan population. They lack alternative means of survival/livelihood as they are tied to tilling of land moreover with rudimentary technology that does not spare land to the detriment of environmental protection. This happens amidst limited information and knowledge of the likely effects of unrestricted deforestation and as well as wetland reclamation on climate change.

GBN has started a project on environmental protection and education in the collaboration with SORAK. The project seeks to promote environmental protection through practical and gainful cultivation of lemongrass. Capacity building for women, youth and children in school to enhance environmental protection will be carried out through education and training for lemon grass growing. Engagement of communities, stakeholders and local leaders for a favorable regulatory environmental protection environment, as well as supporting communities of women and youth farmers for accelerated uptake of lemon grass production

will be implemented.

The number of beneficiary estimate more than appropriately 8,000 (200 Women and Youth, 300 children x16 schools, and 50 stakeholders including local government, policy makers, and local farmers.)

It is anticipated that the project will have environmental benefits of providing a permanent soil cover to the currently eroded bare grounds by expanding lemon grass growing. In addition, the production and sale of lemongrass essential oil and tea from tons of lemongrass gathered by the surrounding farmers will help income generation among them.

GBN will play the role of an agent to support the project called “Environmental Protection through Expanding Lemon Grass Growing and Education in Uganda” which SORAK conducts as environmental protection by growing lemon grass and income generation for 1 year from Apr 2017. This project will be implemented in sponsored by ERCA (Environmental Restoration and conservation Agency).



*The once evergreen tropical rain forest on Kibalinqa sub-county-Mubende*



*A farmer cultivating lemon grass*



*The distillation apparatus which SORKA has, and SORAK carries out lemon grass distillation into essential oil here by gathering lemon grass from*



*Lemon grass essential oil distilled by SORAK*

### 3) International Cooperation through GBN Shopping

GBN manages online shop on sale of African original crafts and hand-made accessories made by African women. Bereesera, a local NGO in Uganda that supports socially disadvantaged women through skills development initiatives is the sole producer of leather crafts with unique and colorful African fabric.



*Single mothers creating products*



*Leather Crafts from African Fabric from 'Bereesera', Ugandan Single Mothers' Hand-made. (Now Available at Online Shop)*



*Daisy designing and making original accessories*



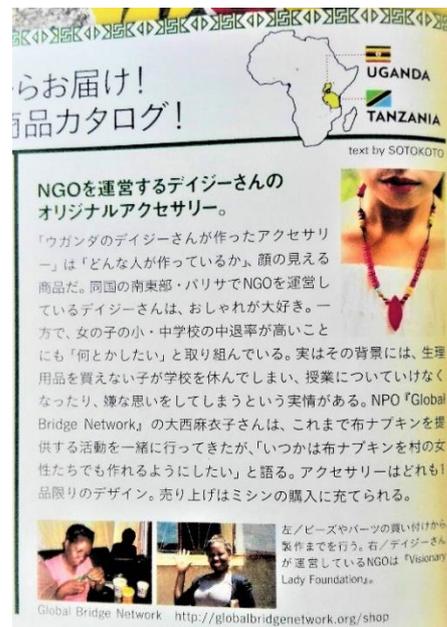
*Original accessories designed by African lady, Daisy (Now Available at Online Shop)*

This revenue will be used for various operations of international support. Purchasing those original products will help vulnerable people's income generation as well as selling their products will help the general public to understand some challenges of developing countries and create opportunities for them to participate in international cooperation.

In the first year of 2016, GBN set up an online shop site called 'BASE', and also introduced original products through Facebook and Blog.



In addition, African lady, Daisy's handmade accessories were published on Japanese magazine, "Sotokoto", which was able to publicize widely.



As the next step, GBN would like to create a mechanism where general people can enjoy their shopping which leads to international cooperation.

② International Communication Promotion

1) The event 'African Night'

"African Night" was held in CASACO which is renovated old folk house located in Yokohama for local community space. This event was organized in collaboration with Connection of the Children (CoC). We invited some native Africans and introduced African cultures including music, dance, and Ugandan cuisine. Participants enjoyed these cross-cultural communications.

(Date: 18/12/2016 15:00~19:30, Place: Yokohama, participants: Appropriately 30 participants)



*Ugandan lady presented about her country at African Night.*

2) Participated in the Event 'Various day in Hakkei'

The event 'Various day in Hakkei' was held in Yokohama with various people who introduced art, music, Live Talk. On the day, Yukata created by African cloth, art, Gofun nail experience were exhibits, as well as performed Okinawa music and African drums. GBN had introductory presentation to introduce GBN and our activities, and opened a small shop on African craft and accessories. This opportunity helped various people to get to know GBN and we enjoyed interacting with them.

(Date: 19/3/2017 12:00~17:00, Place: Yokohama, Participants: Appropriately 60)



*Program*



*Performanc*



*GBN booth*



*Explaining about GBN goods*