

Feeding the Future

Special edition

September 2017



Mr Yoshimasa Kanayama
President SAA/SAFE

Changes at the top

Earlier this year – in June 2017 – the Board of the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) and the Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education (SAFE) accepted the resignation of Mr Masaaki Miyamoto, the long-serving Senior Executive Officer of SAA and SAFE. The Board expressed its profound gratitude to him for his major contribution to SAA/SAFE and its development.

The Board also designated Mr Yoshimasa Kanayama to become President of SAA/SAFE. Mr Kanayama brings to both organisations a wealth of leadership experience in terms of accounting expertise and financial management, particularly for major national corporations and companies in Japan.

The Board also confirmed the appointment of Ms Fumiko Iseki as Executive Director of both organisations. She has worked for humanitarian and development assistance organisations, with much of her work having taken her to Africa.

The Board expressed its confidence that these new appointments *“will contribute to the future success of both organisations which are committed essentially to the well-being and development of Africa’s smallholder farmers.”*



Ms Fumiko Iseki
Executive Director SAA/SAFE

New era for SAA/SAFE – message from the Chairperson

A new era has dawned for the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) and the Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education (SAFE). Last year – 2016 – was momentous for us as we celebrated SAA’s 30th anniversary at major events such as TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) held in Africa for the first time.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. We must now look forward and plan for the future. We have a new four year Strategic Plan in place, for 2017-21, setting us fresh targets and ambitions as we face up to the challenges of climate change and the increasing vagaries of the weather across our continent.

There is, too, greater expectation that Africa’s smallholder farmers will deliver food in quantities that will leave us less dependent on the world outside – while, perhaps, processing food for export instead of handing this valuable business over for the benefit of others. All this is far away from the early Borlaug years of SAA which were dominated by subsistence farming and slash and burn technology.

Poverty and malnutrition still exist in great numbers on our continent. We cannot afford to be complacent or comfortable with this situation. But there is certainly a change of attitude towards farming that at least gives us encouragement. And the attitude of African governments is changing too.

It is into this environment that we are proud to introduce new and fresh leadership for SAA and SAFE. We announced earlier this year that Mr Yoshimasa Kanayama would become President of SAA/SAFE with Ms Fumiko Iseki as Executive Director. We offer them a warm welcome and many productive and stimulating years ahead as we continue our work – with the enduring support of The Nippon Foundation – on behalf of Africa’s smallholder farmers.



Hon Professor Ruth K Oniang’o,
Chairperson of the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) and Sasakawa Africa Fund for Extension Education (SAFE), speaking in 2016 at SAA/SAFE’s 30th anniversary symposium; an official side event at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Professor Ruth Oniang’o has been awarded the prestigious 2017 Africa Food Prize, in recognition of her role as a leading voice on nutrition in Africa. The prize recognises the best examples of those using agriculture to transform people’s lives and stimulate economic development, and this year received over 600 nominees. The prize was awarded in early September at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

On receiving her award from President Ouattara of Côte d’Ivoire, Professor Oniang’o said, *“I am humbled to receive this Prize and believe it highlights the work we have done and, more importantly, it will contribute towards shaping our continent’s food future.”*

Newsletter of the Sasakawa Africa Association



SAA Founders:
Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa,
Dr. Norman E. Borlaug,
President Jimmy Carter