

2011 and Africa Day Symposium

On 25 March 2011, the Acting Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) informed the Rector of the University that the ADC had taken the collective decision to cancel the two events being prepared for the celebration of Africa Day (i.e. the Africa Day Symposium and the Africa Day Reception), and to donate the budget set aside for those two events to the Japanese Red Cross Society. The Rector welcomed and supported the decision and the University staff made donation to the Japanese Red Cross Society, while some members of the staff volunteered in Tohoku to support the communities over the months that followed the triple crisis.

ACTION

TO:	R. OFFICE
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3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	-Action Completed
<input type="checkbox"/>	-Acknowledged
<input type="checkbox"/>	-No Action Required
DATE	
INITIALS	<i>Maukec</i>
REMARKS	<i>Bond</i>



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE TOKYO

UN UNIVERSITY
2011. 3. 29
INDEX <u>0107</u>
FILE _____

ORSI/ZIMBABWE

25 March 2011

Professor Dr Konrad Osterwalder
Rector
United Nations University
5-33-70 Jingumae – Shibuya-Ku
Tokyo – 150-8925

Dear Rector,

Further to my telephone call earlier this afternoon, I write to confirm that the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo has taken the collective decision to cancel the two events being prepared for the celebration, on 25 May this year, of Africa Day, and to donate the Budget set aside for those two events to the Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund established by the Japanese Red Cross Society.

As a group, the ADC has already extended its deepest sympathy and most sincere condolences to the government and people of Japan for the terrible loss of life and massive destruction caused by this double catastrophe - further complicated, now, by the ongoing grave situation at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant.

The decision to cancel our planned celebratory events for this year arose from our collective desire to make a more concrete gesture of solidarity with, and support for those who have been most directly affected by the earthquake and tsunami, and our belief that the Japanese Red Cross Society is undoubtedly best-placed to ensure that our donation - small as it is - is put to effective use in this regard.

I write also to thank you for your understanding and your support for this decision - notwithstanding the fact that arrangements for this year's symposium at the United Nations University (UNU) had already reached an advanced stage.

The UNU, of course, has been a constant partner with the ADC as, each year for the past several years, we have successfully collaborated together in the preparation of a series of topical *Symposia*, highlighting relevant aspects of Africa's broad development agenda and providing a high-profile platform for African, Japanese and United Nations experts, and others, to exchange ideas and views.

It is our hope and indeed our intention that, as we all move forward from the current tragic situation here in Japan, circumstances in 2012 will allow us to come together, once again, with the UNU and with our Japanese friends to mark Africa Day as per the tradition of the past several years.

In thanking you, again, for your kind support and understanding, I would ask that you also accept the assurances of my highest and most respectful consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart H. Comberbach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "C".

Stuart H. Comberbach
Ambassador of Zimbabwe

Acting Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps
Tokyo