

# *2025 in Review*

DECEMBER 2025



# *“What’s Inside 2025 in Review”*

- Opening Message
- Key Diplomatic Engagements
- East Africa Community Partner States
- Rwanda at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai
- Kwibuka 31
- Rwanda National Day
- Health and Well-being Theme Week
- Rwanda-Japan Women’s Leadership Panel Discussion
- Diplomatic Leaders at Rwanda Pavilion
- “Invest in Rwanda” Business Forum
- World Specialty Coffee Conference and Exhibition (SACJ 2025)
- International Friendship event
- Diaspora engagement

# *Opening message*

As we look back on 2025,  
The embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Japan  
which also oversees Malaysia, The Philippines  
and Thailand reflects with gratitude on a year  
marked by collaboration and meaningful growth.  
Together with our partners, institutions and  
communities, we have advanced initiatives,  
celebrated shared achievements and  
strengthened the bonds that guide our mission.  
This newsletter highlights key milestones from  
this year and offers a glimpse into the ongoing  
efforts that will shape our work in 2026.

We thank you for your continued support and  
engagement.

**HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR,  
MARIE CLAIRE MUKASINE**



# Bilateral Relations

Rwanda and Japan enjoy a longstanding and steadily growing diplomatic relationship built on mutual respect, development cooperation and shared aspirations for sustainable growth. Since establishing formal ties, the two countries have deepened collaboration in key sectors such as education, infrastructure, technology and human capacity development.



**Hon. Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan with Hon. Amb. Olivier NDUHUNGIREHE, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda**



**Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan met with Gen (Rtd) James Kabarebe, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Charge of Regional Cooperation of Rwanda**

This year reflected the continued strengthening of Japan–Rwanda cooperation across priority sectors, including education, digital transformation, infrastructure and human-capital development. Rwanda’s active engagement was further underscored through its participation in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9). The visit of Hon. Amb. Olivier NDUHUNGIREHE and Gen (Rtd) James Kabarebe, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Charge of Regional Cooperation to Japan for TICAD 9 reaffirmed the depth and strategic importance of this partnership. Overall, 2025 marked a year of renewed commitment to shared development priorities, innovation driven collaboration and a steadily maturing diplomatic relationship between the two nations.

# Multilateral Relations

Rwanda has Broadened its Diplomatic Engagement Across Southeast Asia. This expansion of accreditation to The Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand strengthens Rwanda's diplomatic footprint in the Asia-Pacific region. It enhances opportunities for bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, education, investment, tourism and development partnerships.



19 March, 2025

Her Excellency Ambassador,  
Marie Claire Mukasine presented her  
Letters of Credence as  
Rwanda Ambassador to the Philippines.



24th April, 2025

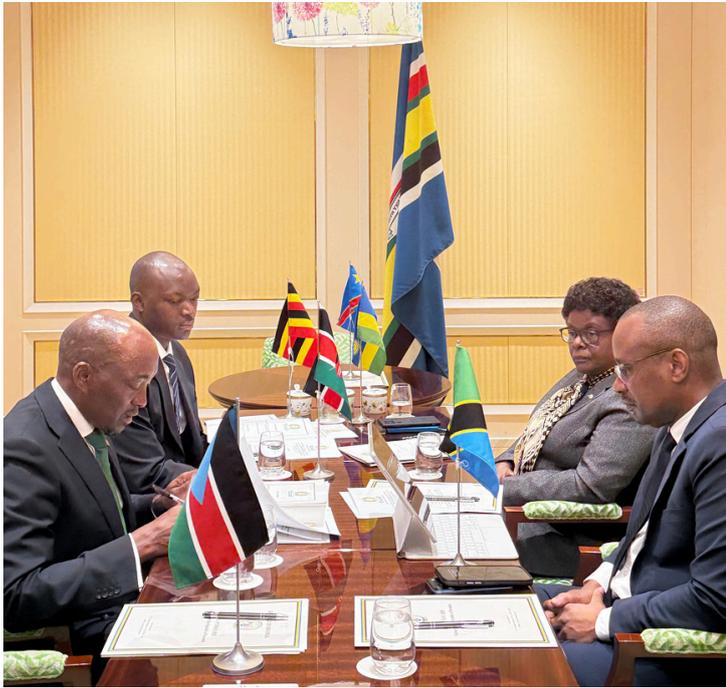
Her Excellency Ambassador,  
Marie Claire Mukasine presented her  
Letters of Credence as  
Rwanda Ambassador to Malaysia.



20 July, 2025

Her Excellency Ambassador,  
Marie Claire Mukasine presented her  
Letters of Credence as  
Rwanda Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand.

# East Africa Community Partner States in Tokyo



November 2025

Her Excellency Ambassador Marie Claire Mukasine hosted the quarterly meeting of Heads of Mission of the East African Community (EAC) Partner States resident in Tokyo. The session brought together the Ambassadors of Kenya H.E. Mr. Moi Lemoshira and H.E. Ambassador Anderson Mutatembwa of Tanzania, along with a representative from the Embassy of Uganda. The meeting focused on strategies to enhance the visibility and revitalization of EAC activities in Japan.

Sunday, 30th November 2025, Ambassador Marie Claire Mukasine joined fellow EAC Partner States in commemorating of the EAC Day in Tokyo at Kenya Embassy Chancery. The gathering included Ambassador of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and South Sudan and member of African Diplomatic Corps led by the Dean and the presence of Ambassador IMAFUKU Takao, Assistant Minister, Director General, African Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. In her remarks, Ambassador Mukasine reminded the objectives of establishing a common market, enhancing regional connectivity and promoting the free movement of people, goods, services and capital. She also emphasized that Rwanda remains fully committed to the EAC vision of a prosperous, competitive, secure and politically united East Africa.



# Rwanda Shines at Expo 2025

## Osaka, Kansai

Rwanda proudly joined more than 160 countries, regions and international organizations in the world expo that took place in Osaka, Kansai Japan for six months. It was an important step in strengthening Rwanda's global presence and building key partnerships as a country. For six vibrant months, the Rwanda Pavilion welcomed million of visitors, offering a warm, engaging experience that told the story of Rwanda's resilience and transformation. From high-level delegation visits to Kinyarwanda dance lessons and tastings of our beloved coffee, tea, honey and macadamia, the pavilion became a hub of cultural and economic exchange.



Beyond captivating thousands of visitors at the Rwanda Pavilion, our country took center stage in several impactful side events. The connections made here are just the beginning. New partnerships are already taking root and we look forward to seeing the long-term impact of this global engagement.

# Kwibuka 31



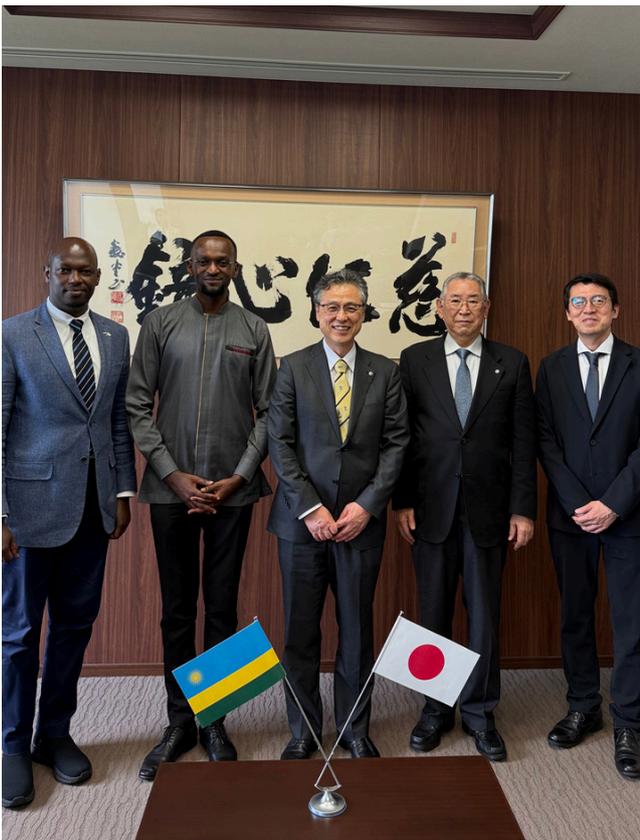
On May 12th, over 400 officials, diaspora, Representative of the governments, Japanese attendees and friends of Rwanda gathered in Osaka for the 31st Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Held at the National Day Hall, the solemn event served as a powerful reminder of Rwanda's painful past and its ongoing journey toward reconciliation and unity. The commemoration featured a moment of silence, followed by reflection speeches that honored the victims and celebrated Rwanda's resilience. Her Excellency Ambassador Marie Claire Mukasine underscored the significance of this commemoration within Expo 2025, noting that honoring the past is not only a moral duty but also a shared call for peace and humanity.



Candle-lighting ceremony at the world expo 2025.  
Symbolizing remembrance and solidarity.

# Rwanda's Strategic Engagements at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

Throughout the expo, Rwanda organized and participated in a series of high-level thematic events on different topics such as healthcare innovation. From advancing medical exchange at Kansai Medical University to convening a dynamic women's empowerment forum and hosting an insightful investment forum, Rwanda used these platforms to drive dialogue, showcase progress and strengthen partnerships across sectors.



On June 25, Dr. Menelas Nkeshimana, Head of Health Workforce Development at Rwanda's Ministry of Health, visited Kansai Medical University to strengthen cooperation in clinician training, research and medical knowledge exchange. The visit focused on developing faculty and student exchange programs and exploring how KMU's expertise can support Rwanda's health workforce expansion and specialization efforts. The program included meetings with university leadership and a tour of key surgical, diagnostic and research facilities.



That evening, as part of the Health & Well-being Theme Week at the Expo, experts, members of the diaspora, and officials convened to discuss healthcare reform and innovation under the theme "Rwanda's Health City: Health Solutions in Africa." The event brought together approximately 50 participants with an interest in the healthcare system in Rwanda and across the African continent.

# Rwanda National day

Rwanda celebrated its National day at Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai on the fourth July which colladed with the 31st Liberation Day (Kwibohora 31) marking the nation's unity and recovery journey after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The event was honored by the presence of Hon. Prudence Sebahizi, Minister of Trade and Industry who delivered the keynote speech joined by Ambassador Yasushi Misawa from the Japanese government, Ambassadors and Expo officials.



Ōe Elementary School students sang the Rwandan National Anthem, symbolizing friendship between Rwanda and Japan and the National Ballet Urukerereza performed traditional dances, celebrating Rwanda's spirit of hope and resilience.



A reception at the Guest house.

# Empowering Voices: Rwanda-Japan Women's Leadership Panel Discussion



Speakers included: H.E. Ambassador Marie Claire Mukasine, Ms. Sana Endo, HR Executive Consultant and Coach, Ms. Sakina Usengimana, a Rwandan Entrepreneur and moderator, Ms. Daniella Umubyeyi, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM).

The conversation highlighted the challenges women face in balancing professional and personal responsibilities, the vital role of mentorship and the power of teamwork between genders in fostering sustainable development.

**On July 6, an engaging panel discussion took place at the Women's Pavilion under the theme "Women's Empowerment, Leadership and Resilience."**

The event brought together remarkable women leaders from Rwanda and Japan to exchange insights on advancing gender equality and strengthening women's roles in society.

Her Excellency, Ambassador Marie Claire Mukasine shared Rwanda's transformative journey noting that women now hold over 60% of parliamentary seats. A global milestone. Ms. Usengimana spoke passionately about her path as an entrepreneur, rooted in innovation and community impact. Meanwhile, Ms. Endo emphasized the universal nature of gender challenges and the value of cross-cultural learning and solidarity.



# Rwanda Pavilion Welcomed Francophonie and Diplomatic Leaders



July 10, 2025

Rwanda Pavilion welcomed the official visit by H.E. Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary General of La Francophonie. During her visit in the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, She toured the Francophonie participants pavilions including the Rwandan pavilion. This engagement contributed to renewed visibility of Rwanda within the Francophonie network and underscored the country's active role in francophone multilateral diplomacy.



August 23, 2025

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ambassador Olivier Nduhungirehe, paid a visit to the Rwanda Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai. Minister offered words of encouragement to Team Rwanda, commending their efforts in promoting the country's image on the global stage. He urged the team to continue showcasing Rwanda and its products with excellence, professionalism and pride.

# Economic and Skills Diplomacy

On September 30, the Embassy and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) co-hosted the “Invest in Rwanda Business Forum” positioning Rwanda as a dynamic and trusted gateway for investment in Africa. The event brought together Japanese business leaders, investors and government partners for a day of learning and dialogue.



H.E. Ambassador Marie Claire Mukasine stressed Rwanda’s strategic focus on stability and inclusive growth.



Mr. Dennis Gatera from RDB presented Rwanda’s investor friendly policies and priority sectors.



Panel 1 themed “Rwanda: Your Strategic Partner for Entering the African Market” explored ease of doing business, financing options and regional access through AfCFTA and EAC. Panel 2 Featured testimonials from firms like OSTI Japan, Toppan, Saisan/Jibu Gas One and Otowa Electric, showcasing Rwanda's efficient and pro-business environment. Furthermore, the event included an interactive Q&A session, an engaging business quiz and a networking reception that facilitated direct conversations and B2G linkages. The forum significantly increased awareness of Rwanda’s investment opportunities and resulted in follow-up discussions with potential Japanese investors eager to explore partnership avenues.

# World Specialty Coffee Conference and Exhibition



This year marks the 18th time Rwanda has participated in SCAJ, a significant opportunity to showcase the country's high-quality specialty coffee on one of the world's most influential stages for coffee professionals. Taking part in this major international event in Japan enhances Rwanda's visibility in the Asian market, attracts new buyers and strengthens existing partnerships.



Through the strong collaboration of key institutions such as the National Agriculture Export Board (NAEB), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and other partners. Rwanda was able to promote its unique coffee, highlight the dedication of its farmers and demonstrate its commitment to excellence, sustainability and innovation in the global coffee sector.

# International Friendship Event



The Embassy of Rwanda in Japan, in partnership with the International Exchange Organization, hosted a gathering for its members in march this year. This event aimed to celebrate Rwandan culture, explore investment, business opportunities and strengthen the enduring ties through people-to-people connections while promoting cross-cultural understanding. The gathering offered an important platform to discuss concerns about Rwanda's border security and its strive for peace. It also served as a valuable opportunity to present Rwanda as a safe, stable nation committed to peace, stability and regional cooperation.



# Diaspora Engagement



Rwandan Diaspora acts as a catalyst in bringing innovation and the best practices in different areas of public and private sectors. The community of Rwandans in Japan also plays a crucial role in Rwanda's development through participation in different country's initiatives and participating in National events such as Kwibuka, Kwibohora, Umuganura, among others.



“As part of our trip to Japan as Rwandan community living in the Philippines, we made it a priority to visit our country's pavilion at the World Expo in Osaka. We were warmly welcomed and it made us proud to see Rwanda represented at such a global event.”

—Benitha (3rd from left),  
Rwandan diaspora in the  
Philippines.



# 2025 in Pictures



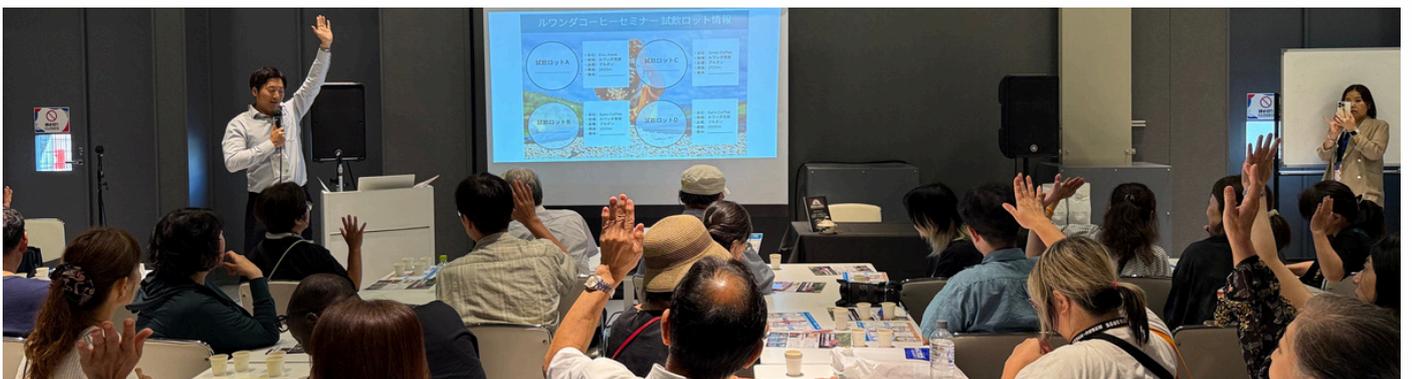
Expo 2025 Osaka (Left to right: BIE meeting, Pavilion opening, closing ceremony)



Her Excellency Ambassador met the Rwandan community in The Philippines



Diaspora at Kwibohora31 Reception



JICA Coffee Lecture on Rwanda's Coffee and Cupping Event



Embassy Team

# VISIT RWANDA

