

27th KUASS
(Kyoto University African Studies Seminar)

Cities and Urbanisation

Date: Oct. 1, 2014 (Wed.), 13:30 – 15:00

Venue: Large Seminar Room, 3F Inamori Center,
Kawabata Campus, Kyoto University

Lecturer: Ms. Mohau N. Pheko (South Africa ambassador to Japan)

* The talk is given in English without translation. Admission free for attending the seminar.

ABSTRACT:

On 27 April 1994 South Africa cast aside centuries of discrimination and oppression to form a new society built on the foundation of freedom and democracy. It marked the end of apartheid rule and an introduction of a new Constitutional order, wherein all work towards a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

However, South Africans will never forget that the road to democracy was not easy and was achieved because of the unyielding sacrifice of thousands of their compatriots. The year 2014 presents an opportunity for the people of South Africa, the continent and rest of the world to join in celebrating the South African story.

Next year South Africa will celebrate 20 years of freedom and democracy. This momentous occasion presents an opportunity for South Africans to reflect on how their freedom and democracy were achieved; the progress they have made the past 20 years; and on how South Africans are going to work together to implement Vision 2030.

Government encourages every sector of society to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that the nation has faced over the past 20 years. The 20-year celebrations will seek to involve all government departments and agencies, organised labour, business, civil society, the academic fraternity, faith-based organisations and the media.

The celebrations will also strengthen relations with other African countries and the world. In 2013 the African continent celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). We remain grateful to the continent and the international

community for supporting us in the struggle for liberation.

South Africa has abandoned its shameful past and has steadily moved towards building a new culture based on respect for human rights and dignity.

There are still those who question the progress South Africa had made since 1994. Compared to before 1994 we can now proudly proclaim that millions of people now have water, electricity, sanitation and housing. By our own standards, we declare that this is not good enough; that we must not rest until all the people can claim a better life.

The release of the Census 2011 figures shows a definitive picture of a country that is rapidly changing. They paint the picture of a country that has increased income levels, an improvement in the roll-out of basic services and amenities, and increased levels of education.

While celebrating our achievements South Africans also look forward to the next 20 years. The National Development Plan (NDP) is our roadmap; the plan outlines the type of society we are striving for in 2030, where no one is hungry, where everyone is able to attend school and further their studies if they wish, where work is available, where everyone is making a contribution because each person has been provided with what they need to reach their full potential.

As part of celebrating the achievements of the past twenty years and addressing some of the remaining challenges that we face, the Embassy would like to share with your students and lectures the South African story as “Cities and urbanization/ The challenge of creating new cities” a topic.

Co-hosted with: Division of African Area Studies, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University,