



NAME: Eika Felipe

TITLE: Consultant

BUSINESS: Silk Worm Farming

STUDENT: Diana Mbabazi

Born in Japan, Eika is an independent consultant on sericulture. When she was 12, she read a book about a Japanese nurse who worked in Tanzania and knew international cooperation through technical assistance was the mission of her life.

She studied sericulture science and insect pathology in Japan at the Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. Soon after she finished master's degree, she started working as a technical consultant. Most international consultants are required to have domestic job experience first, but wanting to work for international cooperation as soon as possible, Eika applied to be a volunteer for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and was dispatched to the Philippines. There she worked for a silkworm breeding and egg production center.

Her work at the JICA gave her the knowledge she needed to do consulting; she has worked in the Philippines, Afghanistan and currently she is working in Uganda. She has also visited several African countries, including Rwanda, to observe their sericulture project and give advice.

She notes: During the late 1800's sericulture was booming in Europe; later, Europe was replaced by Japan. After 300 years of national isolation, the Japanese government worked hard to maintain their position and build their nation. Then it was taken by China and she believes it will shift into Africa in the near future. She is looking forward to observing which countries will be the center of silk industry in Africa and helping them develop their silkworm businesses.



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