



## MY COUNTRY

歯学研究科歯学基礎系専攻 1 学年 エッダ ヴウハハラ  
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My name is Edda, coming from Tanzania, Africa. My country is situated in eastern part of the continent, just in the south of the geographical equatorial line. Beside Tanzania being bordered by Indian ocean which covers the whole of her eastern boundary, she enjoys various waters in her hinterland. Lake Victoria, on the north with its great falls, which is a source of historical River Nile; Lake Tanganyika, marking the western side boundary; Lake Nyasa on south-west and River Ruvuma demarcating the southern border. Nevertheless, there are many other lakes and rivers in various parts of the country.

The Tanzanians are also proud of other natural resources which, apart from boosting up the economy specifically in the field of tourism they very much add the beauty of country's landscape. These include a good number of national parks and game reserves with many different wild animals; a number of high mountains, the most famous worldwide being Kilimanjaro which many people from all over the world flow every year to make adventure of it, and many other admirable places for sightseeing. I welcome all of you to visit my country and experience the attractive, fantastic and exciting sight viewing.

Although the climate is said to be generally warm, this is not applicable to the good part of the country. Due to different topographic landscapes, one would not be surprised that some parts enjoy the Mediterranean climate, other have the tropical type of climate, while some are almost always cold comparable to mountainous areas of Japan. Obvious, the coastal strip is almost always warm. Our previous capital city Dar Es Salaam, which means "Port of Peace" was built here. The city now is one of the famous port in East Africa and serves as a commercial centre.

The difference in climate from one place to another, partly reflects the existence of different life styles from one area to another in terms of economic activities, staple foods, traditional housing, etc.. In spite of this, the diversity among people is greatly contributed by different tradition cultures, customs and beliefs which are brought up by the existence of many tribal languages. Despite of all these differences, Tanzanian people are very much unified, living in harmony, and nobody finds difficulty to live in the vicinity of another tribe. There are many reasons which have resulted to this peacefully situation, but the most contributing factor is the good communication which is made possible by our national language, Swahili. Swahili doesn't originate from any specific tribe, and yet, interestingly, it belongs to all. Moreover the influence of tribal differences is recently fading away and will certainly vanish in future due to intermarriages and intermixing brought up by economic, educational and social reasons.

I have been in Hiroshima for over a year. Although before coming to Japan I was not well prepared for what to expect (since little information was available and the newspaper available around the world have mainly focused attention only on social problems), I have been quite happy that I got an opportunity to study here in Hiroshima. Beside the reputation of the city as a symbol of international understanding, I could not stop wondering in the development of the city as it is far from my previous imaginations, especially when my thinking focused on atomic bomb tragedy which the city experienced in past. The most important thing however, is the very positive experience I had come close with native people wherever I go. As the best part of my stay is within the campus, a good portion of the picture drawn concerning life in Hiroshima and Japan in general, is largely represented by the members of my department. It is difficult for me to express my sincere feelings on the warm hearts and the very touchy friendliness which everybody expresses to me. Everyone from the very senior to colleague, is more than willing to accommodate my needs, teach diligently, instruct very clearly, and provide assistance in the tough academic and slowly adaptable social life mainly contributed by the communication barrier to majority of wandering foreigners. There is no doubt that I have a real an enjoyable stay, and have a high spirit in achieving the academic goal; the only objective of coming here. A few of the many delightful moments (as shown in the picture with my tutor Dr. Saito) suggests that. Aren't they?