

## NORDIC DAY

New Vision  
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# Nordic Day strengthening the bond of Scandinavian countries

By Jacky Achan

**N**ordic Day is celebrated in honour of the basic agreement on Nordic co-

operation, referred to as the Helsinki treaty.

The governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden reached this agreement to promote and strengthen the close ties existing among the Nordic people.

This was particularly in matters of culture, legal and social philosophy. They agreed to attain uniformity of regulation throughout the Nordic countries in as many respects as possible under this treaty.

It included appropriate division of labour and extending the scale of co-operation among the Nordic countries.

Signed on March 23, 1962, the treaty defines the tasks and composition of the Nordic council and the Nordic Council of ministers, as well as methods of practical co-operation.

The Nordic countries are a geographical and cultural region in northern Europe and the North Atlantic.

It is made up of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, including their associated territories Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and the Aland Islands.

## Benefits of the Nordics co-operation

Nordic Day celebration reflects on the long-standing tradition of close collaboration between the Nordic countries.

It as well reflects on shared values, including democracy, rule of law, gender equality, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Countries belonging to the Nordic bloc have for more than 60 years enjoyed free movement of labour and the Nordic region is the world's 11th largest economy.

Celebrating Nordic Day is a happy and sociable reminder of the Nordic identity and Nordic values, as well as of the diversity of the modern Nordic way of life today.



Guests listen to a speech by one of the Nordic ambassadors at last year's joint Nordic Day celebrations in Kampala



H.E Mogens Pedersen, the ambassador of Denmark to Uganda, H.E Stefán Jón Hafstein, Chargé d'Affaires (Head of Mission of the Embassy of Iceland), H.E Urban Andersson, the former ambassador of Sweden to Uganda and H.E Susan Eckey, ambassador of Norway to Uganda

The Nordic countries are witnessing considerable global interest in Nordic

architecture, film, food, fashion and music. They, in turn, aspire to

raise the visibility of the Nordic region and support Nordic culture both within

## THE NORDIC DAY REFLECTS ON THE ANCIENT TRADITION OF CLOSE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

and beyond the region's borders, through, among others the awarding of the Nordic Council prizes.

The Nordic Council awards five prizes every year: The Literature Prize, the Film Prize, the Music Prize, the Environment Prize and as of 2013, the Children and Young People's Literature Prize.

**Languages of the Nordics**  
One of the strengths of the

Nordic co-operation is the ability to understand each other's language. Danish, Norwegian and Swedish are so closely related.

If you speak one of them, little effort is required to understand the others. Danish, Norwegian and Swedish are, therefore, the working languages for official Nordic co-operation.

For meetings of the Nordic Council and Council of ministers, an interpretation service is offered between Finnish, Icelandic and Scandinavian.

## Nordic day in Uganda

Last year, the Embassies of Sweden, Iceland, Norway and Denmark in Kampala celebrated the Joint Nordic National Day for the 7th time.

The guests at the well-attended event enjoyed a variety of Nordic traditional cuisines and Nordic music.

The Swedish Ambassador on behalf of the heads of mission of the Nordic embassies, highlighted the longstanding, strong and diverse co-operation with Uganda.

Also commended was Uganda's generous approach towards refugees from the region, and Uganda's role for regional stability was commended.

This year, some activities to mark Nordic Day have already been held. At the beginning of the year, the Nordic Sports Day was held in Lubowa on Entebbe Road.

Hundreds of people from the Nordic community took part in the sports day and Sweden emerged champions.

The competition was crowned with a dinner party at Faze2 Restaurant in Kampala where the Swedish ambassador, Per Lindgarde, received the trophy.

The Nordics with the oldest and most wide-ranging forms of regional political collaboration remains strongly committed to their cause.

Today, the Nordics have one of the most highly educated people in the world and the bloc has scored many international successes including leading the world in transparency, trust, the environment, gender equality and happiness.