

JICA Namibia Newsletter

NUST Implements the JICA Employability Improvement Programme

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Employability Improvement Programme (EIP) kicked off with its Training of Trainers programme at Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) through the Cooperative Education Unit (CEU).

The training focused on the introduction and intermediate components of the EIP Training of Trainers programme to capacitate lectures from various NUST faculties, departments and centres.

“The training demonstrates critical thinking skills, continuous improvement and patience. It also touches on elements of interpersonal skills and how to effectively work in a team,” one of the participants explained. CEU is working together with faculties to implement the EIP as a compulsory aid for WIL preparation, and for all students to undergo the programme before they are placed for employment. “The EIP is not only fit to prepare students for the labour market but is also suitable to capacitate employees with the necessary skills to function as a team,” CEU Acting-Director, Martha Namutuwa elaborated



Various trainers and trainees at NUST. From left to right (front row): Jordania Andima, WIL Coordinator; Gerard Cloete, Lecturer; Martha Namutuwa, Acting-Director; CEU; Rie Shinozakie, JICA; Industry Human Resources Expert; Rejoice Quest, Lecturer; and Valentine Nel, CED; Office Manager.

The EIP is tailored towards developing and enhancing the employability amongst students before they are placed for Work Integrated Learning (WIL).

The training is made up of theoretical components and includes a practical aspect of simulating a car assembling workplace.

Abroad in Japan with JICA

Sofia Amutenya shares her story

As this is my second opportunity to visit Asia, Japan is a whole different experience in itself. Japan has stood up from the ruins of the war and now have a strong economy and they are very sufficient in food production. Agriculture is one of their economic pillars.

My stay in Japan has so far shown me how the Japanese farmers use the SHEP Approach to supply their huge population with food.

These farmers have a continuous income through fruit and vegetable auctions. I have visited and toured the Hubuku Auction House, where the auctions take place, and understand how it all works. They work with the Japan Co-operative (JA).

As for the farmers, their duty is to supply the produce and the marketing is done by JA.



Harvest Time: Participants from various African countries who are attending the SHEP training in Japan.

The Market-Oriented Agriculture Promotion for Extension Officer training programme I am currently attending in Japan, is a 6-month training designed for 10 African countries and one Asian country, to expose extension officers to the SHEP (Small Horticulture Enterprise Promotion) Approach.



Ms. Sofia Amutenya, Extension Officer with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land reform of Namibia, at the Hubuku Auction with her harvest.

This a method of production that encourages farmers to ‘grow to sell’. Here we are exposed to various training practices. The practices include soil tests, growing and harvesting vegetables, post-harvest handling and the marketing of the produce.

We got a chance to sell our produce at Tsuchiura Wholesale Market. The butternut gave us the best price followed by pumpkin. The carrots received the lowest price as the market was flooded with carrots and pumpkin.

JOIN US AT THE **ONGWEDIVA TRADE FAIR FROM 26–28 AUGUST 2022**

JICA Welcomes a New Volunteer to Namibia

Mr. Ryosuke Matsuo is the new addition to JICA Namibia’s Japan Overseas Cooperative Volunteers (JOCV) programme. He will be based in Omaruru at Omaruru Primary School as of 18 August 2022.



Mr. Ryosuke Matsuo and Mr. Dumingu Litwayi touring Namibia Primary School

He was in Windhoek for In-Country Training. He recently visited Namibia Primary School (NPS) and shares his experience.

“I visited Namibia Primary School where Mr. Dumingu Litwayi, JICA ex-participant at NPS, emphasized and practiced the importance of children using their minds and finding answers in discussion activities by themselves, rather than teachers giving answers. When it was recess time and we went out to the

playground, many children gathered around Mr. Dumingu, which was a complete change from the inside of the class. It was clear how much Mr. Dumingu values communication on a daily basis. Mr. Dumingu never leaves even a sleeping child behind in class. It was a day that made me feel hopeful that such a wonderful teacher exists in this country.”

working in group to solve mathematics problem. He showed the passion in working with learners and our learners enjoyed his presence.

During break-time I took Ryosuke san on a school tour by introducing him to the colleagues at school and learners from different grades, some of whom took photos together, as it is allowed to do so.

He is an amazing teacher who made many friends during less than 30 minutes of break time.

I am sure he will achieve many things just like Oshima san, among many others who were here in Namibia before. Namibia Primary School will always welcome him and any volunteer from JICA as we are equally aware of their individual qualities and know how.

The education in this world need people of his kind in order for the world to be a better place for all students. I am sure that JICA will achieve many objectives especially here in Namibia through these initiatives working with us and the continuous collaboration.



Grade 6D learners during group discussion

Mr. Dumingu Litwayi, affectionately known as Mr. Dumingu, had a similar experience and also shares it with us.

“Ryosuke san and I managed to teach together and helped learners

JOURNEY TO JAPAN



Beautiful, sacred Mount Fuji (Fujiyama) complimented by blooming Sakura trees, famously known as Japanese Cherry Blossoms

Sakura, or cherry blossoms, are Japan's national flower that is in the hearts of the people. Every spring, hordes of Japanese people and visitors make efforts to see this well-loved flower, a tradition known as ‘Hanami’, this is a picnic event to enjoy the blossoms. The flower also plays an important role in the country's songs, art, and ceremonies.

The usual flowering period begins from mid-March until the end of April, although this varies by region and the weather. It blooms and then soon falls from the branches. This fleeting blossoming moment characterizes the unique sensitivity of the Japanese people. It brings understanding that all things eventually pass and awareness to such impermanence.

This flower cannot be separated from Japan's culture, and it is written about frequently in traditional poetry like *haiku* and *tanka*. That is why the Sakura tree is planted nationwide. A street that is lined up with Sakura trees is called a *Sakura Namiki*.

The Sakura flower is minted onto the Japanese 100 yen coin. It continues to blossom in Japan, since ancient times, and it truly represents the Japanese spirit.



Now You Know

Japan is home to a 2,000-year-old Sakura tree. It's the oldest cherry blossom tree in Japan and can be found at the Jissou Temple in Yamanashi Prefecture. Called the Jindai Zakura, this mighty Sakura tree has a huge root circumference of 13.5 metres.



Dear Reader,
Please contact us at JICA Namibia should you have any queries or suggestions regarding our JICA Newsletter.
In addition, we welcome requests on JICA Technical Cooperation and/or requests for JOCV requirements. Kindly contact Ms. Ujama Swartz, Programme Officer, at the below contact details.

We value your support and thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

Yours in development,
Takehiro Susaki

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