



JICA Namibia Newsletter

JICA Employability Improvement Programme (EIP) Training Materials Handing-over Ceremony

The EIP training materials hand over was held via hybrid meeting at Senate Chambers, E-Haus, Namibia University of Science and Technology's Main Campus on 28 March 2023.

JICA delivered EIP training kits to NUST Campuses in Eenhana and to Walvis Bay, of which several lecturers have been trained on how to give EIP Training to students. Since the implementation, more than 500 third year students have been trained through the Cooperative Education Department. The project aims to enhance the pre-work Integrated Learning (WIL) work readiness programme.

The hands-on Kaizen technique is employed, which is a Japanese business philosophy of continuous improvement of working practices and personal efficiency.

The model is currently implemented successfully at NUST as a tool to prepare students for the world of work to enhance the education standards and employability skills of graduates.



Partners in development... from left to right, Resident Representative of JICA Namibia, Mr. Takehiro Susaki, Vice-Chancellor of NUST, Dr Eroid Noamab and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of NUST, Dr Andrew Nnikondo

Online Training with JICA Mercy Situmbeko shares her story



My name is Mercy Situmbeko, Manager: Education, Training & Development at NamPower Vocational Training Centre.

One of the major things that significantly impacted me with the JICA training I attended is the emersion of the general Japanese culture into education and vocational training. This is a culture that created and has embraced the concept of moral intelligence – focusing on improvement for purposes of making society better. The same culture of moral intelligence and in vocational training is driven and guided by the Japanese concept of KAIZEN which refers to continuous improvement of quality, productivity, services and reduction of costs, elimination of waste.

In view of the afore-mentioned, I really became equipped with tools such as the Plan-Do-Check- Act (PDCA) improvement tool for quality control - approach to ensure continuous improvement and the 5S – as part of Kaizen: Sort by eliminating unnecessary items; Set in order to synchronize; Shine–spick & span by ensuring a clean environment/ work space; Standardize and Sustain which will ensure that NamPower aims to continuously improve processes while eliminating waste in all our skills development and operational processes.

Embracing the KAIZEN concept at the NamPower vocational training center will help me as a head of section of cut costs while ensuring that our skills development processes actually provide efficient processes and methods of skills transfer which ensure improvement or betterment of our electricity installation and security of supply.

The course placed a lot of emphasis on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) with industry when really trying to improve the quality of a process and/ or product in the electricity industry.

The JICA course equipped me with how to practically analyze a problem in the field of TVET at and using the problem-tree analogy. Because it is easy to focus on a symptom of a problem and not the actual root-cause. Some of these issues can easily be how a school or training curriculum was developed. In this training, I enhanced my capabilities of developing a curriculum effectively to address not just NamPower needs, but the rest of the country. Using the CUDBAS Chart – for development of curriculum at the NamPower TVET Center and something that I can share with other TVET instructors and Heads because we need to develop curricula that addresses a skills need on the market and a curriculum what will ensure the improvement of the infrastructure of a country and society.

Again, embracing KAIZEN!!!

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

Ministry of Education Applauds JOCV's



(from left) Ms. Sugawara, Ms. Kawahata, Hon. Caley, H.E. Mr. Nishimaki, Ms. Matsushita, Mr. Okubo

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) in collaboration with, Japan's Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Mr. Hisao Nishimaki held a handover ceremony On 16 March 2023 at the Education Ministry to honour the volunteers for their service in the primary education sector.

This event was attended by Hon. Faustina Caley, Deputy Minister of MoEAC. This ceremony saw the handing over of Certificates of Appreciation signed by H.E. Mr. Hisao Nishimaki, Ambassador of Japan and Hon. Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of MoEAC to four Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers who completed their professional activities in March 2023.

This was the first time that Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) were awarded Certificates of Appreciation since their deployment to Namibia in 2006. The recipients of the certificate of appreciation (for the period from September 24, 2021 to March 21, 2023) are for Mr. Masahiro Okubo (Moreson Special School, Welfare and Education for persons with Disabilities), Ms. Mai Kawahata (Erongosig Primary School, Primary school education), Ms. Mami Sugawara (Karundu Primary School, Primary school education), Ms. Kaho Matsushita (Vooruit Primary School, Primary school education).



The Bank Windhoek Grade 4 Mathematics Workshop

that took place on 25 to 26 April 2023, is derived from a survey completed by grade 4 teachers from all 14 regions and the data collected was analyzed to create three findings. According to the survey, the main problems faced by Grade 4 teachers are 1. Lack of teaching methods and approaches, 2. Lack of teaching material and 3. Slow pace in writing, learning as well as incapability to read. Bank Windhoek and Capricorn Foundation then sponsored the whole workshop through the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. JICA Namibia's volunteers or Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) were invited to share different methods of teaching and learning activities at this workshop.



(Back row from left) Mr. Ryosuke Matsuo, Mr. Ismael Ntopoli, Mr. Dumitru Litwayi, (front) Ms. Yuka Mori, Ms. Ronnelle Guriras, Ms. Momoko Toyota, Ms Sofia Haijpinge

JICA Volunteers

The JICA volunteers focused on *number senses* as a topic of discussion. During their presentation, the JICA volunteers used a 'learner centered approach', in addition, they prepared teaching materials which served the main two findings of the workshop. The presentations of the JICA volunteers were a huge eye opener to the teachers, to understand the need to focus on number senses and put an end to the old, outdated method of teaching by using sticks and fingers.



Another important key point made by the facilitators was that with teaching and learning the focus must be learners. It must serve the purpose of improving learners learning.

JICA Ex-Participants

Two JICA Training Ex-participants served as facilitators, including the three JOCV, making five out of seven of the facilitators for the workshop JICA members. Ms. Ronnelle Guriras (JICA) addressed the topic of *learner centered approach* in detail, other presentations including Geometry and Algebra energizers that made the workshop more fun and interesting. Her overall involvement is an indication that JICA's effort to send her to Japan for *Curriculum Development Training* was not a waste. Mr. Dumitru Litwayi (JICA), was one of the facilitators who contributed successfully to the workshop, his assignment was to introduce *teaching materials and improvisation*, including *measurements* as well as *money and finance*. He demonstrated the *learners centered approach and improvisation* through his teaching. Teachers were actively involved, working in groups and took part the field (outside classroom) activities.

JICA Namibia appreciates the invitation from Bank Windhoek, through the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, to attend the workshop. The work covered by JICA facilitators during the workshop signifies the ongoing support rendered to the Namibian education system and the good relationship between Namibia and Japan.



JOURNEY TO JAPAN

By Ms. Edmunda De Sousa, Programme Officer, JICA Namibia

Kimonos

As a general rule, women's kimonos tend to have very bright and colorful seasonal designs, while men's kimono tend to have plainer designs and darker colors.

The Japanese kimono is one of the world's instantly recognizable traditional garments. The word kimono literally means "clothing", and up until the mid-19th century, it was the form of dress worn by everyone in Japan. For many people the kimono represents Japan's national costume, and is a symbol of elegance and grace.



Though kimonos are often handed down through generations, the garment can be extremely expensive, sometimes costing several hundred pounds.

This is because it is traditionally made of costly materials such as silk and linen, but also because

its seams and edges must be finished by hand. Kimonos are made from various handmade and hand-decorated fabrics. Traditionally, these include linen, silk, and hemp.

Today, materials like rayon, cotton, and polyester are often used. Unsurprisingly, however, the traditional, non-synthetic fabrics are favored. Kimonos come in a range of styles and patterns. They are typically hand-sewn into a "T" shape from four single pieces of fabric called *tans* and tied with an *obi*, or belt.



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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