

JICA Namibia Newsletter

Welcome, Mr. Butsuen!

My name is Kunihiro Butsuen, and I arrived in Namibia in January 2024, succeeding the previous Project Formulation Advisor. This is my second time to come to Namibia, I was a volunteer in Gobabis from 2015 to 2017 as a Civil Engineer at the Gobabis Municipality. Apart from Namibia being as beautiful as the day I left, the city of Windhoek has developed nicely.

The whole world was severely damaged by COVID-19 and Namibia is no exception, and I believe that everyone is still working hard to accomplish the recovery from COVID-19. I am very happy to be able to support Namibia by making efforts to contribute to its recovery. I will do my best to be a bridge between Namibia and Japan, one step at a time.



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

Farewell Voices from JOCV Counterparts "Thanking them for their selfless contribution."

Ms. Yuka Mori

Ebenhaeser Primary School (Karibib) was privileged and blessed to have Ms. Yuka Mori assigned to our school as a volunteer from Japan. It was such a joyous occasion as we were delighted to have her on our staff establishment.

Miss Yuka taught Mathematics and her love for the subject and her interacting skills



made a huge impact with a lot of learners that were struggling with Mathematics. Miss Yuka also organized Mathematics workshops and shared her expertise with other teachers taking up her role as both a leader and a follower at different times.

Ms. Yuka has an uplifting spirit which automatically draws learners to her, making them feel comfortable. Not

only did she teach Mathematics, but she also exchanged cultural norms and diversity from her country, Japan. Miss Yuka was eager to learn about Namibian culture and adapted well to our values. She gained new skills, and we also learned a lot from her as her favorite quote was *"the world is changed by your example not by your opinion, so be the best version you can be to a child."*

- Mr. Heaven Aino, HOD, Ebenhaeser Primary School



Ms. Momoko Toyota

Ubasen Primary School (Omaruru) bids farewell to a dedicated volunteer, we want to express our deepest appreciation to Ms. Toyota. She has shown us how learner-centered, enjoyable, and educational teaching can be. Her performance in mathematics, especially in the junior grades, has improved dramatically. Ms. Toyota brings structure and logic to the teaching of mathematics. Her teaching always starts with memorizing timetables (Multiplication tables) which learners



have difficulty with. Ms. Toyota takes the time to make the teaching materials compelling so that the lessons are fun, and the content is easy to understand. She interacted well with teachers to plan and implement appropriate lessons. The workshops (Continuous Professional Development) that Ms. Toyota organized and provided have brought value and change to the way we teach mathematics in our school. She organized and



implemented the CPD, inviting colleagues from Ubasen Primary School as well as teachers from other schools. In fact, some teachers continue to use the materials they learned from Ms. Toyota. She has left us with teaching materials and teaching methods that we can continue to use, even after she has returned home.

She was interested in various cultural activities and introduced us to Japanese culture, including food, dance, and traditional dress.



She also organized a Japanese Day to introduce us to Japanese culture and traditional dress.

- Mr. Sakarias Dumingo, Ubasen Primary

N-SHEP

N-SHEP stands for Northern Namibia Small-Scale Farmers' Livelihood Enhancement Project. The N-SHEP employs the "Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion" approach, known as the "SHEP" approach, developed in Kenya through a technical cooperation project by JICA since 2006. This approach extends to "Market-Oriented Agriculture," thereby increasing farmers' income. Within the N-SHEP, the SHEP approach covers two agricultural fields, primarily livestock and secondarily horticulture, aiming to empower small-scale farmers in pursuing market-oriented agriculture for various commodities.

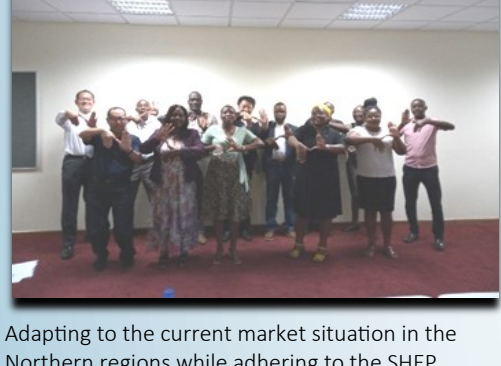
The N-SHEP contributes to build farmers' capacity for sustainable business farming by imparting necessary marketing and production skills.



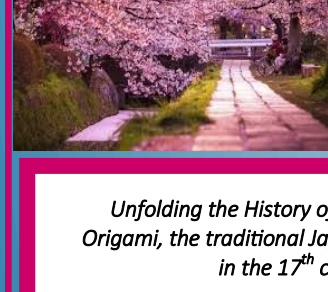
To practice "farming as a business," fostering win-win relationships and establishing motivational frameworks, particularly among farmers, are essential.



The SHEP approach uniquely meets these requirements. In Northern Namibia, which is the target area of the project, owning cattle is a matter of social status, and the more cattle one owns, the higher the status. Selling cattle commercially is not customary. However, natural disasters such as droughts and floods often cause farmers to lose their cattle, resulting in significant losses.



Adapting to the current market situation in the Northern regions while adhering to the SHEP approach, the N-SHEP encourages a shift in farmers' mindset from "Produce and Sell" to "Produce to Sell" in the regions. Specifically, the project encourages communal farmers to transition from traditional cattle keeping to market-oriented farming for regular or annual sales, thus improving their livelihoods. The N-SHEP further contributes to establishing a Namibian version of the SHEP Approach, focusing on livestock, expected to be a primary agricultural extension approach in Namibia. Furthermore, while the SHEP approach has been implemented currently in 60 countries across the world including 28 African countries, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, the N-SHEP is anticipated as a pioneering initiative focusing on livestock.



JOURNEY TO JAPAN

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

Origami

Unfolding the History of Origami in Japan: Exploring the Japanese Love for this Traditional Art. Origami, the traditional Japanese art of paper folding, has a heritage that spans centuries, it started in the 17th century and was popularized outside Japan in the mid-1900.

Origami meaning ori "folding" and gami "paper" is not merely about folding paper; it is about transforming a flat piece of paper into a three-dimensional object through a series of precise folds, generally discourage the use of cuts, glue, or markings on the paper. The process requires concentration, dexterity, and attention to detail. Each fold must be made with precision to achieve the desired shape.

Why is origami so important?

The ancient art of origami is associated with gifts, entertainment, and math education. It can help reduce stress, improve hand-eye coordination, boost creativity, enhance patience and persistence, and promote learning and education. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, making origami is an excellent way to improve your mental and physical health while having fun and creating beautiful art.



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



Mr. Takehiro SUSAKI,
Resident Representative of JICA Namibia

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