

Welcome to Namibia, Mr. Hoshino

Hello one and all,

My name is Akihiko Hoshino, and I have been appointed as the Resident Representative of JICA Namibia Office. I cannot suppress the excitement to work and live in Namibia!

As a JICA employee, I have been posted to Papua New Guinea, Malawi, Botswana, and Samoa. Prior to that, I worked as a JOCV volunteer as a Community Development Specialist in two countries, Liberia and Zambia. Namibia will be the seventh country to have been deployed to and I look forward to working with you all to see how we can contribute to Namibia's development.

Africa is so dynamic. There are cities where the society is constantly changing due to the combination of diverse races, cultures, and various businesses, while rural communities continue to live in the traditional way, and Namibia is no exception. I think it is important to first see the reality, understand it, recall its background, and empathize with the people of the country. I look forward to building a two-way relationship with each other based on a thorough understanding of the country and people of Namibia.

JICA Namibia will continue to work with the Government, implementing agencies, and many other relevant organizations to promote effective cooperation. I am proud to work with all stakeholders, aiming at the development goals of this country. Let's work together!

Yours in development,

Akihiko Hoshino



Mathematics Education Workshop

This workshop that took place on 31 January – 2 February 2024 in Swakopmund, Namibia, as part of the introduction of JICA's technical assistance to Namibia, aimed to address the challenges of the mathematics syllabus observed by the JICA Volunteers who are subsequently mathematics teachers in various regions.



Specifically, the Namibia mathematics syllabus states that in lower grades, the four arithmetic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are taught separately each day without children understanding them while in Japan, students are taught these four arithmetic operations separately every day after mastering addition.

Up until now, JICA Namibia has conducted various workshops on teaching material development and lesson theory, as well as, initiatives that can be done in classrooms, such as research and development of teaching materials and teaching lessons for teachers.

It was noted that the mathematics syllabus has factors that could be addressed for overall improvement.

Previously, JICA Volunteers, Ms. Mori, Ms. Toyota, and Mr. Matsuo shared the challenges they have observed in Namibia in comparison to that of Japanese education methods and shared their findings, in conjunction with challenges experienced by the invited teachers, in an effort to tackle these obstacles as a unit and have an overall improve the mathematics teaching methods country-wide.

At this workshop both parties were able to learn about a situation that they had not previously understood, and JOCV felt the need to directly approach those involved in creating the syllabus, which is what motivated JOCV to do this. Though this may not be possible in this workshop, they strive to identify the issues that teachers in the classrooms are currently experiencing, and while the JOCVs assisted as facilitators. They aim to find out what the challenges are and put into practice more sustainable and effective methods. JICA volunteers remains hopefully for a smooth integration of the workshop findings into the syllabus.



Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP):

Advance Diagnostics for Ending TB and AMR in Health Emergency

Advance Diagnostics for Ending TB and AMR in Health Emergency -Basic Technologies to Next Generation Sequencing in Hands-on

Course Period in Japan: From January 18 to March 29, 2024

Participants had the opportunity to learn the laboratory management, such as Laboratory Quality Management System, 5S and logistics. They also have a chance to discuss the problematic issues of their own about TB and SARS Covid-2 each other (among participants) and with international lecturers and facilitators.

Participants acquired knowledge and skills on culture, DST, and new diagnostic techniques through hands-on training, and develop their laboratory management skills for laboratory managers in order to strengthen rapid diagnosis.

Ms. Queendeline Mokomele, an employee of the **Namibia Institute of Pathology Limited** and head of the National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory, was honored to receive an opportunity to attend this training course.



My Experience

My expectations were fulfilled as I acquired the essential knowledge needed to address challenges in our laboratory, particularly in troubleshooting processes and enhancing good laboratory practices. Additionally, since our laboratory had limited understanding of the WHO-recommended phenotypic Drug Susceptibility Testing for second-line drugs namely (Bedaquiline, Linezolid, and Delamanid), the knowledge I gained will help us initiate verifications and implement these drugs effectively which will be used for patient management.

My action plan emphasizes the monitoring of TB quality indicators, a project that will greatly benefit our laboratory and drive improvements in TB diagnosis and treatment standards.

I intend to leverage this experience to foster a culture of inclusivity, knowledge sharing that will ultimately contribute to a positive change within our laboratories and beyond.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC)

Mid-Term Report on JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOVC)



Mr. Hodaka Kato, is JICA volunteer who arrived in January 2023 and is assigned to Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) as an Instrumentation and Electronics Instructor to strengthen the industrial base to improve economic growth.

Mr. Kato had his mid-term presentation of his activity in April 2024.

His activity goal is to promote employment opportunities and skills development among the youth.

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Voices from the trainees (NIMT)

Left: He's very calm and collected when it come to dealing with us students. He is always smiling, which also make us comfortable with when we are asking questions. He always answers any questions you have with a smile and always make sure we understand what he is teaching us. Some of us has been struggling with electronics but we will always take extra time to explain to a student who doesn't understand. I'm very grateful and wherever he goes. He will plant seeds and they will grow.

Right: I just started with Mr. Kato 2 months ago and I have learned a lot. At first it was hard to understand him but as time went by, we help him as he helps us. He never keeps answers or information from us, he is a real great teacher.



Mr. Kato is a very intelligent man, ever since he came here, I am more understanding about electronics, and I am very grateful to have him as a teacher. He does his best and goes out of his way to make us understand and grasp the concept of electronics. So, I am very grateful to have him as an instructor. I wish he could taught us all the subjects.



JOURNEY TO JAPAN

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

The Magic of Japan's Castles

Japan is home to many beautiful and historic castles, known for their stunning architecture, rich history, and picturesque landscapes. In this addition well take a closer look at the three most famous castles in Japan that you should visit in Japan.

These are just three of the famous castles in Japan that you can visit to experience the country's rich history and stunning architecture. Each castle offers a unique glimpse into Japan's past.

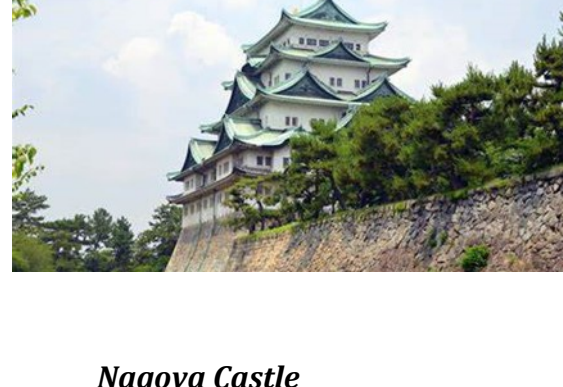


Osaka Castle

Osaka Castle is one of Japan's most famous landmarks and popular tourist destination. Located in Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture, the castle is surrounded by sprawling park with cherry blossom trees and moat. The main keep features a museum that showcases the castle's history and artifacts from *Edo period*.

Himeji Castle

Himeji Castle is often regarded as the most beautiful castle in Japan, Himeji Castle is also known as the "White Heron Castle" due to its striking white exterior and elegant design. Located in Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture. This castle is one of Japan's twelve original castles and a UNESCO World heritage site.



Nagoya Castle

Nagoya Castle is known for its golden "mythical fish-like creatures" adorning the rooftops of its main keep. Located in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, the castle is a symbol of city's history and culture. The castle grounds also include the beautiful Hommaru Place, which was reconstructed in traditional style.



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 technical cooperation and/or requests for JOVC 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,

Akihiko Hoshino

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