

Strengthening Justice Through Shared Knowledge: Namibia Hosts Workshop on Lessons from the Japanese Criminal Justice System

On 1 August 2025, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration Safety and Security, hosted a Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) workshop under the theme *“Strengthening Justice through Shared Knowledge: Lessons Learned from the Japanese Criminal Justice System.”* The event took place in Windhoek, Namibia.



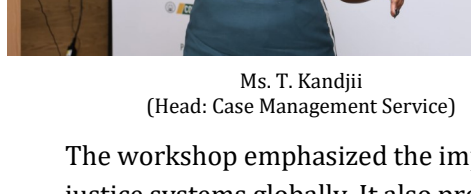
Mr. Akihiko Hoshino, JICA's Resident Representative



Prof. OKA Hideaki [UNAFEI]

The workshop was facilitated by Prof. OKA Hideaki from the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI), alongside former participants of JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programs on offender treatment, correctional facility management, and the rehabilitation of offenders.

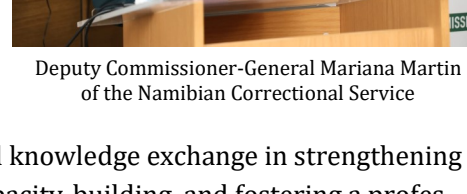
This initiative brought together criminal justice stakeholders to exchange insights, explore innovative practices, and reflect on effective strategies drawn from Japan's justice system—particularly in the treatment and social reintegration of



Ms. T. Kandjii
(Head: Case Management Service)



Mr. Sam Shaalulange
(Deputy Commissioner General)



Deputy Commissioner-General Mariana Martin
of the Namibian Correctional Service

The workshop emphasized the importance of international collaboration and knowledge exchange in strengthening justice systems globally. It also provided a valuable platform for dialogue, capacity-building, and fostering a profes-



Ms. N. Limbo Muchali - Limbo
(Student Councillor) from University of Namibia

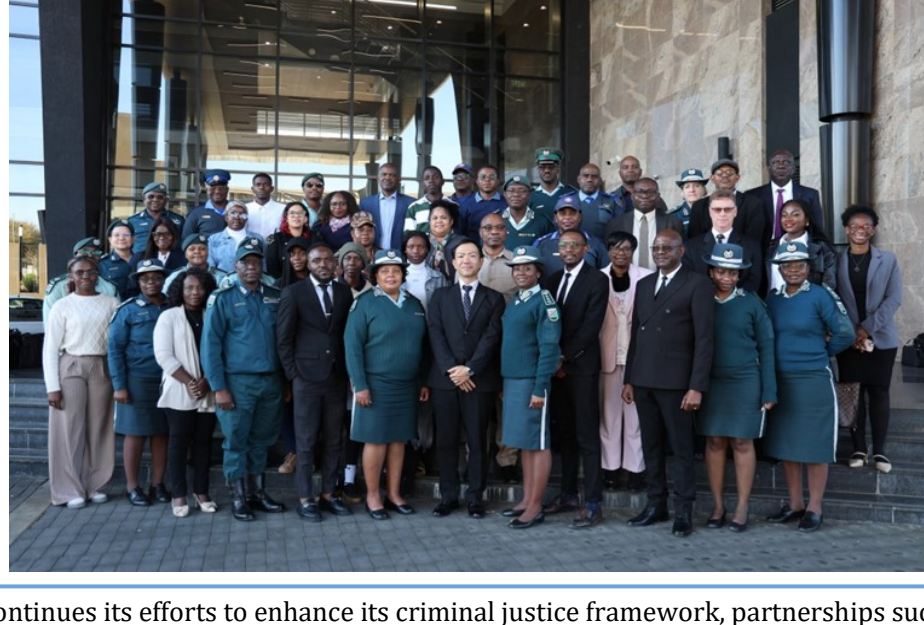


Ms. Remona Visser
(Case Management Officer) Ms. Remona Visser



Mr. G Sechogele
(Senior Superintendent)

Attendees included representatives from the Office of the Chief Justice, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Namibian Correctional Service, the Namibian Police Force, and the City Police. Bachelor of Criminal Justice students from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) also participated, adding fresh perspectives to the discussions.



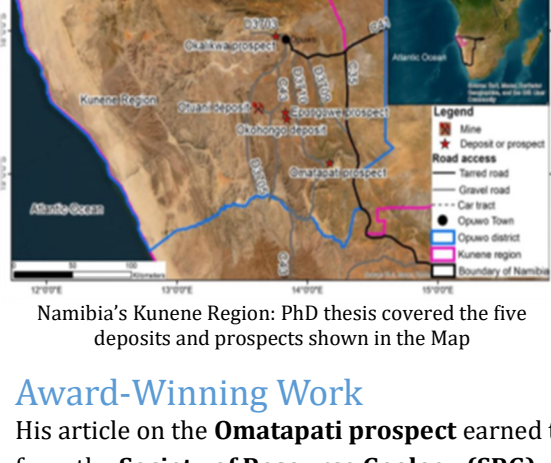
As Namibia continues its efforts to enhance its criminal justice framework, partnerships such as this one with JICA play a vital role in building shared understanding and sustainable solutions.

From Ohangwena to Tokyo: Dr. Abner Nghoongoloka's Journey of Scientific Discovery

Dr. Abner Nghoongoloka, a Namibian geoscientist, recently returned from Japan with a PhD in Economic Geology—bringing home not just a degree, but a wealth of knowledge, international experience, and a prestigious publication award.

Humble Beginnings

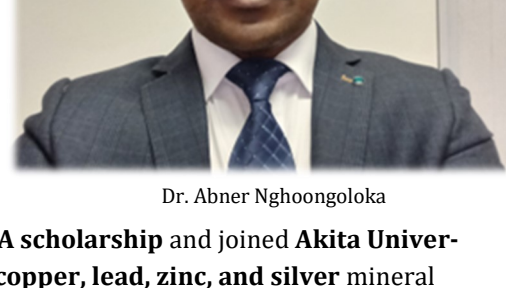
Born in **Otaukondjele village**, Ohangwena Region, Abner grew up in **Etsapa village** and attended schools including David Shingo, Egambo, Oshamono, and Oshela Senior Secondary. He earned a **BSc (Hons)** and **MSc in Geology** from the **University of Namibia**, laying the groundwork for a global academic journey.



Namibia's Kunene Region: PhD thesis covered the five deposits and prospects shown in the Map

A PhD Abroad

In 2021, Abner received a **JICA KIZUNA scholarship** and joined **Akita University** in Japan. His research focused on **copper, lead, zinc, and silver** mineral deposits in Namibia's **Kunene Region**. He began as a research student in late 2021, entering the doctoral course in April 2022 and graduating in March 2025. He published six abstracts and presented at prestigious conferences including **JpGU, SRG, CAG, and SEG**.



Dr. Abner Nghoongoloka



The SRG president Dr. Reading and handing over the award certificate to Dr. Abner Nghoongoloka in Toshiba Hall, Tokyo University



Dr. Abner Nghoongoloka standing at the entrance of the Ashio historic mining quarry now turned into a tourist site.



The KIZUNA program 2021 group at the JICA student program in Tokyo, Japan, 2022.



Dr. Abner Nghoongoloka standing at the podium during his special presentation during the BAA 2024 award ceremony at the SRG conference in Tokyo, Japan, 2025.

Life in Japan

Supported by Japanese student tutors, Abner adjusted well to life in Akita. He became a regular at **Sha-ghai** restaurant, where his favourite **buta-don** meal was served daily without him asking! He also visited historical mining sites, including the **Ashio quarry**, and experienced Japan's vibrant seasons and exceptional infrastructure

Moving Forward

Now a **Chief Geoscientist** at the **Geological Survey of Namibia**, Dr. Nghoongoloka continues his research and international collaborations, contributing to Namibia's mining sector and scientific excellence. His story is a testament to the power of global learning and homegrown determination.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

New JOCV Volunteers Strengthen Education in Erongo Region



Currently, JICA Namibia has 12 active volunteers working across key sectors including education, environmental health, and youth development. With the addition of this new group, we look forward to seeing their positive impact on both learners and communities.

JICA remains dedicated to building lasting partnerships and supporting Namibia's development goals through grassroots cooperation.

As JICA Namibia prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary in March 2026, the office proudly welcomes a new group of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC) to Namibia.

These volunteers bring expertise in mathematics and physical education, and will be supporting schools in the Erongo Region.

Volunteer Placements:

- **Namib Primary School** – Swakopmund
- **Paheye Primary School** – Omaruru Circuit
- **Karibib Junior Secondary School** – Karibib

Their arrival highlights JICA's enduring commitment to strengthening Namibia's education sector while promoting people-to-people connections and cross-cultural exchange between Japan and Namibia.

JOURNEY TO JAPAN

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

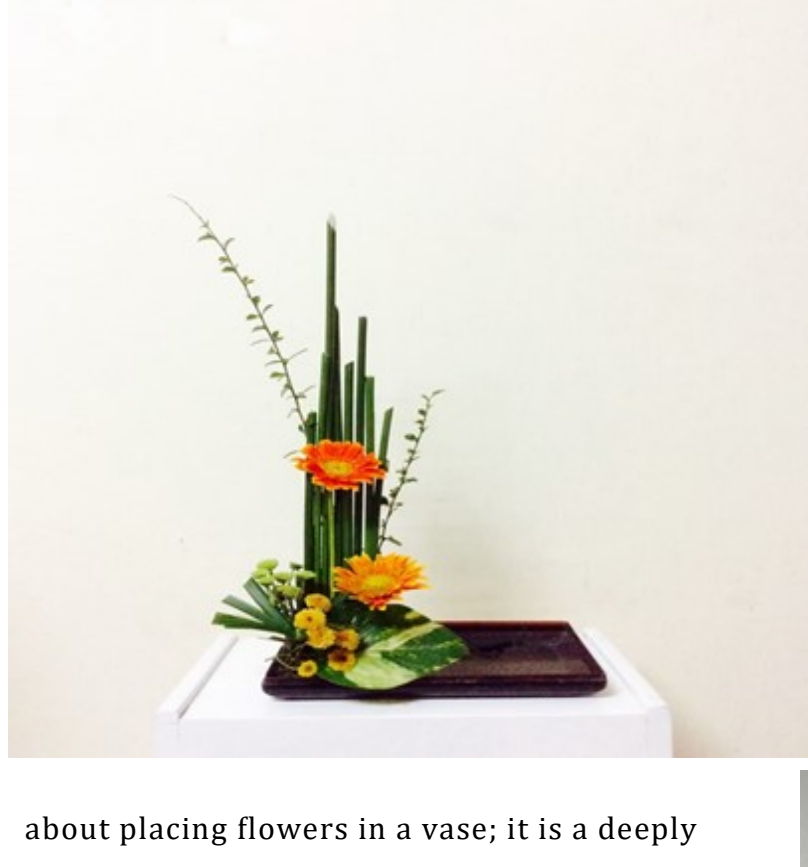
- Ikebana -

“making flowers come alive”

Ikebana “making flowers come alive”

— A Journey Through the Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement.

Ikebana, the ancient Japanese art of flower arranging, is more than a beautiful



Each stem and leaf are placed with intention, creating space not only in the arrangement, but in the mind and spirit of the arranger.

Flowers have always held a special place in Japanese culture, and their significance goes beyond mere decoration.

In Japan, the art of floral arrangement, has been practiced for centuries.

This ancient art form is not just

about placing flowers in a vase; it is a deeply spiritual practice that embodies the principles of harmony, balance, and simplicity.

Ikebana is a true art form, like floral sculpture. Like any fine visual art, ikebana design uses movement, form, lines, weight, color, space, shape, balance, and harmony to create an elegant and visually pleasing result. However, ikebana sculptures are highly varied in appearance, size, shape and color.

Link: [IKEBANA FLOWER ARRANGEMENT TUTORIAL](https://www.jica.go.jp/namibia/english/office/index.html)



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Embassy of Japan in Namibia Website: https://www.na.emb-japan.go.jp/tptr_en/about_us.html



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 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,

Akihiko Hoshino