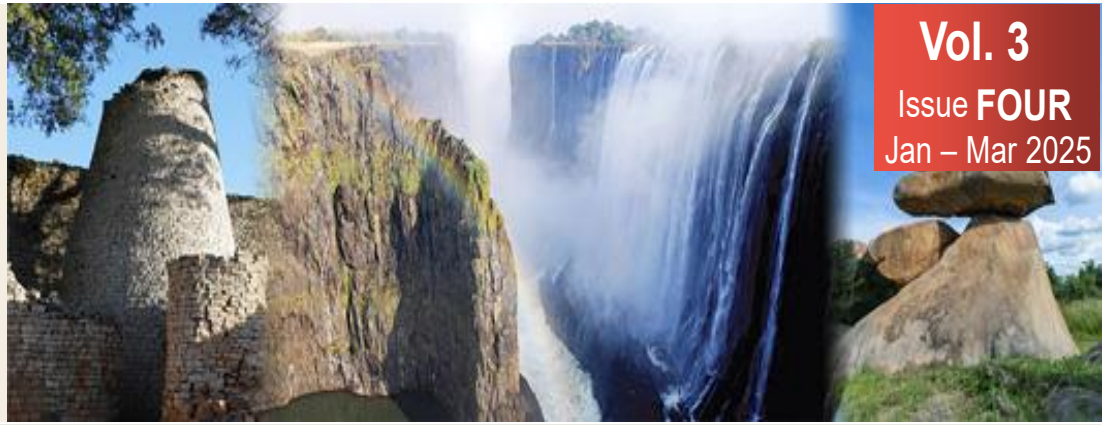




Japan International
Cooperation Agency



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An Insight into JICA Zimbabwe Activities

JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter



our highlights for this quarter >>>

✦ JICA Zimbabwe Celebrated Japan National Day in Style ✦

JICA Zimbabwe celebrated and bid farewell to JOCV Ryosuke Kasai...



JICA Zimbabwe bid farewell to Baseball Coach Volunteer, Mr. Ryosuke Kasai, who completed his assignment in Zimbabwe in January. He left an indelible mark in the field of baseball in Bulawayo and beyond as he dedicated his time, skills, and heart to empowering the youth, his counterparts, and the community. We wish him all the best as he starts his next chapter back home. Thank you, Kasai san, for being an amazing ambassador of Japan and inspiring us with your dedication and passion!

New JOCV Recruitment 2025!

Recruitment for new Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers is underway in Japan, from March 21 to May 9. JICA Zimbabwe is promoting the possibility of cooperation between the Zimbabwean and Japanese communities, and in areas such as manga and animation. Interested JOCVs can see the link below:

🔗 [要請情報概要](#) | [【一般案件】](#) | [JICA 海外協力隊](#)



Teamwork made the dream work at the Japan National Day celebration in February, successfully organised by Embassy of Japan in Zimbabwe, and where JICA Zimbabwe showcased its commitment to sustainable development. Our diverse team of experts, volunteers, and office staff joined forces to share about JICA's transformative work in Zimbabwe, strengthen ties with our valuable counterparts, forge new networks for future collaborations, explore opportunities for knowledge-sharing, and enjoy the vibrant and rich Japanese experience. We were grateful for the chance to celebrate Japan-Zimbabwe relations and look forward to next year's celebrations.



Catching up with the ZIM-SHEP Project!

Farmers Enjoy Increased Income through SHEP: Endline Survey in Mashonaland West and Masvingo



Female farmer and new livestock business (Swine production)

In the last quarter, the ZIM-SHEP Head Office and Mashonaland West extension staff conducted the Endline Survey at Chomutamba Irrigation Scheme (Zvimba District), Munyati Irrigation Scheme (Mhondoro-Ngezi District) and Magunje Irrigation Scheme (Hurungwe District). Masvingo Endline Survey exercise was implemented at Musaverema Irrigation Scheme (Mwenezi District), Manyeredzi Irrigation Scheme (Chiredzi District) and Ranga Irrigation Scheme (Gutu District). The purpose of the Endline Survey was to measure the achievement and progress of the project through participatory interviewing of target farmers. At the same time, the farmers got an appreciation of how their farming activities have improved through the adoption of the SHEP approach. The exercise empowered farmers to further improve their farming as a business in the next cropping season. Many farmers expressed their gratitude for the comprehensive ZIM-SHEP training programs, which focused on both production techniques and marketing aspects.



An HQ officer explains farmers how to fill out a questionnaire during end-line survey



Upgraded kitchen of a SHEP farmer

As a result of SHEP's "Grow to Sell" approach, some were able to purchase household items such as televisions and refrigerators, whilst others invested in new ventures like livestock farming or milling of grains enterprises. Remarkably, some farmers bought cars, installed water tanks and solar systems, and home construction projects. One farmer said, "The way I do agriculture changed thanks to SHEP. Please continue the good work.". Farmers endured severe droughts, electricity shortage and pest infestations which they partially managed to address with limited resources. They were encouraged to continuously engage the market so that they shift from "Grow and Sell" to "Grow to Sell, and to strengthen communication with buyers throughout the cropping cycle.



A farmer with a motorcycle purchased from horticulture profits

The next ZIM-SHEP activity is conducting the In-field Training of Trainers sessions for Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South provinces. The exercise seeks to refresh and upskill extension officers in Good Agronomic Practices of the selected target crops by farmers so they can produce crops that meet the requirements of the markets.



A farmer with a Scotch cart purchased from horticulture profit

JOCV Introductions

In the last quarter, JICA Zimbabwe welcomed new volunteers to the team. The JOCVs were dispatched to their assignment places in January.

Hello, everyone! Nice to meet you!

My name is **Azusa Matsumoto**.

I have played volleyball in Japan for over 10 years. 🏐

I graduated from university in March 2024. I learned sports communication and team building, so I want to share a lot of experience gained from this!!!

I teach volleyball at the Manicaland State University Applied Sciences in Mutare.

I heard that volleyball is popular in Zimbabwe, so I want to share the joy of volleyball with as many people as possible.

I hope to grow as a person in these two years.



Hello, I am **Taiga Koshihara**, a JICA volunteer at Mutare Teachers College.

Taking advantage of my work experience as a consultant in a global technology company, I support business management at the school. I hope to make a contribution to the growth of the local economy in Zimbabwe.



Makadii?

My name is **Wakana Koshio**.

My Shona nickname is WAKANAKA. Wakanaka means beautiful in Shona. I am a Community Development Officer in Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe.

I work at a local NGO, "YASD" which stands for Young Achievement Sports for Development.

YASD supports young people facing challenging situations through sports such as cricket, football, and netball. They also combine life skills education with playing sports. YASD provides a variety of opportunities for young people to expand their choices.

This is the third time I have visited Zimbabwe and worked at YASD.

I really respect my colleagues, and I am very happy to have the opportunity to work with them for two years.

I like the people, food, weather, and music in Zimbabwe.

Shona and Japanese cultures have many similarities.

I would like to enjoy life in Zimbabwe.

Thank you. Maita basa.



Hello, everyone! Nice to meet you.

My name is **Haruna Yamasaki**.

My basketball court name is URU. Please call me "URU".

I was a high school Physical Education teacher for 6years, and I played basketball for 20years.

I am teaching basketball at Manicaland State University of Applied Sciences in Mutare.

I hope many people will get to experience and to know that basketball is a fun sport.

I also hope to learn a lot in Zimbabwe, and I would like to connect Japan and Zimbabwe basketball someday.



My Unforgettable Experience in Japan: A JICA Program Reflection

by Ms. Shamiso Simango Munhenga

Network Engineer / ICT Security Officer

Ministry of Information Communication Technology,
Postal and Courier Services



I had the privilege of participating in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Knowledge Co-creation Program, for the Digital Transformation through ICT Course B. It was conducted from the 21st of January to the 5th of February 2025. It was an experience that not only broadened my professional horizons but also immersed me in the rich culture and traditions of Japan. From the moment I arrived in Tokyo, then Hiroshima, I knew that this journey would be an unforgettable one.

Cultural Immersion

One of the most striking aspects of my experience was the warm hospitality of the Japanese people. Everywhere I went, I was greeted with a bow and a smile, making me feel welcome and at ease. The JICA program provided us with a unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture firsthand. Living in Japan was a lesson in cultural appreciation. I experienced the beauty of Japanese customs. I also enjoyed exploring the country's rich history through visits to temples, shrines, and historical sites such as the Rurikoji temple, Saikoutei, Akiyoshidai Plateau, Akiyoshido Cave and Xavier Memorial Church in the Yamaguchi Prefecture. The contrast between Japan's modernity and its deep-rooted traditions fascinated me.

Language and Communication

Language was both a challenge and a bridge. While many of my colleagues spoke English, I made an effort to learn basic Japanese phrases. This not only helped in daily interactions but also showed my respect for the Japanese culture.

Professional Development

The JICA program was designed to enhance our professional skills and knowledge in our respective fields. Through a series of lectures, workshops, and site visits, we gained valuable insights into Japan's best practices and innovative approaches to development through the digital transformation through ICT Course. The program also provided a platform for us to share our own experiences and challenges in ICTs, fostering a spirit of collaboration and mutual learning.

Networking Opportunities

The JICA program brought together participants from diverse backgrounds and countries, namely Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Sao Tome Principe, thereby creating a vibrant and dynamic community. We also had participants from Central Asian countries such as Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. We had numerous opportunities to engage with Japanese experts, officials, and entrepreneurs, expanding our professional networks and opening up new avenues for future collaboration.

Reflections: Challenges and Lessons Learned

As my time in Japan came to an end, I reflected on the lessons learned and relationships formed. The experience taught me about resilience, adaptability, and the importance of cultural sensitivity in global cooperation. I returned home with a newfound appreciation for diversity and a desire to apply what I learned in my future endeavors. The JICA program was more than just a professional opportunity, it was also a journey of discovery and personal growth. I am grateful for the chance to contribute to meaningful development work in Japan and to experience the warmth and wisdom of its people.



Conclusion

In conclusion, my experience in Japan through the JICA program was truly transformative. It not only enhanced my professional skills and knowledge but also deepened my understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture. The friendships and connections I made during the program will last a lifetime, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this incredible experience.

Recommendation

I highly recommend the JICA program to anyone interested in international development, cultural exchange, and professional growth. It is a unique opportunity to experience Japan's rich culture, learn from its experts, and connect with like-minded individuals from around the world. I would also like to study for my PhD in any University in Japan because of their reputation for cutting-edge technological innovation and high-quality universities which are ranked among the world's best.

JICA for capacity development cont....

Voice of KCCP Participant:

Ms. Brenda Muzavazi Janda

Acting Deputy Director - ICT

**Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation,
Science and Technology Development**



My colleague, Shamiso Simango, and I spent two weeks in Japan participating in the KCCP (Knowledge Co-Creation Program) course titled "Digital Transformation through ICT(B)," which ran from January 21 to February 6, 2025. Before embarking on this valuable journey, we received outstanding support from JICA Zimbabwe. We are grateful for all their assistance in preparing us for this experience. The memories of our KCCP journey are still fresh in our minds. Our time in Japan has been more than just a destination; it has been a deep dive into a new way of thinking. The trip provided more than just a scenic backdrop; it was a catalyst for a shared vision and a digital awakening.

The JICA course emphasized a crucial point: Digital transformation demanded a holistic approach, encompassing robust infrastructure, supportive policies, skilled personnel, and above all, a deep understanding of the local context. From the crisp February air in Hiroshima to the snow in Yamaguchi, a stark contrast to the familiar warmth of Harare. We enjoyed the cuisine, the train experience, the shopping, the politeness of the people in Japan and most importantly the experience which has been overall transformative.



The way Japan has integrated 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' with public awareness campaigns was brilliant. We could adapt that for waste management in Zimbabwe." The course has exposed us to cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions. We learnt about Estonia's digital governance model, a beacon of efficiency and transparency, and explored how Central Asian countries were using digital platforms for information sharing between government agencies. The DIY tills in rural shops also sparked a discussion about context-specific solutions – technology tailored to local needs. If given the chance to visit Japan again or attend another JICA KCCP training, I would gladly do so. I highly recommend JICA's training in Japan.

Contact Us >>>

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking time to read JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter and thank you for your support during the year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to find out more about our activities and / or if you have any queries / suggestions regarding our newsletter. We value your feedback and your support.

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<https://www.facebook.com/jicazimbabweoffice/>



JOCVs learn from each other at a reporting session...

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) held a reporting session in Harare in January, highlighting their impactful work and their contributions to the socio-economic development of Zimbabwe. The reporting session provided an opportunity for volunteers to share their experiences, challenges, successes and way forward, as well as to receive feedback from JICA officials and other participants. Hats off to our JOCVs as they have been working tirelessly to build capacities in their assignment places, and to support local communities!

