

JICA Namibia Newsletter

New JOCVs in Namibia with Japanese Ambassador

Six Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC) arrived in the Namibia on 25 September 2021. This also marks the recommencement of the volunteer program after the COVID – 19 pandemic whereby volunteers had to return to Japan.

The JICA volunteer program dispatches skilled Japanese citizens who wish to participate in assisting developing countries with economic and social development, deepening mutual understanding and building trust with world communities with different cultural background across the world. Five (5) in the field of quality improvement in primary education and special education. More details on the JOVC will follow in our next issue.



Japanese Ambassador to Namibia, His Excellency Hideaki Harada (centre), with JOVC new arrivals

Introducing the New JOCVs



Ms. Nami Nakagawa
Primary Education, Usakos



Mr. Masahiro Okuba
Welfare & Special Education, Windhoek



Ms. Kaho Matsushita
Primary Education, Otjiwarongo



Ms. Mai Kawahata
Primary Education, Usakos



Mr. Takayuki Maeda
Acoustics, Windhoek



Ms. Mami Sugawara
Primary Education, Otjiwarongo

JICA Namibia Newsletter

ABE Regional Networking Event for Southern Africa



Ms. Norah Ngatjizeko, ABE Alumni,
Sharing her presentation

On 28th October 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), held the Abe (Africa Business Education) Initiative Regional Event for Southern Africa. The purpose was to connect all the participants of JICA programs and to share their experiences and knowledge gained through the program. In addition to create opportunities of business collaboration between all the participants and Japanese companies.

The meeting was held virtually, connecting six (6) Southern African countries including Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe also had this



Mr. Apollos Shakumu, ABE Alumni,
sharing his presentation

event face-to-face.

The Japanese companies that joined were FUJIFILM SA, Marubeni Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, NEC Africa, Sumitomo Corporation Africa and Toshiba Africa.

Namibia was well represented by our ABE Initiative and SGD (Sustainable Development Goals) Global Leadership Program participants and alumni. Ms. Norah Ngatjizeko, ABE Alumni, who did her masters in Agri-Business Management and Mr. Apollos Shakumu, ABE Alumni, who did his masters in Regional Development Studies, gave presentations and shared their experiences and knowledge gained.

Thank you, Namibia, and Farewell

My two year assignment as Coordinator of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) of JICA Namibia office is coming to an end on 27 November 2021.



Mr. Toshiaki Ohi, JICA Volunteer
Coordinator, enjoying the landscapes of
the Fish River Canyon

In my tenure, I had many unusual experiences, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The JOCVs, dispatched to primary schools, the theater, regional and educational offices in Namibia, were temporarily evacuated to Japan during the spike in Covid-19 cases. I too had to go back to Japan with my family for a while. However, upon my return to Namibia, I did my best to ensure the safe and speedy return of the cooperation team and project experts.

At that time it was the only thing I could do for the development of Namibia. Most volunteers didn't come back, but I was impressed that the newly dispatched volunteers by their own will, resumed their activities with our Namibian counterparts.



Mr. Ohi & family enjoying a leisure
drive at a game lodge

I couldn't visit as many places in Namibia as I would of wanted to, but the trip to the Namib Desert was a memorable experience, and will be cherished for the rest of my life. My family and I have come to love Namibia and we would like to come back someday. I appreciate the kindness and cooperation rendered by my colleagues and counterparts.

JICA Namibia Newsletter

The Employability Improvement Project (EIP)

The goal of this project is to tackle the issue of high unemployment among youth in Namibia. The project intends to strengthen capacity of the lecturers at Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), who conduct the training for improving employability in the course of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme, to enhance employability skills of their students.

The training is conducted in a form of lecture and workshop in which students assemble toy trucks in a team. This aims to promote the soft skills required in business situations such as communication, problem solving, team work and kaizen or continuous improvement.

Recently, a Human Resource Development Advisor, Ms. Rie Shinozaki, was appointed to support the EIP Program at NUST.



Ms. Shinozaki with the Regional Centre team in Walvis bay



NUST Students assembling the toy trucks during an EIP Training

She visited Namibia on 1-17 October 2021 with the purpose to introduce EI training to the NUST management team, regional coordinators of regional campus centres, and NUST 6 faculties in order to obtain their cooperation. In addition, to gather information for analysing the current situation,

identify issues, and share them with the NUST team. She visited NUST campuses in Ongwediva and Walvis Bay and had meetings with NUST's top management, WIL coordinators, EIP Training (Truck assembling practice) with students and she met with Ongwediva and Walvis Bay Regional Centre Coordinator to access the Centres for the feasibility of the EIP Training.



Ms. Shinozaki with Ongwediva Regional Team



Dear Reader,
Please do not hesitate to contact us at JICA Namibia should you have any queries and or suggestions regarding our JICA Newsletter. We value your support and thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.
Yours in development,
JICA Namibia

CONTACT US:

Ujama Swartz, Public Relations, JICA Namibia

Email: Swartz-Ujama@jica.go.jp

Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/namibia/english/office/index.html>

17 Liliencron Street Eros, P/Bag 12407 Aussparplatz

Tel: +264 61 301236

Fax: +264 61 301215