

JICA Namibia Newsletter

Namibian Ambassador to Japan tours JICA



H.E. Ambassador Mr. Morven M. Luswenyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Japan, visited JICA Volunteer Training Center at Nihonmatsu City in Fukushima Prefecture on 12 May 2023 to encourage candidates of JICA Volunteer to Namibia.

JICA has two JICA Volunteer Training Centers in Japan, one is Komagane Training Center (KTC), the other is Nihonmatsu Training Center (NTC). JICA Volunteer candidates stay at JICA training centers before they are dispatched abroad. Here they learn of the cultures and languages of the host countries and how to conduct themselves as JICA Volunteers to ensure good working relations with their assigned counterparts. After passing final examination at the training center, they are recognized as "JICA Volunteer" officially. The Director General of NTC, Mr. Hiroyuki Tanaka, welcomed the Namibian Ambassador and introduced the facilities and roles/activities of NTC. He also escorted the Ambassador to show him one of training courses (English lesson class).

H.E. Ambassador Luswenyo visited NTC to encourage and morally support the 4 Japanese Volunteer candidates who are being trained dispatch to Namibia.

In the meeting, H.E. Ambassador Luswenyo acknowledged the many years of development assistance from Japan to Namibia, the Namibian National Rugby Team which came to Japan in 2019 for the World Cup and mentioned hopes of strengthening partnership with ex-JICA Volunteers to Namibia.

Early this month, in July, all 4 of Japanese Volunteers passed the examination successfully, and now have just arrived at Windhoek. Continuing his tour, on 1st of June, 2023, Namibian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Morven M. Luswenyo, visited JICA Headquarters in Tokyo and met with JICA President, Dr. Akihiko Tanaka.



Gifts from H.E. Ambassador Luswenyo were given to candidates

At the beginning of their meeting, JICA President expressed his gratitude to the Namibian Ambassador on visiting JICA Volunteer candidates and encouraging them, the previous month. Namibian Ambassador expressed his optimism to JICA for their continued cooperation in sectors of agriculture, vocational training and education. He also introduced that the 12 countries of SADC have their embassies in Japan and those African countries are planning to join "Tourism Expo Japan in Osaka" which will be held on October, this year. JICA President acknowledged Namibia as a democratic and stable political country, thus JICA will continue assistance focusing on human resource development and poverty reduction in Namibia. Along this cooperation policy, he understood the importance of agriculture, vocational training and education in Namibia, as Namibian Ambassador mentioned. He also invited the Namibian Ambassador to visit JICA Sapporo and JICA Obihiro Center of Hokkaido Prefecture, where many Namibian trainees have been received.

Long-Term Training in Japan

My Joyful Journey to Japan – Anna Kapelwa



Ms. Anna Kapelwa at Graduation



Ms. Anna Kapelwa on an outing

Arriving in Tokyo from Namibia to study Fuel Cell Technology at Yamanashi University in Japan was both exciting and nerve-wracking. The vibrant atmosphere and unfamiliar language overwhelmed me initially but settling into the quieter Yamanashi Prefecture dormitory and meeting fellow international students eased my transition. Adapting to the temperate climate and embracing Japanese customs, such as bowing and indirect communication, proved challenging but crucial for maintaining group harmony.

Joining the Inukai laboratory for my research on visualizing oxygen partial pressure in polymer electrolyte fuel cells was a thrilling opportunity. Immersed in the experiment and supported by my mentors, I overcame the initial isolation and adjusted to the new routine. Studying at the University of Yamanashi's Nano Material Centre expanded my knowledge in Fuel Cell Technology, fostered scientific exchanges, and broadened my perspective through interactions with international students.

While weekends and holidays were dedicated to exploring Japan's rich culture and socializing with fellow students, it was the experience of living in an international dormitory that truly enriched my time abroad.

The dormitory served as a melting pot of cultures, nurturing deep friendships and providing a platform for organizing group events. Engaging in extracurricular activities like the English café further enhanced my cultural exchange and allowed me to actively participate in the local community. I am forever grateful for the rewarding social life I experienced in Japan, as it not only shaped my academic success but also equipped me with invaluable skills for my future endeavours.



Anna with fellow students at Yamanashi University in Japan

Reflecting on my time in Japan, I am grateful for the enriching academic journey and the supportive environment at the University of Yamanashi. The experience allowed me to grow personally and professionally, and I aim to apply the lessons learned in Namibia. I encourage African students to consider Japan for its exceptional facilities, esteemed faculty, and the opportunity to establish international connections. Pursuing education in Japan can empower students to contribute significantly to their countries' social and economic growth.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

My experience as a JOCV at NIMT as an Instructor

My name is Hodaka Kato. Until last year, I worked for about 11 years as an electrical engineer in a Japanese private company in a department related to the plant engineering business.

I arrived in Namibia in January 2023. The first month I received training in the capital, Windhoek, and since February I have been living in Arandis. My workplace is the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) in this town. Here I work as a teacher on the instrumentation course.

I knew I wanted to work abroad more than ten years ago. When I was a university student, I read a lot of books and blogs and thought about what I wanted to do in the future. Then I came across memoirs of people who were active in international cooperation and decided to make this my life's work.



Mr. Hodaka Kato



Mr. Hodaka Kato giving class at NIMT in Arandis, Erongo Region

This semester I am teaching about DC circuits, AC circuits, semiconductors, and transistors, but even though I have the knowledge in my head, it is difficult to explain it in English. My hobbies are reading manga and watching anime, and I also like watching films and reading. I also like to eat good food, but recently I started muscle training at home because I have a belly. I also like walking around town and in nature and climbing mountains, so I would like to use my holidays to travel within Namibia as well.

Welcome, New JOCV

On 20th July 2023, JICA Namibia through Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) program is delighted to have welcomed five (5) new volunteers.

JICA volunteers have contributed to Namibia in a variety of ways in different sectors especially in the education field since 2006. This time around JICA Namibia received four (4) in the Education Sector, three (3) for Mathematics Education and one (1) as a PC Instructor.

Additionally, we received an architect to support within the technical Sector. They are currently going through orientation/In-country Training and will be dispatched to their places of assignment in mid-August 2023. With the newly arrived volunteers the number of volunteers currently in Namibia are twelve (12).



Ms. Kimiko Shinomiya: Architecture (Khorixas Town Council)

I would like to build a strong friendship with local people and let them know the good things about Japan.



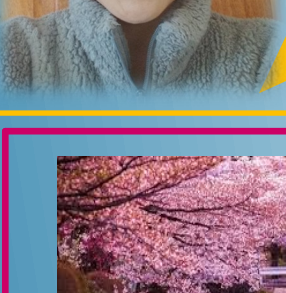
Mr. Daisuke Okuno: Omaruru Circuit Office (Primary School Education)

I want to come up with effective teaching methods with Namibian teachers and teach learners the joy of learning.



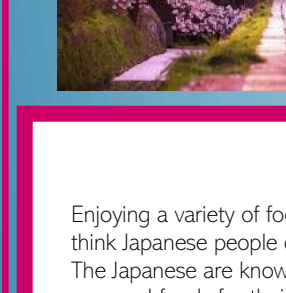
Ms. Aoi Yoshino: Erongosig Primary school (Primary School Education)

I will conduct enjoyable Mathematics lessons with teachers at Erongosig Primary School. I would like learners to like Mathematics.



Mr. Takahito Watanbe: Karibib Junior Secondary School (Mathematics Education)

I'd like Namibian learners to know usefulness of Mathematics and be interested in it. I'd also like to improve their math skills for their future.



Ms. Yumi Suzuki: Directorate of Education Otjozondjupa (PC Instructor)

I am looking forward to meeting people at Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture at Otjozondjupa Regional Council and doing something more with computers.



JOURNEY TO JAPAN

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

Japanese Cuisine

Konnichiwa! (Means good day in Japanese)

Enjoying a variety of food is one of the most exciting things to do when visiting Japan. Most people think Japanese people only eat sushi, but nothing could be further from the truth.

The Japanese are known for using very fresh ingredients in their cooking. They prefer using fresh, seasonal foods for their meals, buying it the same day it will be cooked. The Japanese are also famous for their skill in arranging food so that it looks beautiful. The people of Japan live long lives and have a low rate of heart disease because of healthy eating habits.

Rice and noodles are the primary staples of Japanese diet. Rice, either boiled or steamed, is served at every meal. Noodles come in many varieties. Among the most popular are *soba*, thin brown noodles made from buckwheat flour; *udon*, thick white noodles made from wheat flour;



and *ramen*, thin, curly noodles, also made from wheat flour.

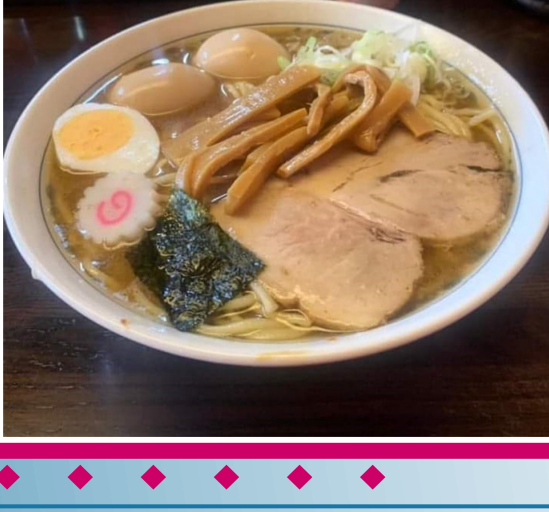
Two uniquely Japanese foods are *sushi* (fresh raw seafood with rice) and *sashimi* and *Ramen*.

Sushi

Sushi is one of the first foods that spring to mind when we think about Japanese cuisine. The word 'sushi' refers to any dish made with Japanese rice that has been seasoned with rice vinegar. Common varieties of sushi include (sushi rice and fillings rolled up in nori seaweed), *sushis* rolled with single slices of raw fish with vegetables.

Ramen

Ramen is a noodle soup dish consisting of wheat noodles (also known as 'ramen noodles'), a savory broth (soy sauce, salt, miso, and tonkotsu pork bone are the four main ramen broth bases) and toppings of meat, protein, and/or vegetables such as sliced pork, nori seaweed, spring onions, bamboo shoots, and others.



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

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