

From Northern Namibia to Yokohama: Reflections on Hydrogen, Partnership and the Future

By David Nghimwenavali

Japan is a place where ancient traditions meet cutting-edge innovation. During a recent visit to Yokohama, I had the honour of representing Namibia at the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program on hydrogen solutions for decarbonisation. The program brought together delegates from across the globe to exchange ideas on renewable energy, green hydrogen and low-carbon development.

Coming from a small village in northern Namibia, participating in this global dialogue was both humbling and inspiring. Over two weeks, we explored Japan's policy frameworks, technological advances and private sector role in driving carbon neutrality, supported by a highly organised program and exceptional hospitality.

Beyond the technical insights, Japan's culture left a lasting impression. Values such as respect, discipline and efficiency are evident in everyday life—from the order of Shibuya Crossing to the precision of public transport. The story of Hachikō, the loyal dog who waited years for his owner, stood out as a powerful symbol of commitment and perseverance.

These lessons resonate strongly with Namibia's Vision 2030. As the country advances its green hydrogen ambitions and broader renewable energy goals, there is a clear opportunity to drive sustainable growth, create jobs and strengthen energy security. At the same time, continued cooperation with partners like Japan will be key to unlocking shared benefits through knowledge exchange and investment.

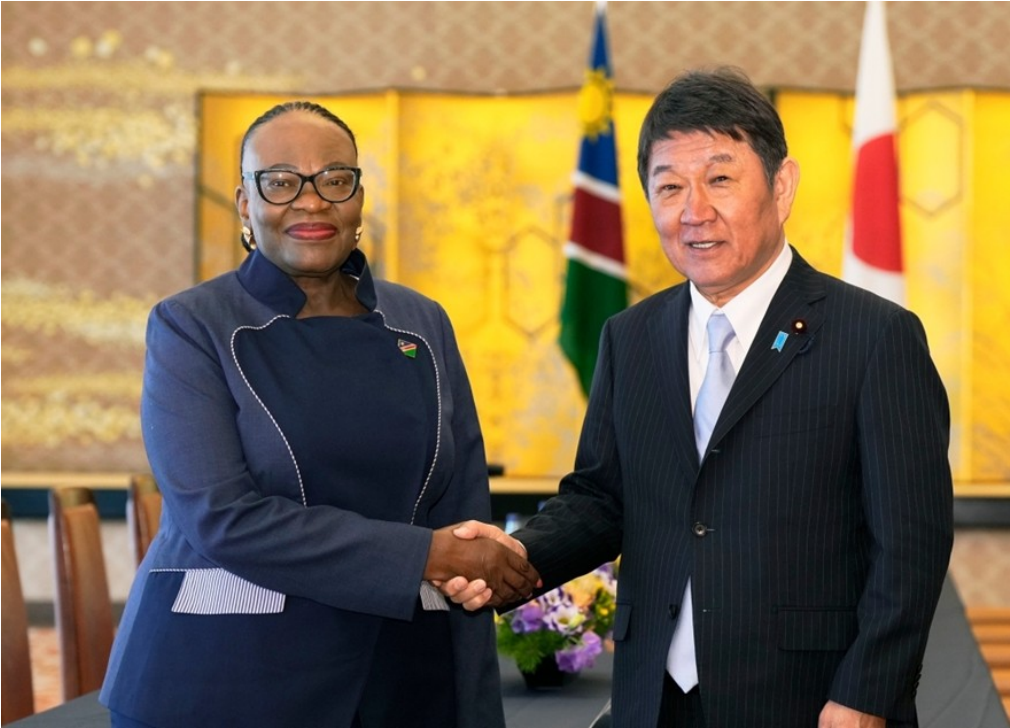


For young Namibians, the message is simple: the global economy is shifting, and new opportunities are emerging. Preparing through education, skills and innovation will be essential.

My experience reinforced that progress depends not only on technology, but also on values—discipline, collaboration and long-term commitment. By combining these with our national vision, Namibia can build a more resilient and inclusive future.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme.

Japan–Namibia Foreign Ministers Meet in Tokyo



On 21 January, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, held a meeting and working lunch with Hon. Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Namibia's Minister of International Relations and Trade, during her official visit to Japan as a guest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Minister Motegi welcomed Minister Ashipala-Musavyi to Japan and reaffirmed Japan's commitment to deepening cooperation with Namibia. He highlighted Namibia's strategic importance in strengthening connectivity between Africa and Indian Ocean countries, particularly through

high-quality ports and regional access, and emphasized the shared goal of maintaining a free and open international order based on the rule of law.

Minister Ashipala-Musavyi expressed her appreciation for Japan's warm hospitality and conveyed her expectation that bilateral relations between the two countries would continue to grow.

During the meeting, Minister Motegi noted his intention to build on the outcomes of TICAD 9 and to further strengthen economic cooperation between Japan and Namibia. He referred to Japan's long-standing development cooperation with Namibia and growing interest from Japanese companies in the country's mineral and energy sectors. In response, Minister Ashipala-Musavyi thanked Japan for its continued support and expressed hope for mutually beneficial economic development through increased Japanese investment in Namibia. Both sides agreed to accelerate cooperation, including efforts to promote investment and strengthen bilateral relations.

The two ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including developments in the Indo-Pacific, policies toward North Korea (including nuclear, missile, and abduction issues), the situation in Africa, and matters related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. They confirmed their intention to continue working closely together on these shared concerns.



Welcome to Our New JOCV Volunteers in Namibia!

We are delighted to announce the arrival of three new Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) who have recently joined their host institutions across Namibia. Each volunteer has already begun their assignments and is actively engaged in community-focused work.



Ms. Junko – Youth Activities, Lüderitz Youth Centre

Ms. Junko has joined the Lüderitz Youth Centre, where she is supporting youth development through creative programs, skills-building activities, and community engagement initiatives. Her work aims to empower young people in Lüderitz.

Mr. Namba – Environmental Education, Karibib Town Council

Mr. Namba is now working with the Karibib Town Council to strengthen environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices. His activities include developing environmental education and collaborating with the community on practical environmental actions.



Ms. Satoh – Community Development, Keetmanshoop Municipality

Ms. Satoh has started her assignment at the Keetmanshoop Municipality, supporting community development programs that enhance local participation, strengthen services, and promote inclusive development. She is already actively involved in community outreach activities.





JOURNEY TO JAPAN

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

- Experiencing Pop Culture in Japan -

Japanese pop culture is a dynamic and influential force that blends anime, manga, music, fashion, and gaming into everyday life. In Japan, it goes beyond entertainment—serving as a form of self-expression, storytelling, and community. At the heart of this culture is anime, a globally medium known for its rich storytelling, emotional depth, and wide range of genres for all ages.

From themed cafés and districts like Harajuku to global conventions and cosplay communities, anime has become a powerful cultural export. It not only attracts millions of international fans but also boosts Japan's economy through tourism, merchandise, and events. Its influence extends even further, inspiring innovation in technology, gaming, and creative industries.

As anime continues to grow worldwide through streaming platforms and new technologies like VR, it faces both opportunities and challenges—balancing global appeal with cultural authenticity. Still, its impact remains undeniable, shaping both Japan's identity and its connection with the world.



Anime drawing by Namibian Artist, Maria Rosa Pascoal



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

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