



Japan International Cooperation Agency



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An Insight into JICA Zimbabwe Activities

# JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter



our highlights for this quarter >>>

*Celebrating our JOCVs*

## Clean-up Campaign



December 5, JICA staff celebrated volunteers across the world and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) for choosing to build people, change the world, and inspire others in the various roles they play to uplift Zimbabwe and its people. In support of the volunteers and their selfless acts of service, and in recognition of the International Volunteers Day, JICA staff paid tribute to the volunteers, and chose to be volunteers themselves, by cleaning around the community where the JICA office is situated.

Read about the clean-up in The Herald:

<https://www.herald.co.zw/zim-japan-deepen-bilateral-ties.../>



JICA volunteers with JICA staff

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) play a very important role as they give of their time, effort and skills to find solutions, create change in their different host organisations, make a difference in people’s lives every day, and ensure the betterment of communities they work and live in. JICA staff is grateful to JOCVs and applaud their impressive work.

In this quarter, there were mixed emotions – jubilation at receiving 5 new JOCVs in October and sadness in bidding farewell to ICT volunteers, Risa Tomita and Koichiro Hara, and baseball volunteer, Yuya Yamaguchi. The trio went beyond the expectations of their host organisations and delivered a stellar performance that will be remembered by their colleagues, students, and JICA staff. Their tireless work and invaluable contribution towards fostering self-reliance for sustainable change is unmatched.

>>> Check out the new JOCV introductions on Pages 2 & 3 >>>




# Introducing the new JOCVs

## NAO YAMAMURA



Hello everyone. My name is Nao Yamamura. I came here as a member of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. My first impression of Zimbabwe is that people are kind and friendly.

I am attached to the Business Development Department at Mutare Polytechnical College. I am working as a marketing tutor for a period of two years.

When I was a student, I played fencing for 7 years, and I have taken part in the international game held in Spain as an all Japan fencing player . I guess that fencing is not famous sports in Zimbabwe. If there will be a chance, I would like to teach people about fencing!

My major at the University was business administration. After I graduated, I worked for a Japanese company for 3 years as a salesperson. I will do my best to share my business and marketing experience.

## TAKAHIRO HASEGAWA



Hello everyone, nice to meet you. My name is Takahiro Hasegawa. I completed graduate school in Japan last spring. I was a coach of a track and field team while studying sports science. In Zimbabwe, I am working at Bulawayo Hillside Teachers' College. I support students who are aspiring to become Physical Education teachers in the future. I hope that the students will be able to benefit from my knowledge and also improve their skills in sports and contribute to the development of sports in Zimbabwe.

## HIROTO KUROKAWA



Hi, everyone I'm Hiroto Kurokawa. Please call me Hiro. I'm 24 years old. I have played football in Japan for about 15 years. When I was a University student, I taught football to primary and Junior High school students. It has been my dream since I was a child to come to Africa. I'm happy to be in Zimbabwe. I hope to share many experiences with the people of Zimbabwe during my two years here. I'm teaching football in Bulawayo with the Sports and Recreation Association. I have heard that football is very popular in Zimbabwe. I would like to contribute to the further development of football in the country.

**YUKA SUNAKAWA**



Hello, everyone! My name is Yuka Sunakawa. When I was in Japan, I worked in the tourism industry as a Front Desk officer in a hotel and a Travel Writer for years. In Zimbabwe I am working at Bulawayo Polytechnic in the department of Hospitality and Tourism as a Volunteer Instructor in Hotel Services. I am working to contribute greatly to the growth of Zimbabwe's tourism sector through my experience. I would like to learn more about Zimbabwe's culture and custom and have conversations with local people. I am delighted to be teaching Hotel Services and the Japanese culture to students at Bulawayo Poly.



**AYUMU MURATA**



Hello everyone. My name is Ayumu Murata. I have come to Zimbabwe to share the joy and knowledge of baseball.

I have been playing baseball for the past 20 years. I coached youth baseball for three years. I am based in Gweru, Midlands Province, where I work around Primary and Secondary schools.

I hope that many people will become familiar with the sport of baseball during my two years as a volunteer baseball coach. I'm happy to meet the energetic children of Zimbabwe!! I promise to give it my all during my time here.



## **The New Volunteers Learning from the Seasoned Volunteers**

The volunteers convened in Harare on December 14 for a reporting session.

The recently arrived volunteers took this opportunity to learn from the seasoned volunteers, how to navigate their two years in Zimbabwe and execute their duties diligently and effectively.



## JICA for capacity development >>>

### Developments in the NERICA Rice Project

In November, JICA Rice Expert, Dr. Tatsushi Tsuboi, was in the country conducting rice training workshops and carrying out 'on farm rice demos' at farmers' fields and various research stations across the country.



Dr. Tsuboi with participants from the rice training workshops

Overall, Dr. Tsuboi's trip was very fruitful and contributes towards making rice production a success story in Zimbabwe. Farmers were very grateful and welcomed the initiative to promote rice production in the country. They said that growing rice will increase their income and change their livelihoods. Going forward, JICA will continue with this initiative to ensure food self-sufficiency through rice production at farmers household levels.

In December, rice research technician, Ms. Betty Kureva, who was a participant in the rice workshops by Dr. Tsuboi, underwent further training on rice cultivation under the cooperation of Coalition for Arican Rice Development (CARD) in Uganda. She lauded the training as it improved the participants' technical skills, which will help boost rice production and in turn boost food security.

### 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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## ABE Student, Sabina Baut Graduates

ABE Student, Ms Sabina Baut, graduated with her MBA from Rikkyo University and had this to say "Embarking on the Master of International Business program at Rikkyo University through the JICA ABE initiative was a life-changing experience for me. It broadened my horizons and opened me up to a universe of possibilities. This experience taught me that determination and hard work can help me achieve anything I set my mind to."

"Studying and living in Japan, with its blend of academic rigour and cultural enlightenment, has become a cornerstone in my pursuit of future endeavours. This experience has fuelled my motivation to strive harder and pursue my goals relentlessly" she said.



### Catching up with KCCP Participants...



Mr. Mujati

Mr. Chitsungo

In October, Mr. Darlington Mujati and Mr. Kundai Chitsungo did KCCP courses on 'Stock Exchange Development' and 'Traffic Safety' respectively in Japan.

Mr. Mujati attended lectures at the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the knowledge he gained will contribute towards policy development in creating an enabling environment within the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange.

Mr. Chitsungo had the privilege of interacting with renowned experts, local community leaders, and organizations dedicated to the pursuit of traffic safety excellence. These interactions provided invaluable perspectives allowing him to gain a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of this complex issue.