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An Insight into JICA Zimbabwe Activities

# JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter

*our highlights for this quarter >>>*

✧ JICA Chair Public Lectures ✧

**JICA Zimbabwe celebrated the JOCV 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in style...**



In recognition of 35 years of the selfless and tireless efforts of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) towards sustainable development in Zimbabwe, JICA Zimbabwe held a celebration event on November 27, 2024. It was a momentous event as guests were enthralled to hear and appreciate the JOCVs experiences and transformational impact when past JOCVs, Counterparts, Beneficiaries and National Staff shared memories from the past 35 years. Current volunteers also showcased their activities, to the amusement of the guests. The day will go down in the history books as unforgettable as laughter was had, and smiles broke on people's faces. The event ended on a high note, with people putting on their dancing shoes as the JOCVs and JICA staff led guests in a Zimbabwean traditional. Immense gratitude goes to JICA volunteers, past and present for their selfless efforts and awesome work, and well wishes for 35 more years of changing lives and communities!

**Let's check out event photos on page 3...**



This year JICA Zimbabwe started a new initiative called JICA Chair. The program dispatches Japanese Lecturers to local universities to share on Japan's modernization and development experiences. The 1st JICA Chair lectures, delivered by Special Advisor to JICA President, Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, and under the themes, 'Japan's Development Journey' and 'Development of Africa and Japan's Experience' were held on October 8 and 9, 2024, at the Parliament of Zimbabwe and the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) respectively. The lectures were a success with +300 people attending at each of the venues, and the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between JICA Zimbabwe and UZ.





## Catching up with the ZIM-SHEP Project!



*A HQ member and district officer asking details of how they conducted activities after market survey*

The Project for Zimbabwe Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (ZIM-SHEP) Headquarters (HQ) Team and Matabeleland North team conducted Follow-up visits on target farmer's activities after the market survey at Hauke (Bubi District), Tshongokwe (Lupane District) and Chentali (Hwange District) Irrigation Schemes from 23rd to 25th of September 2024. The visits to Matabeleland South were implemented from the 14th to the 16th of October 2024. Irrigation schemes followed include Antelope (Matobo District), Moza (Bulilima District) and Masholomoshe (Gwanda District).

The team held focus group discussions with AES and AEO, farmers' representatives who conducted the market survey and other farmers in the irrigation schemes. The teams administered questionnaires designed by the project to enquire about the process focusing on how the farmers planned, carried out the market survey, feedback meeting sessions, selected target crops and developed the crop calendars for each chosen crop. These activities after the market survey are essential steps to assist farmers in making effective decisions and promoting collective action in the "Grow to Sell" concept.



*A HQ member asking details of how the farmers conducted activities after market survey*

Farmers interviewed expressed gratitude for the exercise as they can make informed decisions saying,

'Although potatoes can earn us higher incomes, we did not choose them because seed tubers are expensive.'

Some farmers mentioned that they selected crops which they have experience growing and, which can be consumed locally although they were aware that those crops were not necessarily top profit-making crops.

Another farmer said, 'It is important to build trust with the buyer, so we need to communicate frequently with them.'



*An extension officer explaining the process from market survey, crop selection to crop planting calendar making*

Following the monitoring visits, the next activity to be conducted is the staff Training of Trainers workshop on selected crops and recommended practices. The exercise seeks to empower extension officers with knowledge of horticultural production and marketing aspects of the selected target crops. Other courses to be trained include family budgeting which encourages effective resource allocation within the farming households.

In addition, other project activities in the pipeline for the ZIM-SHEP team include conducting the Endline Survey in Mashonaland West and Masvingo targeted schemes.



*A district officer wrapping up on the day's monitoring activities*



## JOCV 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event Photos



☺ Fun Fact: 576 JOCVs have been dispatched to Zimbabwe as at December 2024!

📰 Check out what the media had to say about the event:

🔗 <https://www.herald.co.zw/over-570-japanese-experts-deployed-to-zimbabwe-since-1989/>

🔗 <https://www.herald.co.zw/zimbabwe-japan-celebrate-35-year-fruitful-partnership-volunteer-experts-assist-with-skills-transfer/>

🔗 [NEW: Japan committed to increase relations with Zimbabwe | The Sunday Mail](#)



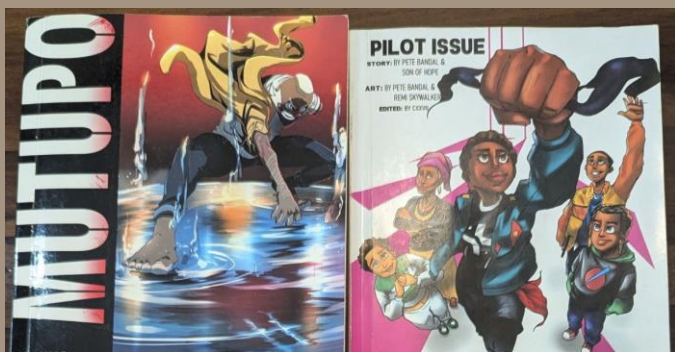
### Recruitment Exercise: JOCVs in Zimbabwe



Two MANGAKA (Manga & Anime artists) visited the JICA Zimbabwe office in December, where the Programme Coordinator and the Programme Officer held a meeting to discuss the JOCV 2025 recruitment. The two artists run OTAKU KONNECT in Harare, a community interested in Japan through Japanese pop culture such as manga, anime, cosplay and e-games, and organise OTAKUKON ANIME MERCH & NAKAMA events several times a year.



JICA Zimbabwe is open to working with communities, and will be discussing specific organisations and activities where volunteers will be assigned to. JOCV positions include fine arts, design and youth activities.



In November, JICA Zimbabwe welcomed 5 new Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs), Ms. Azusa Matsumoto, Ms. Midori Shirai, Ms. Wakana Koshio, Ms. Haruna Yamasaki, and Mr. Taiga Koshihara (from left to right), who will be working in Zimbabwe for the next 2 years.

### Giants Baseball Team supports volunteer activity



The Japanese baseball coaching team from Tokyo Giants, the most prestigious professional baseball team, visited Zimbabwe from December 4 to 12, 2024, and worked closely with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and the members of the Zimbabwe Baseball Association to support baseball coaching activities in Zimbabwe. They toured Harare, Gweru and Bulawayo, and assisted schools, communities, and the Zimbabwe National Youth team.





## JICA for capacity development >>>



JICA Zimbabwe hosted Ms. Arisa Tanahashi, who in addition to visiting JICA South Africa Office and JICA Malawi Office, was in the country from November 16 to 24, 2024 as a part of her on-the-job training to observe and experience JICA activities locally. Ms. Tanahashi is based at Africa Division 3, JICA HQ, and oversees JICA Zimbabwe and JICA Malawi. She managed to visit project sites and volunteer assignment places in Manicaland, and carried out pre-departure orientation for 2 participants, Mr. Shephard Shereni and Mr. Lucio Chayeruka, who participated in the Dam Safety Management training in Japan from November 24 to December 14, 2024.



Ms. Winfrida Warirai, participated in the Traffic Safety training held in Japan from October 21 to November 9, 2024.

### 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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Study tour participants observing how they are managing the stock by using 5S tools in the Pediatric Ward of Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital

#### STUDY TOUR IN TANZANIA WAS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER 2024

The Project for Quality Improvement of Health Service Through 5S-KAIZEN-TQM Approach has been instrumental in building capacities of health officials. Check out Vol. 4 of the project newsletter to catch up on how JICA is aiding health officials to come up with practicable ideas and sustainable strategies for further improvement of healthcare service provision as well as hospital management in 14 hospitals.

📄 [https://www.jica.go.jp/.../2024/11/20/newsletter\\_04.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/.../2024/11/20/newsletter_04.pdf)



JICA Zimbabwe is continuing its support for enhancing rice production in Zimbabwe under the Rice Cultivation Development Program. As part of this initiative, Mr. Minoru Yoshino, a Japanese expert, was dispatched to Zimbabwe from October 22 to December 14. During his stay, he conducted training sessions for rice production across the country. In addition, to support the project, JICA is building capacities for local officers involved in the project. In line with this, 2 officers from DR&SS, Mr. John Humbasha and Mr. Emmanuel Chimhanda, and 2 Officers from AGRITEX, Ms. Esther Mlambo and Ms. Julieth Ngwenyama, underwent Rice Cultivation in Sub-Sahara Africa training in Uganda from December 9 to 20, 2024. These officers will provide critical support to both agricultural officers and farmers they work with.