



Ami Nakashita Aug 2021 – Mar 2023
(PE Instructor Morgan Zintech College)

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) Together with the Local Community Toward the Future, Side by Side

During their two year assignment, JOCVs live and work closely together with the local communities to enhance mutual enrichment between Zimbabweans and Japanese. The JOCV and Zimbabwean counterpart learn, plan, think, work and evaluate together to help build the capacity of the host organisation and the community.



Shogo Aoki Dec 2019 – Nov 2021
(Baseball Coach, Bulawayo Metropolitan Baseball Association)

JOCV Aoki successfully managed to source for donations from the Japanese people and to give the donations to Zimbabwe Baseball Association. He went on to establish a system of contracting with schools and clubs to rent the baseball equipment in a way that ensures the baseball equipment is well managed and used efficiently.

Location of JOCVs in Zimbabwe (As at March 2022)



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is one of the programs of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aimed at providing technical assistance in the social and economic development of developing countries. As summarised by the phrase "together with the local community," JICA volunteers live and work at the grassroots level, speaking the same language as the local communities and carrying out activities with an emphasis on fostering self-reliance for sustainable change. Through these cooperation activities, participating volunteers can not only contribute to the development of partner countries but also give valuable experience in terms of international goodwill, mutual understanding and an expansion in the international perspective. The program also promotes mutual understanding between Japan and the recipient countries supporting JOCV activities. Since the first dispatch of a volunteer in 1965, over 54, 000 volunteers have been dispatched to nearly all countries and in more than 160 technical fields.

For more information, please feel free to call at:

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History of JOCVs in Zimbabwe

This year marks 33 years of the JOCV program in Zimbabwe, with over 550 JOCVs being dispatched following the signing of the Exchange of Notes in 1988 by the Governments of Zimbabwe and Japan. The program has seen the deployment of Japanese citizens in various fields which include academics, agriculture, information communication technology, vocational training and sports. JOCVs are keen on youth development, creating gender inclusion and using sports as a developmental tool.

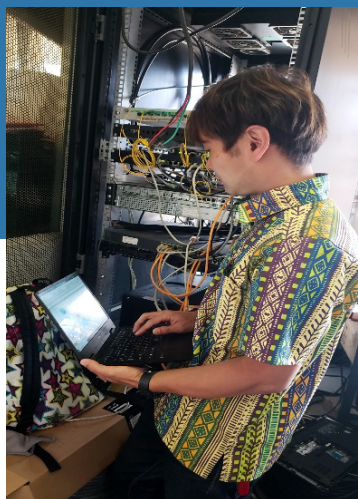
Summary of JICA JOCV activities in Zimbabwe

JICA volunteers in Zimbabwe are dispatched according to areas of priority as determined by discussions held between the Zimbabwean Government and the Japanese Government.

The JOCV program is aimed at developing the human resources capacity of the youth in the following sectors; industrial, commercial, tourism, technology and sport. This is done by training the students that are at polytechnics, teachers' colleges, agricultural colleges, industrial colleges and universities. Additionally, the program empowers young children with life skills and youth development.

JOVCs' reach in Zimbabwe

Over the years JICA Zimbabwe has dispatched JOCVs to different institutions that include the Bulawayo City Council, Bulawayo Polytechnic, Hillside Teachers' College, Mutare Teachers' College, Mutare Polytechnic, Bindura University of Science Education, Midlands State University, Harare Polytechnic and Morgan Zintech Teachers' College amongst others. JICA enjoys cordial working relations with Government line ministries, Parastatals, NGOs and Urban and Rural Councils.



Atsushi Sasaki Dec 2019 – Nov 2021
(ICT Instructor, Madziwa Teachers' College)

As an ICT Technician, JOCV Sasaki optimized Madziwa Teachers College's Information, Communication and Technology situation from points of hardware, network, and software. He shared his experiences and introduced the latest technology, for example, Robotic Process Automation, which is the system that software robots work on computers instead of humans. His efforts were well received and a great experience for his colleagues.



Yusuke Takehara Aug 2021 – Aug 2023
(Baseball Coach, Harare Metropolitan Baseball Association)

JOCV Takehara is bringing baseball to the townships of Harare. He is working with the Harare Metropolitan Baseball Association and targeting the grassroots levels to introduce baseball to the young generation, boys and girls alike. The interest in baseball from young children has been overwhelming and is contributing to both the physical and mental wellbeing of the children.

Impact of the JOCV program

The JOCV program has made a big difference in Zimbabwe's perception to practical subjects such as Physical Education (PE), Art and Music, which can bring people together regardless of religious affiliation and language differences. In addition, the program has elucidated that these subjects can be seen as a source of livelihood. Consequently, the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development also introduced a Diploma in PE and Sport at identified Teacher's training colleges.

The program is also popularising the sport of baseball in communities and schools through the dispatch of baseball coaches. The girl child has not been left out and they make up the majority of those interested in the sport.

JOVCs contribution to socio-economic development

• Tourism

JOCVs utilise their knowledge and experience to provide better services to citizens and customers.

• Education

JOCVs assist learners to improve their scholastic proficiency in various subjects as well as introduce alternative or new teaching methods.

• Sports

JOCVs help coach and train sporting disciplines as well as use sports to promote better health and social skills for children. They provide technical advice and training know-how to teams and players at all levels.

• Technology

Supervision and advice from JOCVs with advanced skills and practical experience help partner institutions to improve the quality and efficiency of their projects. JOCVs also introduce and improve on Information Communication and Technology in institutions.