



Japan Overseas

Cooperation Volunteers

(JOCV) Program

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.



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.



JOCVs' 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, Kushinga Phikelela Polytechnic, Bindura University of Science Education, Midlands State University, Harare Teachers' College and Morgan Zintech Teachers' College amongst others. JICA enjoys cordial working relations with Government line ministries, Parastatals, NGOs and Urban and Rural Councils.



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.

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, Innovation, 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.

JOCVs 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.

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.



Kyoshiro Yamane takes future soccer stars through their paces in Bindura during his tenure as a JOCV at Bindura University of Science Education. Apart from coaching the University soccer team, Yamane went on to set up an academy for young players from the community.



Judo has been gaining popularity as a sport in Zimbabwe and JICA has been at hand to facilitating the deployment of volunteer Judo coaches to the Judo Association of Zimbabwe which is based in Harare.



Schools in Mutare, Harare and Bulawayo have received baseball lessons from volunteer baseball coaches through the JOCV programme with the blessing from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and the Zimbabwe Baseball Association. Teachers have benefited from coaching clinics and are working on growing the sport. The girl child is not being left with competitive girls' baseball teams being established. It is encouraging to note that the sport is not only confined to the capital city but has spread to Manicaland and Bulawayo provinces. The volunteer coaches are conducting coaching clinics.



Baseball ladies teams have benefitted immensely from the JOCV programme



Trading the Kimono for the African design dress. The JOCV programme involves the promotion of culture exchange and volunteers have blended in well to identify with the local traditions and be part of the local community. JOCVs have embraced the local culture and have fell in love with the local way of dressing and local cuisines.



The JOCV programme has seen the deployment of Tourism and Hospitality JOCVs who are involved at the incubation stage of developing future tourism and hospitality personnel. The School of Hospitality and Tourism at Bulawayo Polytechnic has benefited from the programme.



JOCV Programme Coordinator discussing possible future technical cooperation in the field of Arts and Culture at the National Arts Gallery in Bulawayo.



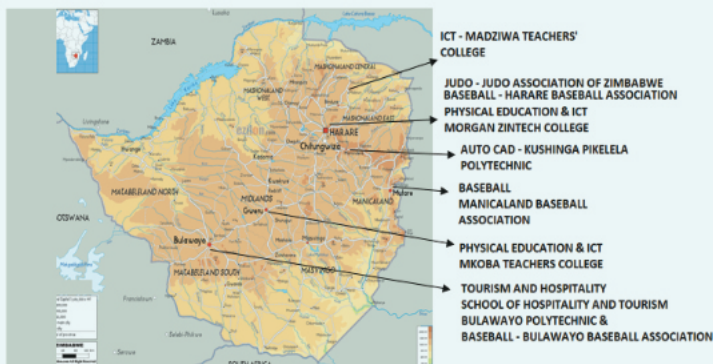
JICA Office Zimbabwe is working tirelessly to promote the JOCV Programme and has engaged Government ministries and the country's Top Universities to request for JOCVs.



JOCV Information Communication Technology Technicians have made invaluable contributions across the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development's tertiary institution.



Location of JOCVs in Zimbabwe



**For more information,
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