

I am Hideaki Harada, Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia. It was a great honour for me to present the credentials to H.E. President Dr. Hage Geingob on the 7th of June 2018, as I launched into official duty.

I had some opportunities to visit Windhoek in the 1990s shortly after Namibia's independence while I was serving for the Japanese Embassy in South Africa. Now about twenty years later, Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia has changed a lot, compared with how it was in those days. There are many new buildings including new shopping malls, lined up along the roads extending to the outskirts of the city, with the number of cars increased, and more vibrant people. I therefore recognize the development of the capital city. As long as things remain the same as before, clear and blue sky, beautifully cleaned cityscape, and moreover, kind and friendly Namibian people.

Namibia has a population of about 2.5 million people in 2.2 times more land area than Japan. Its population density is three people per square kilometre, which makes Namibia one of the world's least densely populated countries. Namibia is rich in nature, especially with places like the Namib Desert and Etosha National Park. Namibia is also rich in mineral resources and marine resources, and has more potentials for further development. In relation to Japan, the number of Japanese nationals residing in this country is only about 50. The economic investment from Japan is still limited except for a few joint ventures. Japan is importing marine products such as crayfish, red crab etc., while Japan is exporting cars, automobile parts etc. to Namibia.

This is the fourth year since the Japanese Embassy opened here. I would like to work hard to strengthen and expand bilateral relations in various areas, such as political, economic, and cultural, in particular people to people exchanges and economic exchanges, while seeking support and cooperation of all stakeholders in Japan as well as in Namibia.

Thank you for your cooperation, and I am looking forward to working with you.