



# Japan's Recent Development Contribution to Namibia

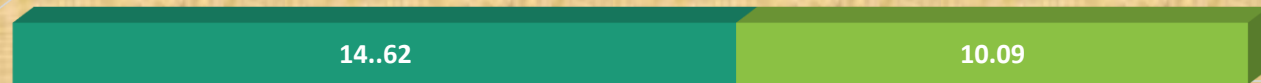


Official Embassy  
Facebook Page QR Code

【July 2025】



# Japan's Contribution: JPY 24.71 B (≡ NAD80B)



(Grant JPY 14.62B , Loan JPY 10.09B)  
(1990 – 2022)

3<sup>rd</sup> place donor after USA and Germany in 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021

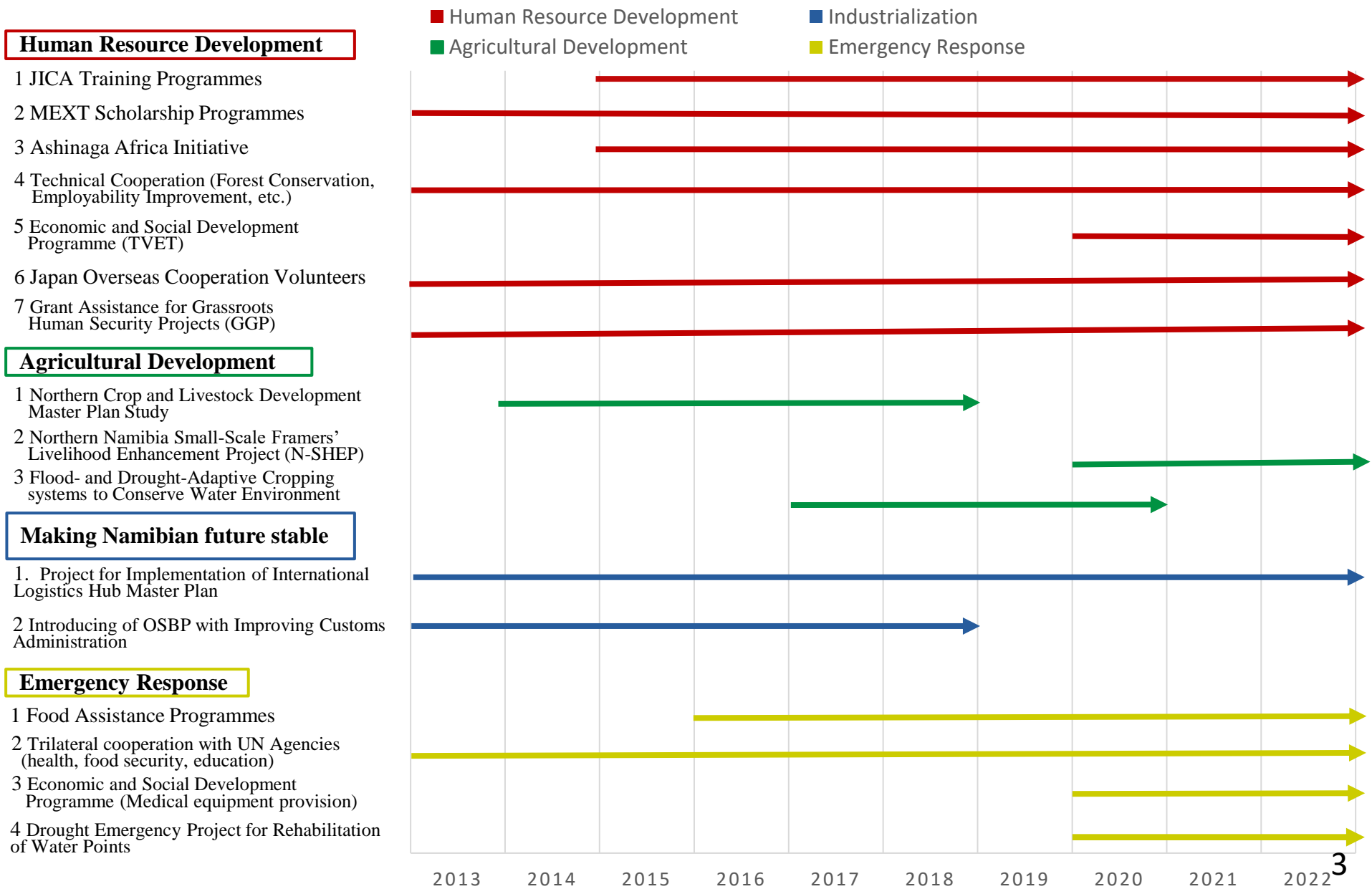


Fisheries Research Vessel M/V “WELWITCHIA”  
(Granted on FEB 1994)



Rundu-Erundu (370km) road rehabilitation  
(L/A AUG 2006)

# Japan's Major Contribution to Namibia





# Human Resource Development

## *Over 1,600 Namibians trained in JAPAN*



### 1. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Training Programmes in Japan

- (1) Long Term Training
  - Master's Degree and Internship Program of African Business Education (Abe) Initiative for Youth
  - SDGs Global Leader
  - Human Resources Development for Governmental Officers and Researchers in Mineral Resources Rich Countries
- (2) Group and Region-Focused Training
- (3) Training for Young Leaders

### 2. Japanese Government Scholarship Programmes in Japan

- (1) Scholarship for Research Students
- (2) Scholarship for Undergraduate Students
- (3) Scholarship for Teachers Training

### 3. Ashinaga Africa Initiative (AAI)

Full scholarship for study at international universities for orphans

### 4. Technical Cooperation

- (1) Employability Improvement Training (2018-)
- (2) Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources (2015-2020)

### 5. Economic Social Development Programme

Provision of TVET equipment to Zambezi Vocational Training Centre (approx. 50 million NAD) (2020-2023)



These workshops were officially inaugurated by  
the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation,  
Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi  
on 01 March 2024.

The Government of Japan supported the procurement and  
installation of training equipment.

# Human Resource Development

## 6. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

JICA has dispatched 165 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) mainly to schools, regional government offices and vocational training centers since 2006.



Above: A JOCV is teaching Grade 4 learners, using original visual aids she made at Erongosig Primary School in Usakos.



Above: A JOCV working as an instructor of Electric and Electronic Equipment at the Namibian Institution of Mining and Technology (NIMT) in Arandis.



Left: A JOCV working as a mathematics teacher at Omaruru Primary School in Omaruru.



Above: A JOCV specialized in sound engineering is showing UNAM students what he does during production at National Theatre of Namibia.



# Human Resource Development

## 7. Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP,1997-)

(1) FY 2024 GGP Project

- **University of Namibia**, project for the provision of reconditioned vehicles and equipment for medical, welfare and firefighting from Japan to the University.

(2) Ongoing classroom construction projects

FY2023 & 2024

- **Onailonga Primary School**, Ohangwena Region
  - Five (5) classrooms and one (1) storeroom
- **Liswani III Primary School**, Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region
  - Four (4) classrooms
- **Sauyemwa Junior Primary School**, Rundu, Kavango East Region
  - Four (4) classrooms

*Out of a total 95 GGP projects in Namibia with a total grant amounting to more than 79 million NAD since 1997, 76 have been related to school building construction.*



Above: These uncondusive mud building will be replaced by 4 new classrooms and a storeroom at Liswani III Primary School in Zambezi Region as one the GGP beneficiaries of 2024.



Above: Handover by Ambassador Asazuma on 12/06/2025 of 2 new building with 6 conducive classrooms at Ubasen Primary School, Omaruru Town, Erongo Region.

# Human Resource Development

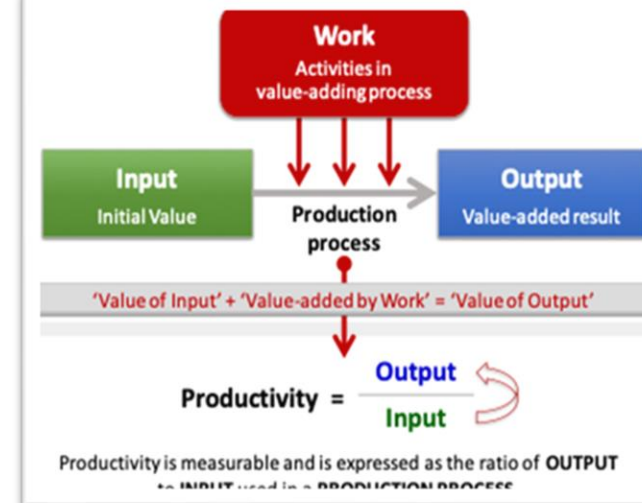
## Employability Improvement Project (EIP)

The Employability Improvement Project (EIP) was launched in April 2018 as a bilateral technical cooperation project between Namibia and Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST).

The EIP is designed to improve the quality of workplace-based learning for the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) component embedded in all the NUST undergraduate programmes. It is also expected that EIP develop employable Graduates for the labor market and equip them with the necessary soft skills required for the workplace.

EIP consists of two parts, theoretical and a practical exercise. In theoretical part, students mainly learn logical flow of problem analysis and solution, how to improve productivity, and innovation/entrepreneurship.

In simulation truck assembly training, students are expected to assemble the target number of (trucks) units within a given time and specified quality as a team. In many cases, the team cannot work functionally and efficiently and cannot achieve the target at the first production trial. However, based on what they learned in the theoretical part, they analyze the problems and derive solutions by themselves, and then they continuously improve their productivity and ultimately achieve their target. In the process students will learn how to apply what they have learned in the theory part to the workplace and experience the value of importance of team work and leadership. Many students commented that it was an eye-opening experience.



Theory text



Assembling toy trucks



# Human Resource Development

## Employability Improvement Project (EIP)

**PHASE 1:** The full-scale implementation of EIP Phase 1 started in 2021, under the cooperation agreement between JICA and NUST. The effectiveness of EIP training was widely recognized by students and faculty through the dedicated efforts of counterparts, NUST Corporate Education. As a deliverable of Phase 1, EIP training has become mandatory for all undergraduate internship eligible students. More than 20 students consistently participating in the weekly training sessions throughout the year.

**PHASE 2:** Phase 2 began in May 2024 and will continue until the end of 2025. The goal for Phase 2 is to provide support to NUST in establishing the foundation for sustainably expanding EIP training to external parties, such as Vocational Training Centers (VTC) and companies/industries. EIP training is being conducted to VTCs and companies on a pilot basis at the moment and getting positive feedback from them.



Group photo after training



Certificate Awarded



Confirming the quality of their products



# Human Resource Development

KUMON

In-School Pilot Project

\* Kumon is a Japanese company that operates after-school learning centers and other educational businesses in more than 60 countries and regions, using the renowned "Kumon Method" to teach **Mathematics** and **English**.

## Funding Scheme:

The Global South Future-Oriented Co-creation Project is funded by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of the Government of Japan.

## Aim:

To contribute to Namibia's industrial human resource development through enhancing learners' basic numeracy skills at primary school using Kumon method



Opening Ceremony of the Kumon Pilot Project

## Activities:

- (1) Conduct an assessment on basic numeracy and non-cognitive skills for about 900 students at 5 primary and secondary schools in Windhoek
- (2) Implementation of 'Kumon In-School' at M.H. Greeff P.S., in which 78 learners of Grade 3 study mathematics with Kumon worksheets using a tablet and stylus pen.



Learners in the pilot project studying mathematics using the Kumon method at M.H. Greeff Primary School in the Khomasdal suburb of Windhoek.

# Agricultural Development

## 1. Northern Crop and Livestock Development Master Plan Study

## 2. Northern Namibia Small-Scale Framers' Livelihood Enhancement Project (N-SHEP)

One of the main pillars of Japan's assistance to Namibia is in the agricultural sector, in which the majority of the working population is engaged. Therefore, the strengthening of which is essential for the sustainable development of Namibia.

It is for that reason that Japan has been providing support to Namibia in an effort to reduce poverty and improve livelihood through agricultural development in the northern regions.

The aim of the technical cooperation projects “Northern Crop and Livestock Development Master Plan Study” (2012-2017, approx. 10 million NAD) and “Northern Namibia Small-Scale Framers' Livelihood Enhancement Project (N-SHEP)” (2020-2026) are to introduce market-oriented agriculture for small-scale farmers in order to uplift lives of those farmers by enhancing productivity and market access.

This Project is implemented with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform for the improvement of livelihood and basic living conditions of small scale farmers in target areas.

## 3. Flood- and Drought-Adaptive Cropping systems to Conserve Water Environment

A technical cooperation project (2014-2017, approx. 9.2 million NAD)



Market survey at Oshakati open market



Harvest of tomatoes in the market place



# Agricultural Development

## **Current Japan Supplementary Budget Project 2024**

### Project Title

**Emergency response to enhance resilience and mitigate climate-induced impacts on livelihoods, food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable households in Namibia**

### Implementation Period

**March 2024 to February 2025**

### Implementing Agency

**Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)**

### Line Ministry

**Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)**

### Budget

**USD 758,916 (Approximately N\$ 14,1 million)**

### Beneficiary Regions

**Kavango East, Kavango West and Ohangwena regions**



Above: Mr. Kakula's garden with chili peppers in the foreground and maize in the background was a beneficiary in the Kavango West Region assisted with irrigation, seeds and training.

## **Previous Japan Supplementary Budget Project 2023**

### Project Title

**"Emergency response to mitigate multiple shocks impacting food security and nutrition and enhance the resilience of livelihoods in Namibia"**

### Implementation Period

**March 2023 to March 2024**

### Implementing Agency

**Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)**

### Line Ministry

**Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)**

### Budget

**USD 1,2 million (Approximately N\$ 21,9 million)**

### Beneficiary Regions

**Kavango West Region, Karas Region, Ohangwena Region and Zambezi Region**



Above: Poultry feed and implements handed over to a female beneficiary farmer in Ohangwena Region.



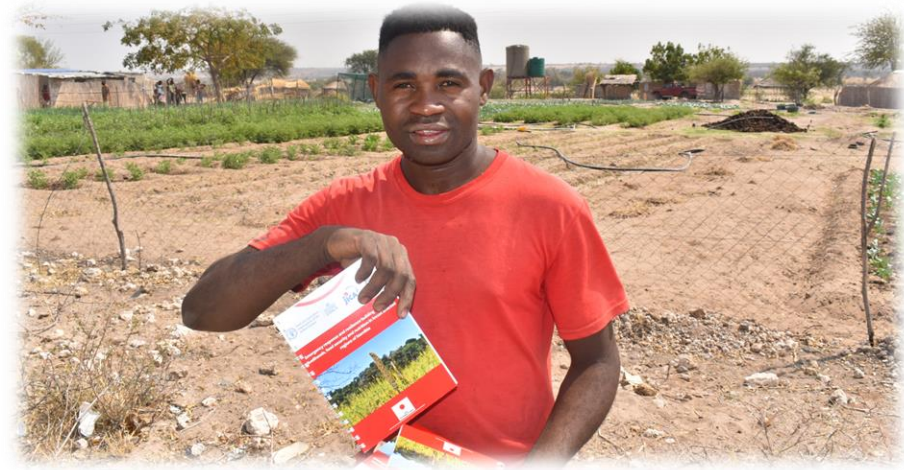
# Agricultural Development

## Previous Japan Supplementary Budget Project

Implemented by FAO together with MAWLRL from March 2023 to March 2024 with a budget of approximately N\$ 21,9 million

The project “**Emergency response to mitigate multiple shocks impacting food security and nutrition and enhance the resilience of livelihoods in Namibia**” aimed to diversify rural livelihoods and foster resilience among 6 100 rural smallholder farming households spread across the four focal regions – Kavango West, Karas, Ohangwena and Zambezi Regions.

- Through the distribution of vital agro-inputs and strategic investments in innovative small-scale irrigation and water-saving technologies.
- Through the implementation of focused, demand-driven, and outcome-oriented capacity-building programs to empower smallholder farmers and enhance the capabilities of agricultural extension personnel and key community stakeholders, including youth and traditional leaders.



The visibly excited youth farmer from Klein Musese Patrick Mukoso said, “**With the tools and seeds I got through the Japan funded project I have grown my garden so much and I’m able to sell more generating more income to support myself and my family. I must mention the most important thing which is the training I received from the project, now I’m even better at horticulture than before.**”





# Japan-Namibia Relationship in Rice

**2001 – 2004**

**Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) & UNAM**  
**Ogongo Campus**

❖ capacity building program for UNAM staff

**2012 – 2017**

**Japan–Namibia Rice and Mahangu Project**

**JICA & Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), UNAM**  
**Ogongo Campus & MAWF**

**Research project – “Flood and Drought Adaptive Cropping Systems to Conserve Water Environment in Semi-arid Regions”**

- ❖ Community Engagement, and Capacity Building Programs
- PhD and MSc Students funded and graduated from Japanese Universities

**Ongoing Offshoots**

- ❖ Ogongo Campus Annual Rice Harvest Festival
- ❖ Kalimbeza Rice Project
- ❖ Smallholder Farmers Cultivating Rice in communal areas
- Sale of various Namibian grown rice types and rice by products
- New product – “Oluthima” a mixture of mahangu (millet) flour and rice flour
- Kinki University and Fukushima University and others have visited Namibia under a Grant-inAid for Scientific Research and are continuing to conduct academic research while providing guidance on rice cultivation projects.

**2004 – 2008**

**Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) & UNAM**  
**Ogongo Campus**

❖ Research Project – “Introduction of rice by the use of flood water in the pearl millet growing region of Namibia”



**Above: The than Vice President and MIRCO Minister attended the 2023 UNAM Ogongo Annual Rice Harvesting Festival on 10 July 2023.**

**Below: Ambassador Asazuma attended the 2025 UNAM Ogongo Annual Rice Harvesting Festival on 18 June 2025**



# Making Namibian future stable

## 1. Project for Implementation of International Logistics Hub Master Plan

The Government of Japan sets out deep regional integration as one of the key areas of focus for broadening partnership with Africa and considers that the Logistics and Transport sector is vital for the economic growth in Africa, including Namibia. This sector plays a crucial role in revitalizing the region inclusively, and in bringing strong sustainable economic growth for the people in Africa.

Thus, Japan actively supports the Logistics and Transport sector.

For Namibia, as a country which enjoys geographical advantages of having good ports on the Atlantic Ocean and corridors leading to greater markets within the SADC region, the sector will be a game changer for economic transformation of Namibia towards industrialization and poverty eradication, the goals set in its National Development Plans.

The Government of Japan had worked closely with the Government of Namibia in producing its strategic “Master Plan for International Logistic Hub” from 2013 to 2015.

From 2016 to 2019, JICA supported the implementation of this Master Plan (Project Phase 1). Phase 2 of the Project deals with the increase of the cargo throughput of the Port of Walvis Bay through efficient operations in line with the Master Plan from 2020-2023.

**(1) Project for Implementation of International Logistics Hub Master Plan (approx. 5 million NAD) (2013-2019)**

**(2) Project for Implementation of International Logistics Hub Master Plan Phase 2 (2020-2024)**



Port of Walvis Bay

Project for Implementation of International Logistics Hub Master Plan Phase 2

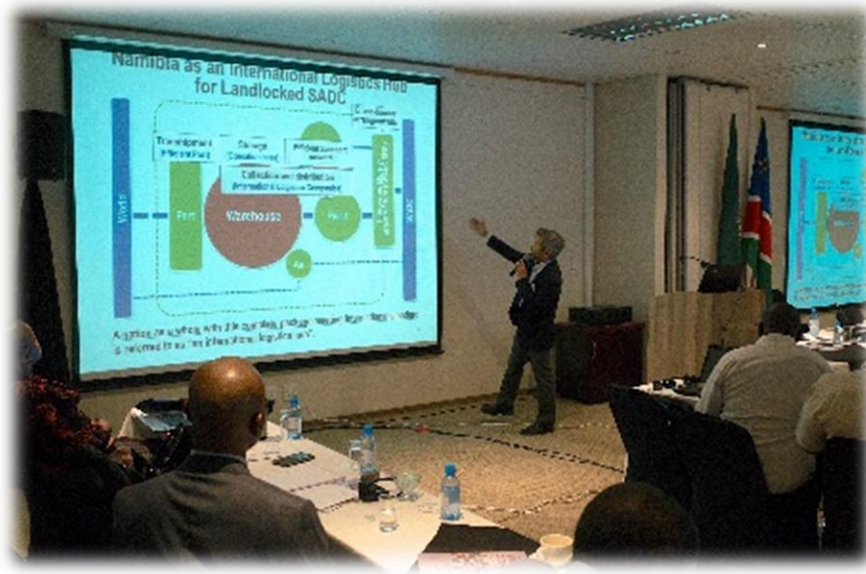


# Making Namibian future stable

## 2. Introduction of One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) with Improved Customs Administration

Since 2010 Japan has been providing technical assistance which facilitated the advancement of the Logistic Sector under the concept of “ Making Namibia an International Logistics Hub for SADC” .

Japan presented a ‘Master Plan for International Logistic Hub’ to promote improvement in access channels, cargo handling operations and cargo handling equipment maintenance.



Outcome:

Traffic at the border posts which used to stretch for kilometers between Namibia and Zambia as well as between Namibia and Botswana has been considerably improved. Some border posts now operate on a 24-hour basis which significantly enhanced the movement of goods and people further bringing Namibia closer to becoming a regional logistics hub of note.

A Japanese expert presenting the framework of the Logistics Hub Master Plan to the delegations of SADC member countries

# Making Namibian future stable

## Achievements (1) – Transit Cargo Through Walvis Bay

- Transit Cargo via Walvis Bay once dropped due to Angolan recession,
- Then it started **INCREASING** after 2016 due to the rise of WBNLDC MKT.
- Copper Concentrate from Botswana dramatically increased in 2022.

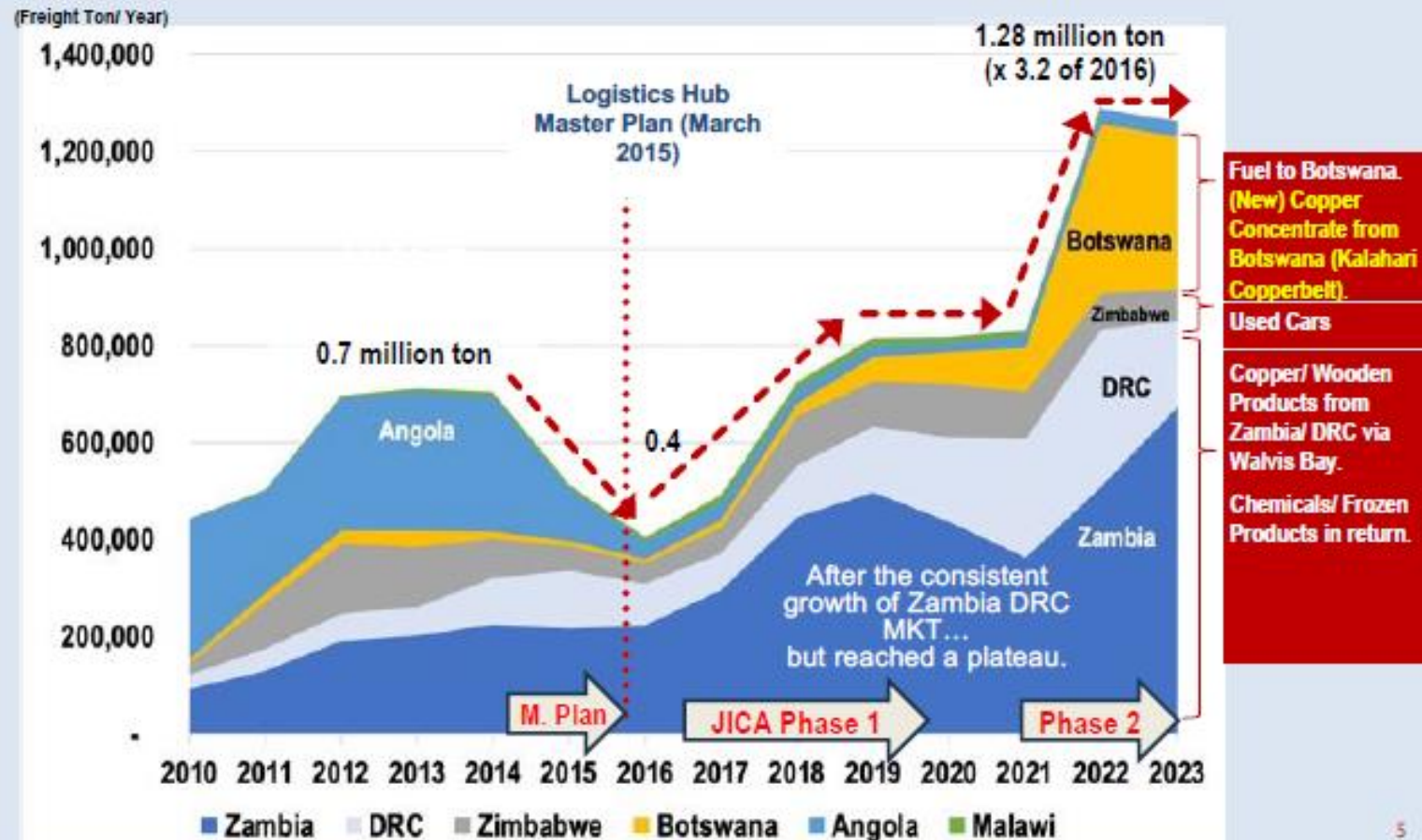
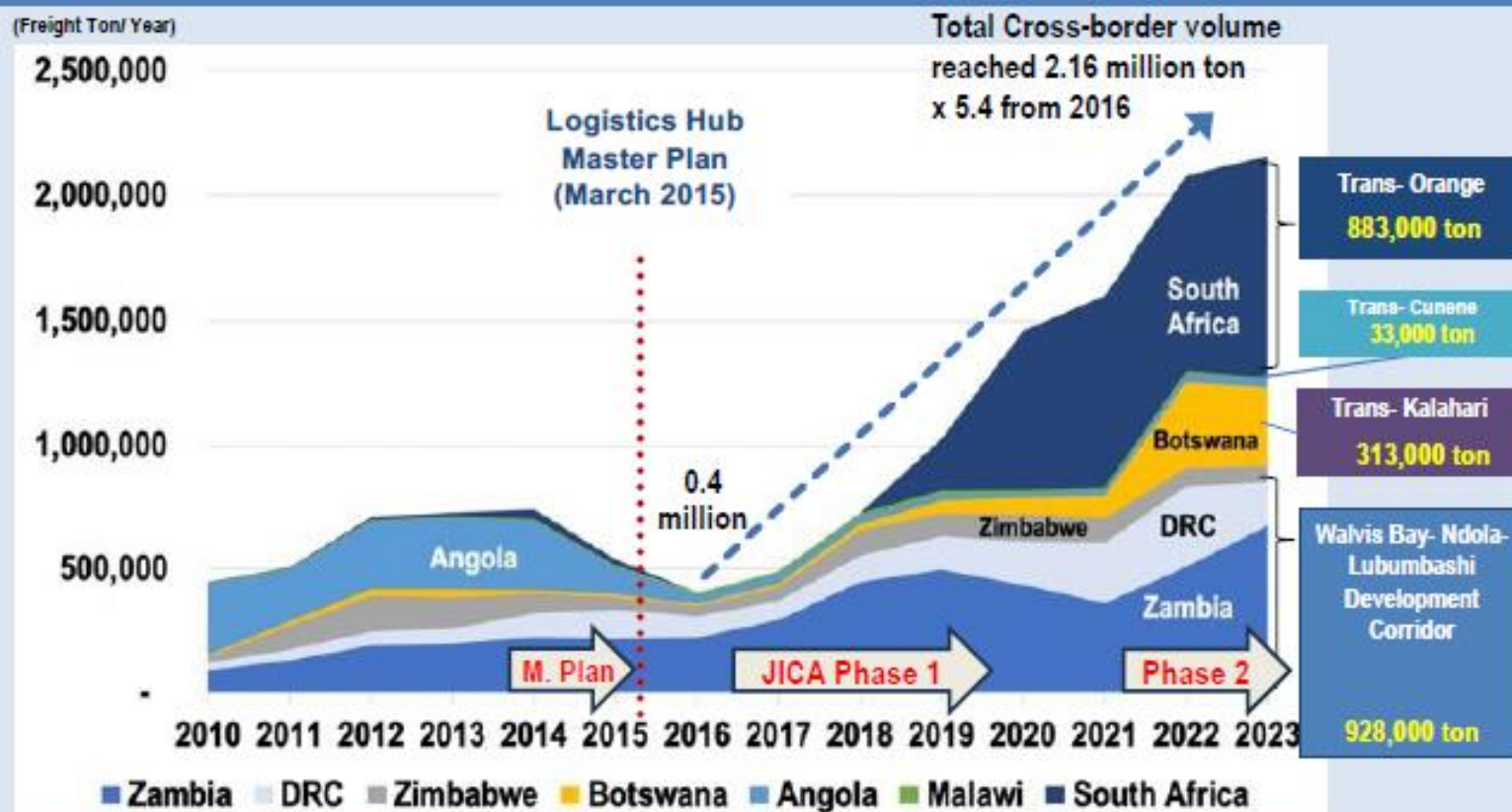


Fig: Cross Border Transit Cargo Volume through Walvis Bay  
(including bulk cargo)

# Making Namibian future stable

## Achievement (2) – Total Transit Cargo via Walvis Bay and Lüderitz

- Transit Cargo volume via Lüderitz been **INCREASING** since 2018.
- Lüderitz Port captured Manganese from South Africa.
- Lüderitz specific context: “manganese only and no return cargo to South Africa”



\*(March 2022 to Jan 2023 only)

Fig: Cross Border Transit Cargo Volume through Walvis Bay and Lüderitz.  
(including bulk cargo)



# Making Namibian future stable



Vessel name: **RV WELWITCHIA [IMO 9074731]**

Description: A **Research Vessel (RV)** built in **1994** by Miho Shipyard - Shizuoka, **Japan**. It sailed under the **Namibian flag** and operated as an RV from **1994 to 2015**.

Dimensions: Length **47 m**, Breadth **8 m**, Gross tonnage **490 tons**, Deadweight **283 tons**

Homeport: **Walvis Bay, Namibia, Africa**

Owner: **Namibian Government**

Manager: **Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources**

❖ The vessel was donated by the **Japanese Government** in **1994** to the value of **NAD 251,900,474 (JPY 1,427,000,000 ≈ USD 13,990,196)** for the purpose of assessing the fisheries resources within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and study the oceanographic conditions in the Namibian section of the Benguela current.

## **The Rundu-Elundu (Eenhana) Road Rehabilitation Project (Japanese loan project in FY 2006)**

The project was realized through direct negotiations between President Pohamba and the Japanese Government during his visit to Japan. The 370 km journey, which used to take 8 hours before paving, can now be done in less than 3 hours 45 minutes.



# JOGMEC's activities in Namibia



## ◆ Technical transfer

- JOGMEC established Geologic Remote Sensing Centre in Botswana in 2008. In the Centre, we provide technical transfer programme on remote sensing techniques, and joint satellite image analysis as well as cooperative geological survey to identify high-potential areas.
- JOGMEC cooperates with Geological Survey of Namibia with the technical transfer of remote sensing techniques. There have been 204 cumulative number of participants from Namibia in the programme and has been positively accepted by your country.



2023 Remote Sensing Weeks in Botswana

## ◆ Joint Venture Exploration projects

- JOGMEC is conducting four exploration projects with foreign partners in Namibia, where rare earth elements, copper, lead, and zinc (base metals) as well as uranium are involved.
- One of them, JOGMEC has been participating in the Lofdal rare earth Project of Namibia Critical Metals Inc. (Canada) since January 2020.
- In addition, at TICAD 8 held in Tunisia in August 2022, JOGMEC signed an MOU with the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Namibia for cooperation in supply chain research to promote the development of rare earths, training in metallic mineral resource exploration technology using satellite images and geographic information systems, joint analysis, and field surveys.



Lofdal rare earth project

(<https://www.innovationnewsnetwork.com/lofdal-tier-1-heavy-rare-earth-project-development/31930/>)



# JOGMEC's activities in Namibia

## ◆ Roundtable meeting

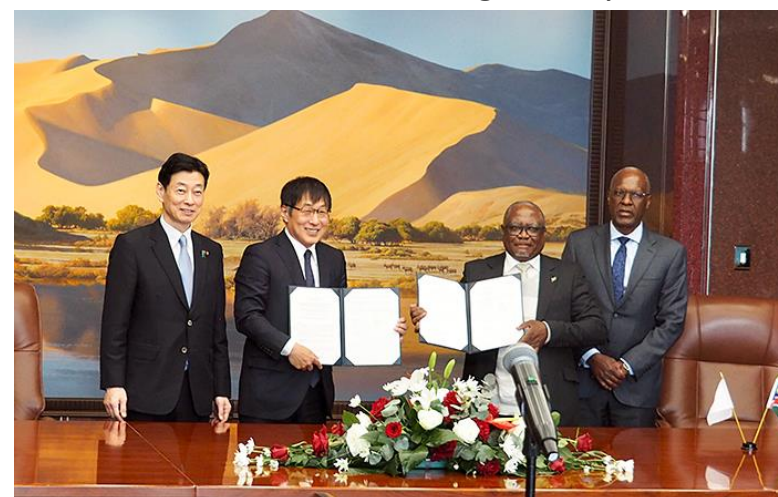
- In April 2023, METI and JOGMEC invited H.E. Mr. ALWEENDO, Minister of Mines and Energy of Namibia to Japan.
- Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), METI, and JOGMEC convened a roundtable meeting to provide information on Namibian minerals and energy policy and investment environment to the Japanese private sector.

## ◆ Research

- In August 2023, Mr. NISHIMURA, Minister of METI and Mr. TAKAHARA Chairman and CEO of JOGMEC visited Namibia and met H.E. Mr. ALWEENDO, and Ms. IIPUMBU, Minister of Industrialization and Trade.
- During the meeting, JOGMEC signed SW for “Research on the Namibian Rare Earth Metals Supply Chain” with MME in the presence of Mr. NISHIMURA and H.E. Mr. ALWEENDO.
- MME and JOGMEC conduct research on the possibility of Namibia becoming a hub for the rare earth industry in Namibia and neighboring countries.
- The results will contribute to the "Namibia Rare Earth Industry Master Plan“.



Roundtable meeting in Tokyo



Signing ceremony of the SW in Windhoek



# Emergency Response

## 1. Food Assistance Programmes and Emergency Grant

- (1) Japanese Emergency Grant Aid of 9 million NAD to Namibia in response to the Drought enabled the provision of emergency food relief through the World Food Programme (WFP) (2024 – 2025)



Drought relief beneficiary household visit with WFP in De Riet Settlement, Kunene Region (26 Feb 2025)

- (2) Donation of Cold Chain Equipment worth around 24 million NAD (2022-2023)
- (3) Donation of over 3,000MT of rice worth around 42 million NAD (2021- 2022)
- (4) Donation of over 400MT of wheat worth around 4.7 million NAD (2017-2018)

## 2. Economic Social Development Programme

- (1) Provision of Medical Equipment to 17 Namibian hospitals (approx. 50 million NAD) (2020-2022)
- (2) Provision of Vocational Training Equipment to Zambezi Vocational Training Center (approx. 50 million NAD) (2019-2024)

## 3. Drought Emergency Project for Rehabilitation of Water Points

With Japanese funding worth about 1.25 million NAD, Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) rehabilitated 16 water points in Kunene region, which enabled 480 households to be provided with safe drinking water and more than 2,000 community members to go through training in safe drinking water and nutrition. The project is a response to the needs of communities severely affected by the drought in recent years.



# Japan Supplementary Budget Projects Implemented Through UN Agencies



**UNFPA 2022/24** – Adolescents, young people, women & men, including those with disabilities, pregnant women, refugees & migrants, benefited from the Leaving No One Behind Projects.



**UNDP 2023/24** – Building the resilience of Namibia's rural communities through climate smart agric production, access to solar technologies, and enhanced climate information through early warning systems







# Japan's Contribution to Trilateral Cooperation Projects with UN Agencies



Total Contribution from 2013 to date is approximately NAD 339,227,604 (US\$ 18,179,400)

	Year	UN Agency (Title of Project)	USD (1)	NAD (18.66)
26	2025	UNICEF (Systems strengthening and enabling environments from the Impact of Natural Disasters and Disease Outbreak affecting women and children to resilience through sustainable and improved Child Survival Development in Namibia.)	450,000	8,397,000
2024 Total			450,000	8,397,000
25	2024	WFP (Drought Affected Populations and Children most at risk of Malnutrition in Kunene and Ohangwena Regions are supported to access nutritious food.)	500,000	9,330,000
24		FAO (Emergency response to enhance resilience and mitigate climate-induced impacts on livelihoods, food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable households in Namibia)	758,916	14,161,373
23		WHO (Increasing Access to Quality Nutrition and Protection Services for Vulnerable Populations including women and children in Omaheke, Khomas and Kunene Regions)	500,000	9,330,000
2024 Total			1,758,916	32,821,373
22	2023	FAO (Emergency response to mitigate multiple shocks and enhance resilient livelihoods in Namibia)	1,200,907	22,408,925
21		UNFPA (Leaving No One Behind – Building back better from COVID-19: Restoring dignity and reshaping the future for women, girls, men and boys while mitigating GBV and negative SRH outcomes)	700,000	13,062,000
20		WFP (Emergency Grant Aid in response to the deteriorating global food security)	500,000	9,330,000
19		UNDP (Support to collectively respond to the climate emergency and establish resilient development pathways for sustaining human security and green)	1,030,039	19,220,528
18		WHO (Increasing access to quality health care for vulnerable populations through enhanced outreach health services)	300,000	5,598,000
2023 Total			3,730,946	69,619,452
17	2022	UNDP (Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development, in response to the climate emergency)	1,003,042	18,716,764
16		UNICEF (Mitigating the impact of multiple emergencies on protection, health, nutrition, and learning outcomes for women and children in vulnerable communities)	813,462	15,179,201
15		WHO(Mitigating the impact of multiple emergencies on the nutritional status and health of women and children in selected regions of Namibia )	750,000	13,995,000
14		UNFPA (Leaving No One Behind – Building back better from COVID-19: Restoring dignity and reshaping the future for women, girls, men and boys while mitigating GBV and negative SRH outcomes)	462,962	8,638,871
13		UNICEF (Support for Cold Chain Strengthening in response to COVID-19 pandemic in Namibia)	1,600,000	29,856,000
12		FAO (Emergency response and resilience building to improve livelihoods, food security and nutrition in locust affected regions of Namibia)	226,000	4,217,160
2022 Total			4,855,466	90,602,996



# Japan's Contribution to Trilateral Cooperation Projects with UN Agencies



(Continued ...)

	Year	UN Agency (Title of Project)	USD	NAD
11	2021	UNICEF (Preventing and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and overlapping emergencies on nutritional, learning and health outcomes of vulnerable children in Namibia)	586,800	10,949,688
10		UNDP (Strengthening Namibia food systems to recover from emergencies and disease-related shocks through the Build Back Better (BBB) programme)	1,000,000	18,660,000
9		WFP (Food and Nutrition Assistance to Vulnerable Households Affected by Covid-19, recurrent droughts and the Africa migratory locust invasion)	500,000	9,330,000
8		WHO (Improvement of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services to mitigate the impact of COVID-19)	270,000	5,038,200
2021 Total			2,356,800	43,977,888
7	2020	WFP (Food and Nutrition Assistance to Drought Affected Populations in Namibia)	700,000	13,062,000
6		WHO(Improving the national preparedness and response capacity to contain infectious disease outbreaks and other drought related public health events in Namibia)	227,272	4,240,896
2020 Total			927,272	17,302,896
5	2019	UNDP (Improving health response system to contain Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) outbreak in endangered health districts in Namibia)	500,000	9,330,000
4		UNICEF (From Risk to Resilience: Systems strengthening and enabling environments to respond to the Impact of Natural Disasters and Disease Outbreak affecting women and children in Namibia )	500,000	9,330,000
2019 Total			1,000,000	18,660,000
3	2018	UNICEF (Health systems strengthening to build resilience of children and their families affected by drought and flooding through multi-sectoral intervention in 7 northern regionsof Namibia)	800,000	14,928,000
2	2014	UNICEF (Improved service delivery and community resilience for child survival, development and protection in all 14 drought affected regions of Namibia)	800,000	14,928,000
1	2013	UNICEF (Bridging Critical Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health Service Gaps in 7 Northern Regions Exacerbated by High Levels of Child Poverty and Frequent Natural Disasters)	1,500,000	27,990,000



# Digital Rehabilitation in Namibian Prisons (2023-2025)

- Since April 2023, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute(UNICRI) have been working on a research project to investigate the potential benefits of **digital technologies** for prisoner rehabilitation.

## 2023

- Japan/UNICRI has **concluded the 1st phase** to identify current trends, effective use, and best practices for the integration of advanced technologies in prisoner rehabilitation programming.

## 2024

- Japan/UNICRI **launched the 2nd phase** to support the development of digital rehabilitation strategies in **Namibia, selected as the pilot country**. This phase has been aiming to enhance their capabilities in implementing digital solutions within their systems.

## 2025

- Japan/UNICRI will **launch the 3rd phase in Namibia**. After developing the digital tool led by Japan tailored to the specific needs and context of Namibia, Japan/UNICRI will provide comprehensive training focused on the proper use of the tool.



Dr. Mana Yamamoto from UNICRI had the honour of meeting with the Commissioner-General of the Namibian Correctional Service to discuss synergies on UNICRI's Digital Rehabilitation in Prisons Project.



Discussions with Namibian Correctional Service staff provided valuable insights to implement effective digital rehabilitation methods, focusing on ethical considerations and the development of comprehensive frameworks tailored to their unique context.

# Culture

## 1. National Theatre of Namibia

In 2004 The Government of Japan extend cultural grant assistance to the Government of the Republic of Namibia to the amount of 44.7 million yen for the supply of sound equipment and musical instruments to the National Theater of Namibia (NTN).



Above: Sound Equipment donated by the Government of Japan at the NTN.

## 2. Japanese Film Festival



Audience enjoying Japanese Films

Since November 2016, The Embassy has been organizing Japanese Film Festivals together with UNAM, NUST and Ster Kinekor, to enhance Japanese culture through film. During the festival movies in a range of genres, such as Historical drama, Detective Drama, Romance, Animation, are screened with free admission.

## 3. Namibia Kendo Federation

On 15 May 2023, Ambassador Nishimaki handed over 3 sets of new and 17 sets of used Kendo Equipment and 48 Shinai as a donation from the All Japan Kendo Federation (AJKF) to Namibia Kendo Federation. This items are donated to promote the traditional Japanese culture of kendo overseas and to support kendo federations overseas.



Above: Sound Equipment donated by the Government of Japan at the NTN.



## Japan's Unwavering Commitment to Development and Future: 70 years of Japan's ODA



**JICA President  
Akihiko Tanaka**

October 6, 2024, is a significant milestone for Japan, marking 70 years since its commencement of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 1954. Over these seven decades, as a major global partner, Japan has extended its cooperation programs to 190 countries and regions, contributing to their economic and social development as well as peace and prosperity in the global community.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA, is responsible for administering Japan's ODA, offering a wide variety of cooperation programs, including finance and investment cooperation, technical cooperation, and other services including emergency aid and the dispatch of volunteers.

It has been the fundamental principle of JICA to respect ownership and self-help efforts of the partner country and to put strong emphasis on unwavering commitments with a long-term vision. JICA highly values people-to-people interactions, bringing strengths together through dialogue, rather than the unilateral transfer of technology and knowledge. This approach enabled us to offer solutions tailored to local contexts and foster human resources necessary for the sustainable growth of a country. It has also deepened mutual understanding and trust, and thereby strengthened bilateral relations between JICA's partner countries and Japan.

JICA's vision is "Leading the World with Trust". Our development cooperation has been focusing on human security, equal partnerships, and self-ownership by developing countries. We are committed to continued cooperation with developing countries and like-minded development partners. In a world of disruptions, it is important to maintain the values we consider essential, and that we respond to new challenges in a new way together, building on the trust that Japan has built over the years.

# Articles

**AZ Allgemeine Zeitung**  
AKTUELL  
MITTENDRIN  
FÜR DICH  
VOR 1 WOCHEN 21 JUNE 2025 - 2025-06-21

## **JAPAN, ... DONATE DROUGHT RELIEF AID TO NAMIBIA**

**Elizabeth Kheibes**

...  
Meanwhile, the Government of Japan contributed an additional N\$8.1 million to provide essential health and nutrition supplies to 48083 people in the regions of Kunene, Omusati, Zambezi, and Omaheke.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the Namibian government, Prime Minister Dr. Elijah Ngurare described the support as a “timely intervention” that complements ongoing national drought mitigation programmes.

“On behalf of the Namibian Government, I express profound appreciation to yourself, the people of Japan, and the European Union for the additional support,” Ngurare said.

“I want to assure you that this support will be extended to the identified vulnerable communities, through our great collaboration with the UN System (UNICEF).”

Ngurare further emphasised the critical role of international partnerships in addressing the humanitarian impact of persistent drought conditions, which continue to strain communities and public resources nationwide.

The funding is expected to be rolled out in close coordination with UNICEF and regional authorities to ensure swift and targeted assistance to those most in need.





# Articles



## JAPAN DONATES 131 BOOKS TO THE UNAM LIBRARY

Lydia Sageus

27 June 2025

The University of Namibia (Unam) library has received 131 books through the Read Japan Project, an initiative of the Nippon Foundation facilitated by the Embassy of Japan in Namibia. The official handover ceremony took place recently at Unam in Windhoek.

Speaking at the event, the Unam pro-vice chancellor for academic affairs, Frednard Gideon, described libraries as “fundamental to human development and the advancement of society.”

He thanked the Japanese delegation and Ambassador Shinichi Asazuma for their continued support of Namibian education. The donation, valued at N\$40,999, includes English-language books on Japanese politics, society, culture, foreign relations, literature, and art.

Japanese ambassador to Namibia, Asazuma Shinichi, said the 131 books were selected by a panel of experts.

He also mentioned growing ties with the university, including events like the Japan Film Festival and Japanese institutions’ participation in academic exchanges.

“Through this donation, we hope our amicable bilateral relations between Japan and Namibia will be enhanced steeply,” he added.

Unam vice chancellor Kenneth Matengu welcomed the books and affirmed the university’s strong partnership with Japan. He highlighted collaborations with institutions such as Kobe, Hokkaido, and Tohoku universities.

# Articles



## FAO avails tools and agro inputs to hundreds of farmers

By [Namibia Press Agency](#)

18 March 2025

About 500 farmers in the Kavango East region received agricultural tools and inputs valued at N\$2.6 million from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) alongside the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform at Rundu on Monday.



Asazuma said as part of the implementation of the project, skills transfer opportunities as well as capacity building interventions are prioritised.

On his part, Kavango East governor Bonny Wakudumo said the country went through challenging drought the past couple of years and as a result, many of the subsistence farmers were not able to harvest enough from their fields.

Wakudumo encouraged farmers to work hard towards food self-sufficiency with the tools received from Japan, FAO and its partners.





Japan International Cooperation Agency

## Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

### Vision: Leading the world with trust

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful, and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

### Overview:

JICA's volunteer program is one of Japan's citizen participation schemes operated as part of its Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Program dispatches eager Japanese citizens who wish to participate in assisting developing countries and have the calls for assistance from their governments.

### Objectives:

1. To cooperate on the economic and social development as well as the reconstruction of developing countries.
2. To deepen mutual understanding and coexistence in cross-cultural societies.
3. To give back the volunteer experience to society.

### Background: JICA/JOCV Namibia

The Government of Namibia and Japan signed an agreement for Volunteers from Japan to assist Namibia in sectors of mutual understanding. The Government of Japan dispatches trained Volunteers recruited by JICA to the Republic of Namibia under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program. The JOCV has opened its



office in Windhoek based on the agreement in December 2005 to manage the JOCV program in Namibia.

### Volunteers:

JOCV Program up to date dispatched 165 volunteers stationed in various regions in Namibia in the field of Education mainly focus on mathematics (Primary, Secondary, and Vocational Training), Tourism, Electrical and Electronic Instructor in Vocational Training Centers, Civil Engineers, Water & Sewerage Engineer, Rural Development Officer, Architect, Surveyor and Electrical Engineer for Municipalities and Town Councils. Art Instructor, and Youth Development Officers for Youth Centers. etc.



Khorixas Town Council



National Institute for Educational Development



Erongosig Primary School



Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology



Oljondjupa Regional Council



Karibib Junior Secondary School



Usakos Junior Secondary School



Donatus Primary School

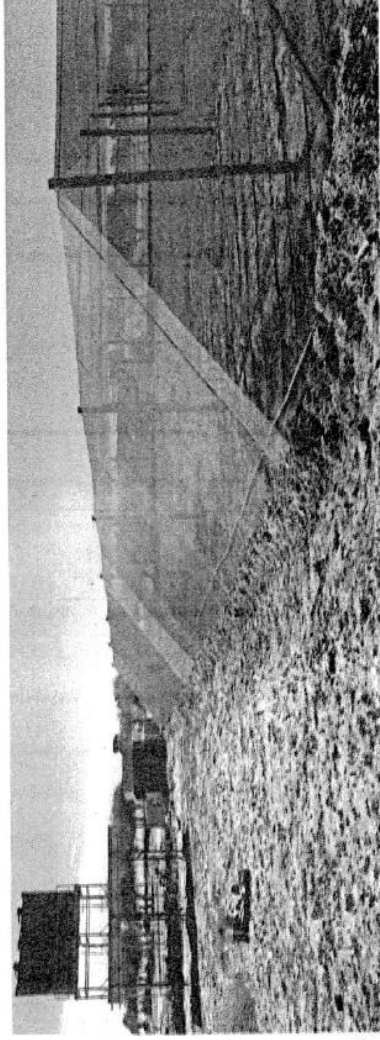


Moreson Special School





From  
the People of Japan



## Strengthening Namibia: Resilient Communities, Sustainable Futures

The Japan funded Food Systems Project, as implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), has made significant strides in enhancing the resilience of Namibia's peri-urban communities.

The project focused on improving access to climate-smart agricultural infrastructure at communal gardens, including green housing, solar powered irrigation systems, boreholes, storage facilities and e-mobility solutions which enable farmers to reach new markets. This allows communal farmers to leverage renewable energy systems to increase their capacity to adapt to challenging climate conditions and other systemic shocks.

This project does not exist in isolation. It represents a scale-up of the success of the Build Back Better (BBB) project, which focused on strengthening the resilience of urban communities through the provision of climate smart agricultural infrastructure at four (4) urban gardens across four (4) regions.

The scaled-up project targeted an additional eight (8) community gardens in five (5) constituencies across the country: Keetmanshoop, Oshikuku, Nkurenkuru, Opuwo and Otjiwarongo. At project inception - and prior to installation of infrastructure - these communal gardens already directly benefited 220 households, with over 60% being female led, as well as an orphanage housing 27 children.

These gardens are introducing a structural and transformative approach to addressing food insecurity and empowerment of peri-urban/rural communities through sustainable agricultural practices, sale of surplus produce and entrepreneurship through enhanced market access.

With Namibia experiencing one of the most prolonged droughts in its history and receiving less than 20% of its average annual rainfall in recent years, food security is increasingly at risk. This project is timely, rooted in realities on the ground, and takes a systemic approach to agricultural intervention. It addresses social and economic aspects while innovatively introducing technology to strengthen community resilience. By integrating sustainable agricultural practices with renewable energy, the project has ensured long term impacts while directly supporting Namibia's ambitious NDC targets of promoting low-carbon development.

Moving forward, community involvement will remain central to the project's continued success. Local ownership and capacity-building through the Ministry's Extension Services are crucial in ensuring the sustainable management of the infrastructure provided. This project highlights that addressing climate challenges requires a collaborative, bottom-up approach that empowers individuals.

While significant progress has been made, further efforts are needed to guarantee the long-term sustainability of these communal gardens. MAWLR, UNDP and other key partners are committed to continuing their work, positioning these gardens as vital contributors to Namibia's climate resilience strategy beyond the project's lifespan.

### Achievements:

1. 220 communal farming households (approximately 60% female headed) directly benefit from this project. As well as 9 staff (8 female) and 27 children at a project supported orphanage.
2. Over 65 000 m<sup>2</sup> of solar powered irrigation installed.
3. Over 20 000 m<sup>2</sup> of green housing installed to reduce evaporation rates and control pests.
4. 21 kW of solar power installed.
5. Annual avoidance of approximately 6.2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.





*Numbers' game... JICA volunteers and facilitators with maths teachers from Erongo during a workshop in Swakopmund. Photo: Pabeja Siririka*

# Making mathematics fashionable

■ Pabeja Siririka

**S**WAKOPMUND - The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is committed to addressing issues that educators face in Namibia by closely working with relevant educational institutions to ease and reduce the poor performance rates of learners.

The agency recently hosted a mathematics education workshop in Swakopmund, roping in more than 20 mathematics teachers from schools in various circuits to address issues around the subject.

Some of the issues raised by the educators include the maths content being "too much", little time for learners to do class activities, teachers lacking maths understanding, and ultimately the training of certain topics, language barriers, reading and understanding, and many others.

Dordabis Primary School principal Ronnellie Guriras said she realised that some teachers do not know how to interpret the curriculum.

"They have a challenge of interpreting the curriculum and sometimes, especially in primary education. They do not know how to set up quality exam question papers according to what is prescribed in the curriculum," said the qualified mathematics teacher.

Guriras noted that although there is little improvement in the performance of learners in maths, more needs to be done to make maths a more lovable subject in schools, especially considering that the problem does not only lie with the pupils, but the teachers as well.

"There is this programme called continuous professional development, where the ministry saw a need for teachers to be

exposed to alternative methods of educating the subject. I feel that schools must utilise this," she stressed.

Guriras added: "Where you (schools) see a need, where teachers need training, you can invite experts in that specific field, whether it's in anxiety for mathematics, there are professionally qualified people who can offer how teachers can cope with that."

"Mathematics teachers are known to be very uptight and very strict. So, I advise them to bring fun into the mathematics classroom. Let the children develop trust in this subject through fun, and it can be games that we used to play as children. You can use those games as a starting point. So, obviously, when the child is familiar with the game, you can use this game as a point of departure before you start with your lessons," she hinted.

Khomas chief education officer Martin Mateus said the continuous professional development workshops for training teachers are important, as there is a need for them to improve their knowledge in various subjects.

"We keep revamping their knowledge, skills and expertise because we believe that when a teacher leaves university and we send them to schools, there are certain gaps. Things change, so you have to keep them in touch with the newest education methods of teaching," said the educator, who oversees biology and science.

He added that mathematics is a big concern, and that's why they teamed up with JICA to hear the plight of teachers, and how they can improve on performances.

"Among all the subjects that we offer, mathematics is one of those which has challenges. This is evident from the results that were released recently. In maths

paper three ordinary level, many learners at a particular school got a 0. That's why we cannot only tackle mathematics at the secondary level, we must start with junior primary," emphasised Mateus.

He noted that if learners are not well trained at the foundation level, they are less likely to do any better at the secondary school level.

He took note of the plight of teachers who raised issues around the content for the ministry to try and shorten it so that teachers can finish the syllabus on time to avoid teaching after school, just to squeeze in extra time or during holidays.

"We have a circular on staffing norms, which indicates the number of learners per teacher. At the primary level, a teacher is supposed to have 35 learners, at the secondary level, it is reduced to 30 learners per teacher. But now, we have found ourselves where teachers are dealing with 40 to 45 learners," he said, adding that to some extent, this hampers the effectiveness of teaching.

JICA is committed and continues to plough into the education sector through various means to ensure that educators are equipped to diligently carry out their work.

Edmunda de Sousa, the JICA Namibia officer for the Volunteer and Knowledge Co-Creation Programmes, said these workshops are important to transfer skills and knowledge from the JICA volunteers to the teachers, and vice versa.

"It creates a platform for sharing and comparing teaching methodologies. The aim is to find leading solutions for mathematics challenges, and to share solutions for difficulties in teaching mathematics," stated De Sousa.

- [psiririka@nepc.com.na](mailto:psiririka@nepc.com.na)

New Era, 14 February 2024





## Closed borders in January

The Namibian Agricultural Board announced border closures for January. The border is only partially open for sweet potatoes (pro rata) and fully open for washed potatoes and iceberg lettuce. For all other items, the borders are closed for imports.



## What does El Niño have in store for 2024?

El Niño is expected to last until at least April 2024, according to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). Last year was the hottest year on record. This year could be even warmer.

## » Female farmer's success story

# Karangana Poultry Project thrives

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) supports small-scale farmers in Namibia to enhance production, diversify, and improve livelihoods.

» Staff reporter

In 2020, Namibia faced a menacing wave of locust outbreaks that exacerbated the already dire food insecurity situation in the country.

As many farming communities battled the locusts and were gripped by the prospect of losing their hard-earned harvest, determined farmers such as Theresia Ihemba sought to diversify their livelihoods in response to the threat.

Ihemba's story began in 2021 in Bunya, a small village on the outskirts of the Kavango West region. It marked the inception of her small-scale poultry venture, which she named the Karangana Poultry Project.

She was motivated by a twofold mission: To tackle the pervasive issues of poverty and hunger within her household and to create a source of income for herself.

"I started the farm with 60 layers because I was driven by the worrisome situation at the time of the locust outbreaks. Our crop fields were severely affected by the pests, which drastically reduced our harvest and spelt hunger for us," Ihemba explained.

### A DIFFICULT START

One of the significant challenges that Ihemba faced as an upcoming poultry farmer was the high cost of chicken feed and how quickly her chickens consumed it. This made it difficult to ensure the birds' proper nutrition and maintain a steady income.

"A 50 kg bag of chicken feed costs around N\$500, and it lasts less than a week. The high cost demotivated me because I earn a meagre salary," said Ihemba.



Theresia Ihemba's chickens are now laying more eggs due to improved nutrition, and the farm's increased production capacity allows her to afford chicken feed from the sale of these eggs.

PHOTO: FAO

She works at the local missionary at Bunya, earning a salary of less than N\$1 900 per month. However, Ihemba's fortune took a turn for the better when she received support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in the form of donated chicken layers, chicken feed and poultry farm equipment.

Thanks to this assistance, Ihemba's poultry production has seen a remarkable boost. Her chickens are now laying more eggs due to improved nutrition, and the farm's increased production capacity allows her to afford chicken feed from the sale of these eggs.

Ihemba proudly attests that these eggs have been a lifeline for her and her family. In a household that includes her two children and three of

her brother's kids, the nutritious benefits of eggs have significantly improved their daily meals.

"I am very grateful for the FAO's support, as I am now in a better position to take care of my family. Please continue uplifting rural farmers such as myself, as we are greatly in need of such support."

### COLLECTIVE EFFORT

Ihemba's journey isn't just a personal success story; it's also a community-driven effort. She sells her eggs to the local clinic, primarily to the nurses, and to nearby schools, especially the teachers. Individual buyers from her village have also become regular customers.

Ihemba is now encouraging more women like herself, to venture into

poultry farming. She believes that this not only helps in feeding their families but also provides a means to earn a stable income.

"Women should not shy away from starting such projects. As wives and mothers, we share equal responsibility with men in ensuring that our families have enough to eat," she pointed out.

Locust outbreaks in Namibia have adversely affected communal farming communities like Bunya, underscoring the urgent need for support and intervention.

### IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

The support that Ihemba received is part of the Emergency Response and Resilience Building to Improve Livelihoods, Food Security, and Nutrition in Locust-Affected Regions of Namibia project, funded by the government of Japan. This initiative aims to assist 2 200 farming households in four vulnerable regions: Ohangwena, Kavango West, Zambezi, and Karas.

The project focuses on livelihood and dietary diversification, addressing the needs of vulnerable locust-affected households through the distribution of agro-inputs, skill enhancement using Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques and linking farmers to markets.

As Ihemba continues to thrive in her poultry farming venture, her story serves as an inspiring example of how empowered individuals can bring about positive change within their communities.



» US\$1.2 million project aims to boost livelihoods

## Fostering resilience among farmers

The project aims to empower not only smallholder farmers but also enhance the capabilities of agricultural extension personnel and key community stakeholders, including youth and traditional leaders.

» Eilanie Smit

A project is being implemented to diversify rural livelihoods and foster resilience among 6 100 rural smallholder farming households in Kavango West, Karas, Ohangwena, and Zambezi.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has partnered with Japan and the agriculture ministry to embark on a transformative agriculture initiative in Namibia.

This involves a US\$1.2 million project entitled 'Emergency Response to Mitigate Multiple Shocks and Enhance Resilient Livelihoods in Namibia'.

According to the FAO, through the distribution of vital agro-inputs and strategic investments in innovative small-scale irrigation and water-saving technologies, the project seeks to empower farmers to withstand the shocks of climate change and economic fluctuations.

"In addition to providing material support, the project places a significant emphasis on capacity building."

### CAPACITY PROGRAMMES

FAO said that it, in partnership with the agriculture ministry and other stakeholders such as the German



Patrick Mukoso, a youth farmer and one of the beneficiaries from Klein Musese in the Kavango West Region. PHOTO: FAO

Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), aims to equip targeted local communities with crucial skills and knowledge.

It said that by implementing

focused, demand-driven and outcome-oriented capacity-building programmes, the project aims to empower not only smallholder farmers but also enhance the capa-

bilities of agricultural extension personnel and key community stakeholders, including youth and traditional leaders.

The FAO said the impact of this col-

laboration is already being felt on the ground in the beneficiary regions.

### BEARING WITNESS

A recent joint field mission by FAO and the embassy of Japan to the Kavango West Region bore witness to the tangible difference the project is making in the lives of rural farmers, it said.

The mission also served as an opportunity to symbolically hand over agricultural tools and inputs to some of the project's beneficiaries.

Japan's ambassador to Namibia, Hisao Nishimaki, expressed his optimism about the project's transformative potential.

He emphasised its potential to uplift vulnerable communities from the clutches of hunger and poverty, offering not only sustenance but also income-generating opportunities.

"It was truly encouraging to hear one of the youth beneficiaries share how the project's support has enabled him to boost his garden's profitability. This underscores the kind of positive impact we aspire to achieve through this assistance."

Governor Sirikka Ausiku of Kavango West Region said the response from the youth beneficiaries of this project has been very encouraging, as they are showing a strong willingness to engage in agribusiness to earn money for themselves and support their families.

Meanwhile, Ferdinand Mwapopi, assistant FAO representative (Programmes), said that projects like these underscore the importance of partnerships in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



## Japan, Namibia enter economic marriage

■ Maihapa Ndjavera

Namibia and Japan yesterday entered into agreements with an eye towards building a Namibian supply chain capable of extracting, refining and transporting critical minerals.

This after the Japanese government expressed its preparedness to play a significant role in Namibia, with among others a particular focus on the



**Ties that bind...** Namibia and Japan signed several agreements yesterday in areas of energy and trade.  
Photos: Namibian Presidency

extractive industry.

The deals were sealed at a high-level event at State House.

In attendance was Yasutoshi Nishimura, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry.

"Namibia has much-needed minerals. We want to use all opportunities to enhance collaboration with the mining sector of Namibia to advance the value chain that will take care of future Namibian generations," said Nishimura, who is visiting Africa, specifically Namibia, Angola and Madagascar for collaboration in the energy space.

JAPAN

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JAPAN

From page 1

The minister noted that Japan does not want to focus only on the mining sector, but on human and infrastructure development as well as technical cooperation through a public-private partnership.

Japan, he added, is prepared to deepen collaboration in green hydrogen and ammonia, where the potential is large.

The Japanese government showed interest to work with the three African nations to develop supply chains for cobalt and other minerals critical in making batteries for electric vehicles.

Japan is expected to work with Epangelo, Namibia's state-owned mining company, with the intention of reinforcing the supply chain for rare earth and other minerals.

On behalf of Namibia, presidential affairs minister Christine //Hoebes said it is ready to partner with Japan with a view to strengthen its expertise in green hydrogen development.

Addressing the media at State House shortly after putting pen to paper, trade minister Lucia Lipumbu stated that the two delegations agreed to work on trade and investment agreements, and also to arrange inbound and outbound trade missions to strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

"We engaged in discussions to look at sectors such as the economy, energy, healthcare, industrialisation and production of machineries, automotive industries, and so many others that we

are going to factor into the agreement that we envisage to sign, which will culminate in a joint trade commission to strengthen the already-existing bilateral relations," she stated.

### Numbers

Looking at trade statistics, Namibia imports goods and services from Japan to the value of about N\$1.4 billion, while exporting only N\$90 million worth of goods and services.

This disparity, Lipumbu noted, must change.

At the same occasion, mines minister Tom Alweendo said the visit is a testimony of the country's outreach to get investors to come to Namibia.

"When it comes to the green hydrogen strategy we have, Japan is a key global partner which can make our strategy even work better, not only in terms of becoming a potential off-taker, but equally just to be part of the whole value chain of the synthetic strategy," he noted.

The former Bank of Namibia governor further said Japan is interested in the critical raw materials that are important to sustain the energy transition.

Namibia's interest, he hastened to say, is to ensure that minerals industrialise the local economy, and not to continue exporting them in raw form.

The aim is to actually process them and use them as inputs into the manufactured goods which will then sell to the national markets, Alweendo observed.

### The pact

Standing head and shoulders above the agreements signed yesterday was the pact between Hyphen Hydrogen Energy (Hyphen) and ITOCHU Corporation.

The agreement seeks to explore areas for potential collaboration between them to drive forward sub-Saharan Africa's largest, and only, fully vertically-integrated green hydrogen project.

ITOCHU is one of Japan's largest general trading and investment companies.

The deal was inked by Shinya Ishizuka, ITOCHU's CEO of Africa Bloc, and Marco Raffinetti, Hyphen's CEO.

Raffinetti said: "Hyphen expects Japan to emerge as one of the key demand centres for green ammonia globally, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to explore areas for collaboration with ITOCHU to unlock supply into this critical market. I firmly believe that Namibia has the potential to become a long-term strategic partner to Japan for the supply of green hydrogen, well beyond the scale of Hyphen's project, given Namibia's unique competitive advantages in green hydrogen production".

Ishizuka added that ITOCHU will create a wide range of ammonia value chains in various existing industrial applications, as well as for future energy use.

The company will likewise support its clients and industries in achieving low carbonisation goals focusing on Japan, Asia and its surrounding markets.

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New Era, 9 August 2023