

New Year' s Greeting

Happy New Year!

I look forward to your continued good will this year.

I was appointed as the Ambassador of Japan to Namibia in March 2022 and arrived in Namibia on 4 May 2022. I presented my credentials to H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob on 28 July. After presenting my credentials to President Geingob, I had the opportunity to meet various dignitaries from the Namibian Government as well as International Organizations, and Business Communities in Namibia.

Looking back on my activities to date, in September, I organized a press tour for Namibian Media Houses, on development cooperation. This included visits to schools that benefited from the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects(GGP) program implemented by the Embassy of Japan and to the sites of Technical Cooperation Projects implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA). This press tour was widely reported by the local media, and it enabled many Namibians to learn, not only about the Development Cooperation projects that the Japanese Government has implemented in Namibia, but also about the challenges that Namibia is facing in rural areas.

In December, a handover ceremony was held for "Project For Construction Of Community Learning Development Centre In Aroab Village, Keetmanshoop Rural Constituency, Kharas Region", this project funded by GGP in FY2021. The Kharas Regional councilor who attended the ceremony personally inscribed words on the wall of the facility indicating that the support came from Japan, showing his deep appreciation for Japan's assistance and his high expectations for future relationship building.

During the same month of December, the Namibian Government, in cooperation with the FAO, held a ceremony to hand over gardening tools to locust-affected farmers in the Kavango West Region, which borders Angola. The regional governor and local farmers were very grateful, and we will continue to monitor how Japanese aid is being used.

In the area of public relations and cultural activities, in August, Japan Overseas

Cooperation Volunteers(JOCV) dispatched by Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) helped to set up a booth to introduce Japanese culture at the annual Ongwediva Trade Fair in Oshana region, where more than 1,000 people, participated in a calligraphy and yukata (summer kimono) dressing experience, inclusive of H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President, Rt. Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister and Honourable Lucia Iipumbu, Minister of Industrialisation and Trade of Namibia.

In October and November, a Japanese Film Festival was held as a Japan Foundation project at a movie theater in Windhoek, showing a total of four popular Japanese films.

Namibia has exchanged relations with Miyako City in Iwate Prefecture, which was Namibia's host town for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and Kamitonda Town in Wakayama Prefecture, which was the camp site of the Namibian national team when Japan hosted the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

During my temporary return to Japan last October, I visited the Wakayama Prefectural Government, the mayor's office of Kamitonda Town, Wakayama University, and other places to exchange useful views on future exchanges with Namibia. In addition to that, I held a special class to introduce Namibia at Wakayama Prefectural Tanabe High School.

On the economic front, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between JOGMEC (Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security) and Namibia's Ministry of Mines and Energy at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8), held in Tunisia in August 2022, with the aim to strengthen bilateral relations in the areas of metal mineral resources and carbon neutrality.

We will continue to make every effort to strengthen Japan-Namibia relations in 2023. I would therefore like to conclude my New Year's greetings by wishing you continued good health and development.

We look forward to your continued understanding and cooperation in our activities.

01 January 2023

Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Namibia

Hisao Nishimaki