



On 16 May 2023, Ambassador Nishimaki was interviewed by Ms. Maggy Thomas, news editor of Namibia Press Agency(NAMPA) at his residence.

During the interview, Ambassador Nishimaki explained Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Namibia, including the dispatch of election observers for Namibia's independence, the dispatch of approximately 160 qualified Japanese teachers to Namibian schools as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), and the construction of more than 300 school classrooms. The total amount of the ODA from Japan to Namibia between 1990 and 2022 is approximately 271 million US Dollars.

You can see a part of the interview on the video of YouTube account of NAMPA.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuNMC-gAzMo>

The interview was also published on New Era 22th of May on page 6.

Japan's investment bolsters Namibia's stability - ambassador

The Japanese government has invested nearly N\$5.2 billion in several projects in Namibia over the last 10 years to foster stability and development in the country.

In an interview with *Nampa* last week, the ambassador of Japan to Namibia, Hisao Nishimaki, said the amicable relationship between the two countries is strengthening. He elucidated that the Japanese government has invested US\$271 million (roughly N\$5.2 billion at current exchange rates) in various projects across the country over the last 10 years. Between 2020 and 2022, the government of Japan provided 17 Namibian hospitals with medical equipment amounting to approximately N\$954 million, while another N\$954 million went towards

providing the Zambezi Vocational Training Centre with training equipment. Japan's major contributions have been in human resources development, agricultural development, industrialisation and emergency response. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has also dispatched 158 volunteers to local schools, regional governments and vocational training centres since 2006.

"Now, we can proudly say we have built more than 300 classrooms in primary schools from the Zambezi region to the //Karas region, as well as dispatched more than 160 professional and qualified volunteer teachers," he beamed. Nishimaki said they likewise enabled over 1 600 Namibians to go to Japan with

fully-funded scholarships at international universities. Speaking about Namibia's economic growth avenues, he recognised that the logistics and transport sectors are vital to Namibia, and Africa at large.

As a result, the Japanese embassy has worked closely with Namibia to produce the strategic Master Plan for an International Logistics Hub from 2013 to 2015. "If this project is successful, Japanese companies located in South Africa will also look at Namibia as a hub country," the ambassador noted. Phase 2, which is currently underway, deals with an increase in cargo at the Walvis Bay port. Japan is Namibia's third-placed donor, following the United States and Germany.

-Nampa