

METI Minister Nishimura Visits the Republic of Namibia (August 7 and 8, 2023)

On August 7 and 8, Mr. Nishimura Yasutoshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry had an official visit to Namibia. This visit was conducted as part of the August 6-13 visit to five African countries (Namibia, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, and Madagascar), and this was the first ever Ministerial visit from Japan to Namibia.

1. Reception with JOCV members

On August 8, Ambassador Nishimaki invited seven Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) members who are working in Namibia to the Ambassador's official residence and hosted a reception between Minister Nishimura and the JOCV members. The JOCV members gave a briefing on their activities, and Minister Nishimura gave each member encouragement for their future activities.



2. Meeting with Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy, Hon. Lucia lipumbu, Minister of Industrialisation and Trade and Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, Director General of the National Planning Commission

On August 8, Minister Nishimura held a meeting with Hon. Tom Alweendo, Hon. Lucia lipumbu and Hon. Obeth Kandjoze at the State House. They discussed cooperation to further strengthen ties in the fields of mining, hydrogen and ammonia, as well as trade and investment. A meaningful exchange of views was held to promote Japan-Namibia economic relations.



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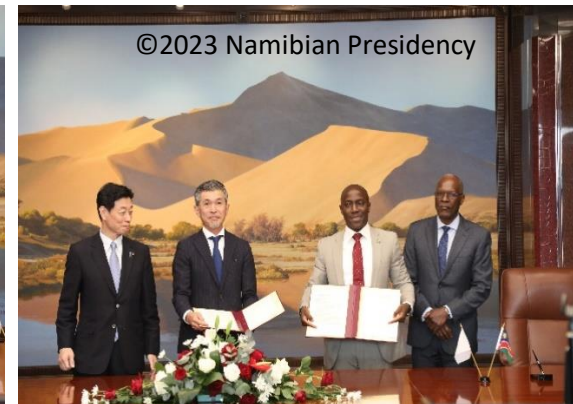
3. Courtesy call on Hon. Christine Hoebes, Minister in the Presidency

On August 8, Minister Nishimura paid a courtesy call on Hon. Christine Hoebes at the State House. Hon. Hoebes expressed her appreciation for Japan's past support for Namibia's development cooperation and expressed her desire to promote Japan-Namibia relations, particularly in the areas of green hydrogen and energy and proposed a scholarship program in green hydrogen. Minister Nishimura mentioned Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) that the Embassy of Japan has been implementing, such as school construction, and the activities of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Namibia, and expressed his desire to focus on human resource development as part of the promotion of economic relations between Japan and Namibia in the future. Ambassador Nishimaki expressed his gratitude for the historic opportunity to share the first Ministerial visit from Japan to Namibia.



4. Signing Ceremony

On August 8 at the State House, Minister Nishimura signed a joint statement with Hon. Tom Alweendo on cooperation in the mining sector and signed a joint statement with Hon. Lucia Ipumbu on cooperation in improving investment environment and economic relationship as the outcome of the discussion at the meeting. Furthermore, he witnessed the signing of the Scope of Works on Research on the Namibian Rare Earth Metals Supply Chain by JOGMEC and the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Namibia, Signing a memorandum of understanding on hydrogen and ammonia by Itochu Cooperation and Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, Signing a letter of intent on Hydrogen, Ammonia and other resources by Mizuho Bank, Ltd., Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd., and the Green Hydrogen Commissioner.



5. Media Coverage

(1) 9 August 2023, New Era, Page1&2, “Japan, Namibia enter economic marriage”

<https://neweralive.na/posts/japan-namibia-enter-economic-marriage#:~:text=Namibia%20and%20Japan%20yesterday%20entered,refining%20and%20transporting%20critical%20minerals.>

(2) 9 August 2023, Namibian, Page1&2, “Japan enters Namibia’s green hydrogen rush”

<https://www.namibian.com.na/japan-enters-namibias-green-hydrogen-rush/>

(3) 8 August 2023, NBC News online article & movie

https://www.nbcnews.na/node/102086?fbclid=IwAR0nos6x1R92RVhY1Zzc0sBJoE48gOKU3M1dYWhCutvdCYGk7XN5_j9oahs\

(4) 8 August 2023, NBC News Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqAkjVRrWk>

In addition to the above, Namibia News Digest, The Brief, Reuters, and the weekly newspaper Confidente also reported on Minister Nishimura's visit to Namibia.