

I would like to extend my greetings to all of you, I am ASAZUMA Shinichi, the newly appointed Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Namibia.

After arriving in Windhoek on 18 January 2025, I was able to present my letter of credence to H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia on 31 January. I would like to thank the Government of Namibia for their kindness in allowing me to begin my ambassadorial duties so promptly.

Namibia is a young country with 35 years of independence. Japan established diplomatic relations with Namibia shortly after independence and the Japanese Embassy was opened in 2015. At that time, I was working in neighboring South Africa and visited Namibia many times to consult with Namibian government officials for the establishment of the Japanese Embassy. I am deeply moved to be able to take on the role of Ambassador, as one who has dug the well for the advancement of bilateral relations between our two countries.

Due to the geographical distance between Japan and Namibia and the fact that Namibia is a young country, information about each other's country has not always been well known in both Namibia and Japan. On the other hand, many people in Namibia are familiar with Japanese martial arts, manga and anime, and in recent years, Namibia is gradually gaining recognition in Japan as a country with beautiful natural scenery and abundant natural resources. I am committed to further strengthening bilateral relations in a wide range of areas, including politics, industry, technology, and culture. Japan has been particularly supportive of Namibia particularly in the areas of education and infrastructure, and I hope to further develop cooperation in a wider range of fields, with the expectation that Japanese companies will make further inroads into Namibia in the future.

In 2025, the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) will be held in Yokohama, Japan. I hope that this will provide an opportunity for closer cooperation between Namibia, Africa, and Japan.

I look forward to your continued support and cooperation.

3 February 2025
ASAZUMA Shinichi