

New Year's Greeting (01 January 2024)

Happy New Year to you!

I am delighted that you all have entered a wonderful promising new year.

Last year (2023) was a very significant year for bilateral relations between Namibia and Japan.

Specifically;

In March, the appreciation certificates were handed over by Hon. Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts & Culture to four Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) who completed their professional activities. It was the first time the Namibian Government has presented appreciation certificates to JOCV since the JOCV's deployment began in 2006.

In June, an official mission of Japanese companies visited Namibia.

In August, Mr. Nishimura Yasutoshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and his delegation had an official visit to Namibia. This was the first ever Ministerial visit from Japan to Namibia. The visit by Minister Nishimura has confirmed the strengthening of relations between the two governments and has also led to an increase in specific interest in Namibia by Japanese companies. In addition, JOGMEC (Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security) is conducting resource surveys in several locations in Namibia, and it is hoped that the results of these surveys will lead to Japanese companies entering Namibia in the future.

In September, a Japanese Film Festival was held at National Theatre of Namibia for the first time, where a JOCV worked for around 2 years until last December.

In December, at the COP28 Namibia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for collaboration on carbon-combatting projects.

In November 2024, the presidential and National Assembly (lower house) elections will be held, and our Embassy will continue to closely pay attention to them as the results of these elections may have a significant impact on the future of Namibia.

To conclude, the Embassy of Japan in Namibia will continue to support Japanese companies in Namibia, including following-up on the above mentioned visit by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, while strengthening cooperation with the JICA Namibia office, which is contributing to Namibia's development through the dispatch of JOCV and various experts.

We wish you all the very best for the future.

We will appreciate your continued cooperation this year.

01 January 2024

Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Namibia

Hisao Nishimaki