

On 14 March, Ambassador Nishimaki hosted the National day reception at Mercure Hotel in Windhoek to celebrate the 64th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. The reception is held on 23 February annually but was rescheduled to 14 March this year in honour of the mourning period and funeral of the Late H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, third president of the Republic of Namibia. The event was attended by 125 participants, with Namibian government officials such as Hon. Faustina Caley, Deputy Minister of Education, other ministerial VIP names); Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the diplomatic corps; academic, cultural, sports, media figures and executives of companies and organisations operating in Namibia.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Nishimaki introduced Japan's past support to Namibia, including the dispatch of Japanese election observers during Namibia's independent elections in 1989, the construction of more than 300 school classrooms through the Grassroots Grant Assistance Project, and the dispatch of approximately 160 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Namibia. He expressed his wish for the future development of Japan-Namibia relations in the areas of economic cooperation, culture and tourism, as well as in the economic field.

The guest of honour, Hon. Faustina Caley, Deputy minister of Education, at the beginning of her speech expressed her heartfelt condolences for the 300 people who died as a result of the magnitude 7.6 earthquake that occurred on the Noto Peninsula of Ishikawa Prefecture in the northwestern region of Japan and thereafter observed a moment of silence. Hon. Caley further expressed her gratitude for Japan's support to Namibia and expressed her wish for further promotion of bilateral relations on behalf of the Namibian government.

A performance by the Namibian Kendo Federation took place during the ceremony.

A public information booth was set up in cooperation with the JICA Namibia office to introduce Japan's economic cooperation activities with Namibia, and the Japanese cultural booth run by the Embassy's offered sake tasting to the guests.



Photo1: Remarks by the Hon. Faustina Caley, the Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture of Namibia



Photo2: Ambassador Nishimaki welcoming the Hon. Royal/Ui/ o/oo, Deputy Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare: Marginalised Communities of Namibia at the receiving line



Photo3: Ambassador Nishimaki and guests.





Photo4: Kendo Performance



Photo5: Ambassador Nishimaki and fellow Ambassadors





Photo6 : Public Relations & Cultural Booth



Photo7: JICA Booth