

Inspection of the Kazungula Bridge (18 February 2026)

On 18 February 2026, Ambassador Asazuma, on a business trip to Zambezi Region in northeastern Namibia, visited the Kazungula border where four countries—Botswana, Zambia, Namibia, and Zimbabwe meet, and inspected Kazungula Bridge.

Kazungula Bridge, which opened in May 2021, spans the Zambezi River and connects Botswana and Zambia, serving as a vital logistics hub for Southern Africa. JICA has played a multifaceted role in this project. First, JICA provided a yen loan with a ceiling of approximately 11 billion yen, covering about half of the total project cost. This low-interest, long-term financing from Japan strongly supported the project's realization. Furthermore, the bridge's distinctive bow-shaped curve when viewed from above was achieved by precisely following the river's natural flow, utilizing Japan's advanced construction expertise. JICA also supported the implementation of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP), consolidating customs operations for both countries into a single facility. This significantly reduced waiting times and dramatically lowered logistics costs. JICA continued providing technical guidance even after the bridge's completion. Ambassador Asazuma confirmed that JICA's initiatives are contributing to economic integration and revitalizing logistics across Southern Africa.



Ambassador Asazuma standing on Kazungula Bridge