

Emperor's Birthday Reception (25 February 2026)

On 25 February 2026, Ambassador Asazuma hosted Emperor's Birthday Reception at the Mercure Hotel in Windhoek to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's 66th birthday.

Approximately 230 guests attended the reception, including Hon. Selma Ashipala–Musavyi, Minister of International Relations and Trade, Hon. Emma Kantema, Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Hon. Kare Mbuende, Director General of National Planning Commission, Hon. Gaudentia Krohne, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy, Hon. Charles Mubita, Deputy Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs, Hon. Linda Bayoli, Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, and Hon. Ruth Masake, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, alongside members of Namibian government, the diplomatic corps, business, academia, cultural and sports circles, and media representatives.

In his speech, Ambassador Asazuma noted that the attendance of Prime Minister Ngurare at the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) held in Yokohama last August and the official visit to Japan by Minister of International Relations and Trade Ashapila–Musavi this January have further strengthened the close relationship between Japan and Namibia. He also emphasized that Japan could cooperate with Namibia in areas such as green hydrogen development, offshore oil and gas development, and rare earth development, and spoke about Japan's history of cooperation in education and human resource development, as well as the importance of exchanges through art and music.

In her speech as the guest of honour, Minister of International Relations and Trade Ashpara–Musavi stated that the friendly relations between Namibia and Japan have developed since Namibia's independence and had matured into a mutually beneficial partnership, including cooperation in the energy sector, which had been reaffirmed at the Japan–Namibia Foreign Ministers' Meeting in January this year. She emphasized Namibia's appreciation for Japan's role as a strategic development partner, particularly through Japanese investment, and expressed gratitude for past cooperation through JICA and the TICAD process. She also expressed hope for continued cooperation on global issues based on shared values.

At the ceremony, the Youth Orchestra of Namibia performed both national anthems at the outset, and Ms. Nishikawa Sen–Yumeji presented a Japanese traditional dance performance.

Furthermore, with the cooperation of the JICA Namibia Office, an information booth introducing Japan's economic cooperation activities in Namibia was set up. The Embassy's Japanese culture booth provided visitors with opportunities to sample Japanese sake and experience origami.



Hon. Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Minister of International Relations and Trade, welcomed by Ambassador Asazuma and Mrs. Asazuma



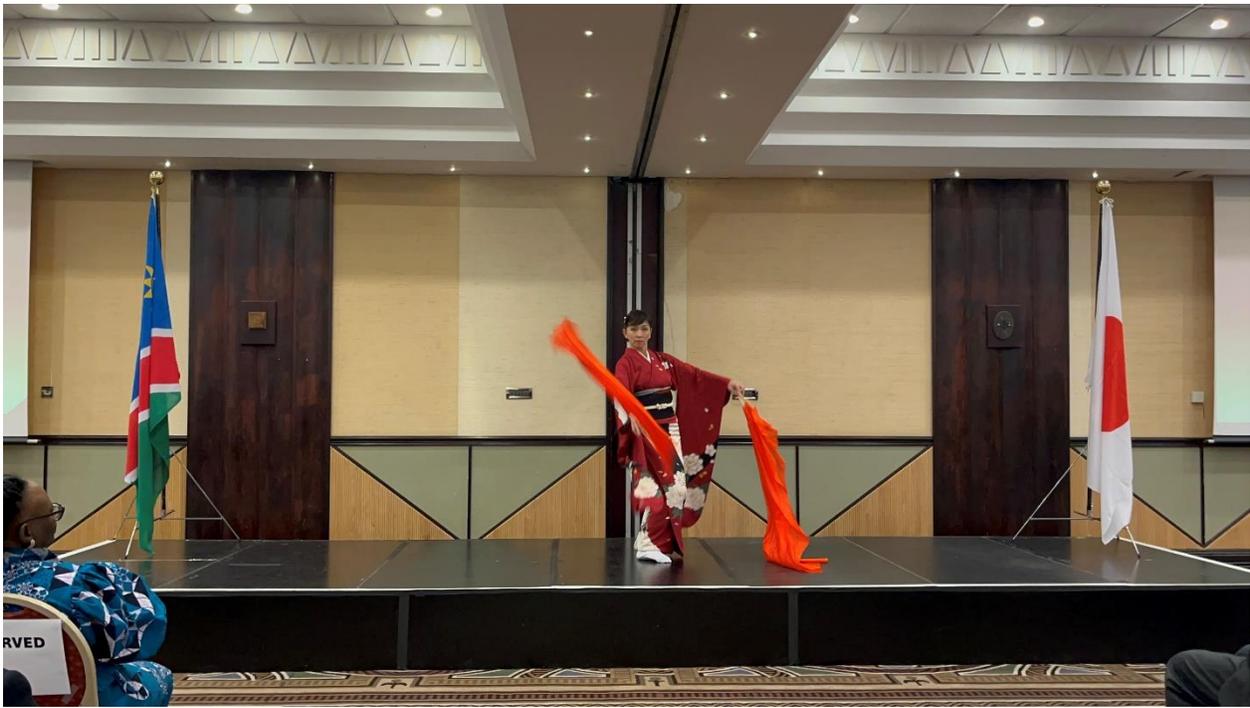
National Anthems played by Youth Orchestras of Namibia (YONA)



Speech by Ambassador Asazuma



Speech by Hon. Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Minister of International Relations and Trade



Japanese Traditional Dance Performance by Ms. Nishikawa Sen-Yumeji



Hon. Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Minister of International Relations and Trade,
at JICA information booth



Public Relations & Cultural booth and Origami Experience



Japanese-Sake Tasting



Offering Japanese food



Ambassador Asazuma interacting with guests



Spouses wearing Kimono welcomed guests