

## Attendance at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Keetmanshoop Vocational Training Centre (19 March 2026)

On 19 March 2026, Mr. Takehiro Yamada, Head of Economic and Development Cooperation Section of the Japanese Embassy traveled to Keetmanshoop, Karas Region, to attend the official inauguration ceremony of the Keetmanshoop Vocational Training Centre on behalf of Ambassador Asazuma. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Lucia Witbooi, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia and Hon. Sanet Steenkamp, Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts, and Culture of the Republic of Namibia. Mr. Yamada extended congratulations to H.E. Witbooi and Hon. Steenkamp on the VTC's inauguration and conveyed that the Government of Japan would continue to collaborate with Namibia on education, human resource development, and job creation for the mutual benefit of both countries.



(Centre of the Photo) H.E. Witbooi  
Hon. Steenkamp, Mr. Yamada



(From Left) Ms. Kuroiwa, Hon. Steenkamp  
Ms. Satoh, Mr. Yamada

In addition, JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, Ms. Mizuki Kuroiwa (Keetmanshoop Multipurpose Youth Resource Center: Youth Activities) and Ms. Momoko Satoh (Keetmanshoop Municipality: Community Development), who accompanied Mr. Yamada, briefed the Vice President and the Minister on their respective activities. Including Ms. Kuroiwa and Ms. Satoh, 177 JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers have been dispatched to Namibia since 2006 to date, and their activities form the foundation of the amicable bilateral relations between Japan and Namibia.



(From Left) Ms. Kuroiwa,  
Ms. Satoh, H.E. Witbooi



Ms. Kuroiwa explaining about her “Crating Safe Spaces for Young Women” project at the Youth Centre to Hon. Steenkamp