

University of Namibia Ogongo Campus 2026 Annual Rice Harvest Festival (20 July 2026)

On 20 July 2026, the Embassy of Japan's Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Noriaki Sadamoto attended the University of Namibia (UNAM) Ogongo Campus 2026 Annual Rice Harvest Festival together colleagues from the JICA.

Mr. Sadamoto, in his speech at the ceremony, reflected on the long endearing relationship between Ogongo and JICA, which developed into the renowned Japan-Namibia Rice and Mahangu project that began at the UNAM Ongongo Campus in 2012. Furthermore, he said, "Japan over the years has fostered people-to-people connections and mutual sharing of skills and knowledge in line with the policies of the Namibian government." In addition, he introduced recent new initiatives, including the collaboration between the UNAM and JICA, support in the agricultural sector through FAO, and support in the health sector in Omusati Region through UNICEF.

Attendees included, Prof. Kenneth Matengu – Vice Chancellor of UNAM, Mr. Willy Mertens – CEO of DEBMARINE Namibia, Chief Iipumbu – Traditional Leader, Hon. Daniel Iilende – Chairperson of Omusati Regional Council, farmers, staff and students of UNAM, high school learners.



(fltr) Mr. Sakurai (JICA), Chief Iipumbu (Traditional Leader), Mr. Mertens (CEO, DEBMARINE), Mr. Sadamoto (EoJ) and Prof. Matengu (Vice Chancellor, UNAM)



Mr. Sadamoto (EoJ), Prof. Matengu (UNAM), Mr. Mertens (DEBMARINE)



rice harvesting and thrashing activities

