

Visit of Ambassador Misako Takahashi, Director-General and Assistant Minister of the African Affairs Department at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to Namibia (22–25 August 2026)

From 22 to 25 August 2026, Amb. Misako Takahashi, Director-General and Assistant Minister of the African Affairs Department of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), visited Namibia. During her stay, she held meetings with senior Namibian government counterparts (MIRT, MIME, NIPDB), visited major energy and resource-related projects involving Japanese companies, met with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), visited University of Namibia, and inspected Japanese development cooperation projects. Through these activities, she engaged in wide-ranging exchanges of views aimed at further advancing Japan-Namibia relations.

1. Meetings with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

On 23 August, Amb. Takahashi met Ms. Haruka Kurihara, a JOCV serving as an elementary school teacher in Swakopmund. Ms. Kurihara explained her activities in the local education sector and life in the community. Amb. Takahashi expressed her appreciation for the enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated by young Japanese volunteers working at the grassroots level.

Later that day, Amb. Takahashi met Ms. Mizuki Dazai, a JOCV assigned to the Usakos Town Council in Usakos. Ms. Dazai explained her work on environmental education and awareness-raising activities, as well as local challenges and developments in the community. Amb. Takahashi commended her commitment to international cooperation and local development.



2. Visit to the HyIron Green Iron Production Facility

On 23 August, Amb. Takahashi visited HyIron's green iron production facility in the Erongo Region.

During the visit, Mr. Johannes Michels, Managing Director of HyIron, provided an overview of the company's operations, including its decarbonized ironmaking technology and project progress. Amb. Takahashi learned about Namibia's growing potential in the field of renewable energy and green industrial development, as well as opportunities for cooperation with Japanese companies.



3. Meeting with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)

On 24 August, Amb. Takahashi met with Ms. Julia Muetudhana, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB).

The two sides exchanged views on promoting bilateral investment and business cooperation. Discussions covered a wide range of sectors, including critical minerals, green hydrogen, renewable energy, and tourism. They also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation to support and facilitate Japanese investment in Namibia.



4. Exchange of Views on the Lofdal Rare Earth Project

On 24 August, Amb. Takahashi met Mr. Mwahafar Ndilula, Director of Namibia Critical Metals, a partner of Toyota Tsusho and JOGMEC in the Lofdal Heavy Rare Earth Project.

Mr. Ndilula briefed Amb. Takahashi on the company's activities and the current status of the Lofdal project. The discussion provided an opportunity to deepen understanding of Japan-Namibia cooperation in the field of critical minerals and strategic supply chains.



5. Visit to the Independence Memorial Museum

On 24 August, Amb. Takahashi visited the Independence Memorial Museum in Windhoek. Through the exhibits, she gained a deeper understanding of Namibia's history, including its struggle for independence and the nation's efforts toward state-building and development.



6. Meeting with the Ministry of International Relations and Trade (MIRT)

On 24 August, Amb. Takahashi held talks with Amb. Jerobeam Shaanika, Executive Director of the Ministry of International Relations and Trade (MIRT), and Ms. Ndiitah Nghipondoka-Robiati, Executive Director of MIRT.

The meeting covered a broad range of issues, including Japan–Namibia bilateral relations, Japan–Africa cooperation, regional and international affairs, and other topics of mutual interest. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening diplomatic and economic ties between Japan and Namibia.



7. Meeting with the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (MIME)

On 25 August, Amb. Takahashi met Mr. Moses Pakote, Executive Director of the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (MIME).

The two sides discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation, particularly in the mineral resources and energy sectors. They also exchanged views on promoting investment and business ties and enhancing public-private cooperation to support the activities of Japanese companies in Namibia. Both sides agreed to continue working closely together in these areas.



8. Visit to the University of Namibia (UNAM)

On 25 August, Amb. Takahashi visited the University of Namibia (UNAM) and met with Dr. Joseph Ndinoshiho, Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor.

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between UNAM and Japanese Universities, as well as expanding collaboration in human resource development and people-to-people exchanges. Following the meeting, Amb. Takahashi inspected a fire engine and ambulances provided to UNAM through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP), observing how Japan's assistance is contributing to the university and the wider community.

