

**THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER CEREMONY OF A SPECIAL
CLASSROOM AT NEW HOPE SCHOOL**

Friday 31 August 2012



On Friday 31 August 2012, New Hope School in Menlo Park hosted a handover ceremony for a special needs classroom funded by the Embassy of Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. The ceremony was attended by Minister Sakamoto of the Embassy of Japan, relevant members of the school and other sponsors.

In order to improve the learning environment, the Government of Japan decided to provide assistance amounting to R306, 135 for the construction of a special needs classroom. It is hoped that the construction of this special needs classroom will reduce overcrowding and enable the teachers to better attend to the individual and special needs of the children. Minister Sakamoto emphasized the importance of education in building a strong and productive economy and nation and expressed Japan's commitment to support those in need in South Africa.



The Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme is intended to assist NGOs and local authorities in addressing development needs in areas such as education, health, water supply and environment.

Since 1989, the Embassy of Japan has supported NGOs and local authorities in South Africa with regard to 551 projects amounting to over R300 million.

In the JFY 2011 (April 2010-March 2011) the Embassy of Japan extended GGP funding to 11 projects amounting to R7 242, 974.00

Speech by Minister Sakamoto

Headmaster of New Hope School, Mr. Dawie Harmse,
Members of the school governing body,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to attend this handover ceremony on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The Embassy of Japan responded to the request of the school and decided to provide financial assistance in amount of over R300 000 for the construction of a special needs classroom. We are very pleased to observe the successful completion of the construction. We hope that it will serve to mitigate the problem of overcrowded classrooms.

Japan has been providing technical and financial assistance since 1994 to support South Africa. In addition, through various projects, the Embassy of Japan has been supporting the development efforts by the communities of South Africa in the fields of basic human needs such as healthcare and education, and the total number of these Grassroots Grant Projects are more than 550 since 1989.

Education is, needless to say, one of the important sectors for the socio-economic development of this country and Japan has been assisting this sector through building schools and dispatching experts in particular in the field of science and mathematics.

On the other hand, we believe it is also important for all the children to have the same access to education. Through that, children with handicaps or in social weakness will be able to decide what they will do in future according to their own capabilities. In this regard, the role of educational institutions like this school is critical and we will support continuously the children with handicap.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Principal and her staff for their cooperation. Without their enthusiasm and efforts, this project would not have been achieved so successfully. I also hope sincerely that this new classroom will be well used and maintained as a symbol of friendship between Japan and South Africa, and that children will learn and grow up with happiness.

I thank you and wish you a successful school year.

THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER CEREMONY OF A NEW LIBRARY AT
BATHOKWA PRIMARY SCHOOL
Friday 31 August 2012

On Friday 31 August 2012, Bathokwa Primary School in Saulsville hosted a handover ceremony for a library funded by the Embassy of Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. The ceremony was attended by Minister Sakamoto of the Embassy of Japan, representatives from the Department of Education, the Parliamentary Constituency Officer for Tshwane and the director of Children on the Move, a NGO affiliated with the school to promote reading and learning.



In order to improve the learning environment, the Government of Japan decided to provide assistance amounting to R509, 250.00 for the construction of a library. It is hoped that this project will continue to raise the level of academic achievement of the pupils of Bathokwa Primary School and the local community. Minister Sakamoto emphasized the importance of education in building a strong and productive economy and nation and expressed Japan's commitment to support those in need in South Africa.

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In the JFY 2011 (April 2010-March 2011) the Embassy of Japan extended GGP funding to 11 projects amounting to R7 242, 974.00



Speech by Minister Sakamoto

Principal of Bathokwa Primary School, Mrs Crystal Nkwana,
District Director Tshwane South for the Department of Education, Ms Hilda Kekana,
Parliamentary Constituency Officer Tshwane, Ms Grace Dube,
Department of Education representative for Tshwane South, Ms Rose Shandung,
Guest Speaker, Rev Dr Lephoko
Members of the school governing body,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Learners of Bathokwa Primary School,

It is my great pleasure and honour to attend this handover ceremony on behalf of the Government of Japan.

The Embassy of Japan responded to the request of the school and decided to provide financial assistance in amount of over R500 000 for the construction of a library. We are very pleased to observe the successful completion of the construction.

Japan has been providing technical and financial assistance since 1994 to support South Africa. In addition, through various projects, the Embassy of Japan has been supporting the development efforts by the communities of South Africa in the fields of basic human needs such as healthcare and education, and the total number of these Grassroots Grant Projects are more than 550 since 1989.

Education is, needless to say, one of the important sectors for the socio-economic development of this country and Japan has been assisting this sector through building schools and dispatching experts in particular in the field of science and mathematics.

I hope that this new library will provide another opportunity for children to read books and have more knowledge and that they will also learn reading is fun.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Principal and her staff for their cooperation. Without their enthusiasm and efforts, this project would not have been achieved so successfully. I also hope sincerely that this library will be well used and maintained as a symbol of friendship between Japan and South Africa, and that children will learn and grow up with happiness.

I thank you and wish you a successful school year.