

HANDOVER CEREMONY OF A SCHOOL HALL AT MAARSSSEN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN OUTJO

On Tuesday, 9 September 2014, Maarssen Primary School in Outjo, Etoshapoort Township, Namibia, hosted a handover ceremony of a school hall that was built, funded by the Embassy of Japan through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Programme. The ceremony was attended by Mr Shinichi Asazuma, Minister of the Embassy of Japan and Mr Tomohide Yamada, First Secretary, Mrs Bernadette Jaggar, Regional Deputy Director of the Kunene region, Honorable Kleophas Geingob, Mayor of Outjo town and other high officials.



The Government of Japan decided to support this school through grant assistance amounting to approximately NAD 853,991 (US\$100,698), in order to enable the construction of a school hall, as there was no school hall in Outjo. Currently the school has a total of 592 students from grade 1 to grade 7 and most pupils come from an unprivileged background. The grant assistance made it possible for Maarssen Primary School to build a school hall where the Grade 5 to 7 students can learn in the morning and in the afternoon it is used for parent meetings, cultural performances and examinations. The GGP's assistance to Maarssen Primary School will contribute tremendously towards achieving the goal of access to education by more learners.



Education and economic empowerment are some of the priority areas for the Government of Japan in its extension of GGP assistance to Namibia. The GGP is intended to assist NGOs and local authorities in addressing development needs in a prompt and comprehensive manner in areas such as education, health, water supply, climate change and in a variety of other local needs. The GGP scheme was first introduced in 1989, and prioritizes human security for vulnerable and marginalised people within society. Since 1997, the Embassy of Japan has supported local authorities and NGOs in Namibia with over 38 projects. In the Japanese Fiscal Year 2013 (April 2013 - March 2014) the Embassy of Japan extended GGP assistance to 3 projects amounting to approximately NAD 3.2 million.