

The first Japan-Botswana Online Exchange at Ben Thema Primary School

18th October 2023

For the first time in the school's history, a Japan-Botswana online exchange was held on the 17th October 2023 at Ben Thema Primary School in Gaborone. This online exchange was one of the events held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Tsuzuki-Botswana Exchange of Children's Paintings Exhibition.

The Standard 3 students of Ben Thema Primary School and the Grade 3 students of Chigasaki Primary School in Yokohama, Japan enjoyed the online exchange programme. Students from both schools performed songs, played the recorder and held traditional performances, which was followed by a question-and-answer session. More than 100 children from each school participated in the exchange together with their principals and homeroom teachers, providing a great opportunity to learn about their respective cultures.

From Japanese side, Tsuzuki Ward Office of Yokohama City, Tsuzuki Multicultural & Youth Plaza (Community Centre) and the Embassy of Botswana in Japan also participated in the event. From Botswana side, Embassy of Japan in Botswana, JICA Botswana and JOCV Volunteers also joined the online exchange. Mr. Daniel Kgasa, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, remarked that it was significant opportunity for both school's students. His Excellency Mr. OHMORI Setsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana shared a few words in English and Japanese for the students of Ben Thema and Chigasaki Primary School. Ambassador told the students, "This year marks the 10th anniversary of the yearly children's painting exhibition and I strongly hope that the cultural exchange between the two schools through the painting exhibition will continue".

In early November, the 10th anniversary of the Tsuzuki-Botswana Children's Exchange Painting Exhibition will be held at Ben Thema Primary School. There will be an exhibition of more than 200 drawings from both Japan and Botswana, where students will be able to enjoy the contrast between the two cultures. The purpose of the event is to nurture wider cultural collaboration between Japan and Botswana through the children's paintings.

The exhibition will be open to the public at the National Museum Art Gallery from the 8th to 10th November 2023, following the official opening ceremony on the 7th November 2023. After the exhibitions in Botswana, the paintings from the two schools will be sent to Japan with the cooperation of Nippon Express Co., Ltd. for exhibition at both Tsuzuki Ward Hall and Yokohama City Hall.

For further enquiries, please contact the Embassy of Japan in Botswana (Tel: 391-4456)



Remarks by Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Daniel Kgasa



Ambassador OHMORI and Ms. Mokgethi, Principal of Ben Thema P.S.



Two screens showing Japan and Botswana side Remarks by Ambassador OHMORI



Students of Ben Thema P.S.