

**11th Anniversary Special Exhibition at the Botswana National Art Gallery
for Tsuzuki-Botswana Exchange of Children's Paintings
and the Awarding of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2024**

13th November 2024

The Embassy of Japan organized the 11th Anniversary Special Exhibition for the Tsuzuki-Botswana Exchange of Children's Paintings from the 13th to 16th November 2024 at the Botswana National Art Gallery. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the educational exchange through the exhibition of paintings drawn by Grade 3 students from Chigasaki Primary School, Tsuzuki Ward in Yokohama City, Japan, and by Standard 3 students at Ben Thema Primary School in Gaborone.

At the opening ceremony, held on the 12th was held prior to the exhibition opening to the public, Ambassador OHMORI announced that on the 1st of August, Ben Thema Primary School and Tsuzuki Multicultural and Youth Exchange Plaza received the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2024 and handed the award to Ms. Boitshoko Mokgethi, School Head at Ben Thema Primary School. The honour was conferred on the two groups for the contributions they have made towards the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Botswana, through their commitment and dedication to the promotion of cultural exchange through children's paintings between Japan and Botswana over the past decade.

The ceremony was attended by more than 50 participants, including His Excellency Mr. OHMORI Setsuo, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture, Botswana National Museum and Monuments, and teachers and students from Ben Thema Primary School.

The paintings from both Japanese and Botswana sides will be sent back to Japan to be exhibited at Tsuzuki Ward Hall in December 2024 and Yokohama City Hall in February 2025, respectively, in Japan.

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

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Remarks from Ambassador OHMORI



Ambassador OHMORI handing the award to
Ms. Boitshoko Mokgethi, School Head
at Ben Thema Primary School



With students from Ben Thema Primary School



Students enjoying the paintings



Paintings by students at
Chigasaki Primary School



Paintings by students at
Ben Thema Primary School