

Japan Day 2026
(26 September 2026 at Woodlands Farmers Market, Lilongwe)

On 26 September, the Embassy of Japan in Malawi hosted Japan Day 2026 at Woodlands Farmers Market in Lilongwe. The annual festival celebrates Japanese culture, traditions, and cuisine by showcasing different aspects of Japan in Malawi.



The event was attended by over 800 guests, including the Guest of Honour, Honourable Dr. Feston Kaupa M.P, Minister of Defence; senior Malawi Government officials; Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations; members of the Japanese community living in Malawi; Malawian nationals who have lived or studied in Japan; and individuals involved in academia, culture, sports, media, and business, as well as Japanese culture enthusiasts.

The event commenced with a performance by the Malawi Police Band, which played several well-known Japanese songs, followed by opening remarks from Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, H.E. Yasushi NAITO.

In his remarks, Ambassador Naito highlighted the importance of people to people exchanges and cultural understanding in strengthening the longstanding friendship

between Japan and Malawi. He also expressed his appreciation to the Malawi Defence Force and the Malawi Police Service for their service in not only protecting the people of Malawi, but also safeguarding foreign nationals, including Japanese citizens living in Malawi. people exchanges and cultural understanding in strengthening the longstanding friendship between Japan and Malawi. He also expressed his appreciation to the Malawi Defence Force and the Malawi Police Service for their service in not only protecting the people of Malawi, but also safeguarding foreign nationals, including Japanese citizens living in Malawi.

Lastly, the Ambassador thanked all those who contributed to the success of Japan Day and to the continued promotion of cultural exchange between the two countries. In his remarks, the Guest of Honour, Hon. Dr. Feston Kaupa, M.P., Minister of Defence, expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for more than 60 years of friendship and cooperation between Malawi and Japan. He further noted that events such as Japan Day, as well as the support provided by the Government of Japan to Malawi in areas such as sports, not only strengthen the good bilateral relations between the two countries, but also provide an opportunity for people in Malawi to learn more about Japanese culture.

Japan Day featured a variety of performances and demonstrations, including Karate, Kendo and Tea Ceremony demonstrations, as well as a sushi-making demonstration and other cultural activities. Visitors also had the opportunity to experience various aspects of Japanese culture through booths featuring calligraphy, origami, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, traditional Japanese games, Tanabata, cosplay and Japanese cuisine.

The event also featured booths showcasing Japanese companies and organisations working in Malawi, providing visitors with an opportunity to learn more about Japan-Malawi cooperation and the contributions of Japanese organisations to Malawi.

Japan Day also provided an opportunity for student volunteers from Bishop Mackenzie International School (BMIS) to participate as part of their service activities, helping to promote intercultural understanding. Additionally, newly arrived Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) also supported the event. The JOCVs and BMIS student volunteers assisted with various activities throughout the event, including welcoming and guiding guests.

One of the highlights of the event was Bon Odori, a traditional Japanese community dance, which attracted many guests to join in. The lively participation created an enjoyable atmosphere and provided an opportunity for visitors to experience Japanese culture together, as one community.

Through Japan Day 2026, the Embassy of Japan in Malawi provided an opportunity for people in Malawi to experience and learn more about Japanese culture, while further strengthening the people to people ties and friendship between Japan and Malawi.

Ambassador's speech: <https://www.mw.emb-japan.go.jp/files/101093189.pdf>



