

REMARKS BY  
H. E. MR. AKIO EGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZAMBIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF  
THE POWER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN  
LUSAKA, 8 JUNE, 2011

Hon. Kenneth Konga, MP, Minister of Energy and Water Development,  
Mr. Teddy Kasonso, PS, Ministry of Energy and Water Development,  
Officials of the Zambian Government,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and an honour for me to join you on behalf of the Government of Japan as we commemorate the launch of the Power System Development Master Plan.

The improvement of electricity network, in particular electrification, is an indispensable factor in propelling Zambia's economic development and meeting the targets set by "Vision 2030". Power generation, transmission and distribution are among the priority areas in Zambia's Fifth and Sixth National Development Plans. Accordingly, electricity is one of the priority sectors in Japan's development assistance for Zambia.

It is recalled that, in 2007, the Government of Zambia requested the Government of Japan to assist the development of the Power System

Development Master Plan, cognizant of the increasing demand for electricity and the urgent need for strengthening the power generation system and improving the transmission network to improve the rate of electrification. The formulation of the Master Plan was commenced the following year with the support of the Government of Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and, after four rounds of intensive field work, it was completed in March last year. I am pleased that the Master Plan is to be officially adopted and launched today by the Government of Zambia.

The Power System Development Master Plan, which runs up to 2030, has three dimensions:

- First, the Optimal Power System Development Plan, which proposes the optimal number and placement of electric generation stations and the possibility of electricity import and export from the viewpoint of energy security, economic efficiency and feasibility;
- Second, the Transmission Grid Plan; and,
- Third, the International Power Pool Plan, which is intended to ensure stable power supply to Zambia and the rest of Southern Africa.

I do hope that this Master Plan will be fully utilized by the Government of the Republic of Zambia and leveraged to achieve stable and sufficient power supply for the country.

Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

You might recall that Japan has also assisted the formulation of the Rural Electrification Master Plan (REMP) in alignment with the Fifth National Development Plan. Completed in 2008, the REMP was adopted as Zambia's official master plan last year.

In order to support the implementation of the REMP, Japan agreed to provide a Yen ODA loan for the Electricity Access Improvement Project in 2009, to be co-financed with the World Bank. With the loan amounting to approximately 5.5 Billion Yen, which is equivalent to approximately 48 million United States Dollars or 274 billion Zambian Kwacha, Zambia's electric transmission and distribution system will be expanded significantly and a small hydro-power station of 1.4 megawatts will be constructed by 2013.

As these efforts demonstrate, Japan is determined to strengthen its support to boosting economic growth of African countries through official development assistance (ODA), investment and trade, and other means. At the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) held in May 2008, the Japanese Government announced its pledge to double Japan's ODA to Africa by 2012 together with a goal to double Japanese private sector investment to Africa by 2012. I am pleased to report to you that the total amount of Japan's ODA disbursed to Africa

last year reached a provisional value of 2.05 billion USD, which exceeded the target. The five-year average value of Japanese private sector investment to Africa though 2009 was 4.2 billion USD, thereby also temporarily exceeding the target of 3.4 billion USD through 2012.

Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, Japan is now faced with unprecedented challenges caused by the earthquake, tsunami disaster which occurred earlier this year. However, the Government and people of Japan are making every possible effort to overcome this crisis. I would like to take this opportunity to express the sincere gratitude of the Government and people of Japan for the warm sympathy and firm solidarity extended to us by the Government and people of Zambia. Despite the current situation, the Government of Japan remains committed to continued cooperation with Zambia for the promotion of the economic and social development of the country.

In closing, allow me to express my hope that this Master Plan will bear its fruits through its implementation by the Government of the Republic of Zambia and thus further strengthen the friendship existing between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.

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