

REMARKS BY MR. SHUICHI SAKAKIBARA
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES AD INTERIM OF JAPAN TO ZAMBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE GRANT CONTRACT
WITH JATA AND JOICFP, AT EMBASSY OF JAPAN,
ON FRIDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 2016

Mr. Shigeo Kobayashi, Acting Representative of Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association (JATA) Zambia Office,

Ms. Amane Funabashi, Project Manager of Japanese Organization for International Cooperation for Family Planning (JOICFP),

Mrs. Nang’andu Kamwale, Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ),

Ms. Maable Changada, Chongwe District Health Care Officer,

Members of the Press,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today, representing the Government of Japan at this signing ceremony for Grant Assistance to JATA and JOICFP.

Since 2002, the Government of Japan has implemented 24 projects totaling about 9.5 million US Dollars (or 950 million JPY) under the **Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects**, with the primary objective of supporting projects implemented by Japanese NGOs, which would enhance economic and social development in the community.

Today, the Government of Japan will sign Grant Contracts with two Japanese NGOs respectively. Firstly, the Government of Japan will provide a grant amounting to **446,912 United States dollars**, or approximately 4.3 million Zambian Kwacha, to JATA. The purpose of the grant is to enable JATA to continue implementing **The**

Comprehensive TB and HIV Control with a Strengthened Community Participation in Rural Area in Chongwe District, Zambia. This is the second year, Phase Two of the three-year community-based project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During Phase Two, JATA will implement the project, continuously aiming at establishing a well-functioning TB diagnostic and treatment system and the reduction of TB and HIV/AIDS co-infection in Chongwe District. Of the expected activities, JATA will provide training for medical personnel such as doctors, X-ray technicians, and laboratory medical technologists. The other activities for Phase Two also include the training of TB Treatment Supporters and sensitization activities for the community members.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Secondly, the Government of Japan will provide a grant amounting to **544,771 United States dollars**, or approximately 5.3 million Zambian Kwacha, to JOICFP. The purpose of the grant is to enable JOICFP to continuously implement **The Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) One Stop Service Project in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts in Zambia**. This is the final year, Phase Three, of the three-year community-based comprehensive project within ten project areas of Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts.

This year, JOICFP will construct a maternity waiting house, where expectant mothers can stay in the period leading up to childbirth, and other facilities in the Mikata Rural Health Centre, Mpongwe District. The project activities for Phase Three also include the training of Safe Motherhood Action Group (SMAG), implementation of sensitization activities in the area of pregnancy and family planning, and provision of medical equipment necessary for delivery.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to point out that the projects by JATA and JOICFP are also in alignment with policy goals in the health sector set by both the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the Government of Japan.

You may recall that Honourable Mr. Felix Mutati, Minister of Finance, in his presentation of the 2017 National Budget, mentioned that the Government of the Republic of Zambia is resolved to achieve Universal Health Coverage, with a focus on strengthening health systems with emphasis on primary health care. In this regard, I would like to pay my humble respect to the strong commitment by the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

In the same vein, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also announced at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) held in Nairobi, Kenya last August, Japan's intention to increase the population benefiting from basic health services by 2 million people in Africa, over the next 3 years. 'Promoting Resilient Health Systems for Quality of Life' is one of the priority areas of TICADVI. Therefore, I am confident that the projects by JATA and JOICFP will contribute to the establishment of a resilient and sustainable health system in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, please allow me to emphasise that the funds that were used to undertake this Project came from Japanese taxpayers. It is therefore my sincere hope that the facilities and equipment being provided will be well utilized and maintained so that they will have a positive long-lasting impact on people in the community, and will symbolize the cordial relationship between the people of Japan and Zambia.

I thank you.

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