Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia at the signing ceremony for the Project for the Construction of Chakwela Mukumbi Primary School in Chipapa Area, Lusaka Province

Mr. Matteo Sametti, Mrs. Giorgia Marchitelli, and Members of Sport2build, Representatives from the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my honour and pleasure to sign the grant contract, on behalf of the Government of Japan, of a project of "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects", i.e. the Project for the Construction of Chakwela Mukumbi Primary School in Chipapa Area, Lusaka Province.

We appreciate the activities of Sport2build for education of preschool children, including the construction of a school building in 2014 for this purpose, healthcare including taking measures against HIV/AIDS, and assistance for the development of talents and competence of children, among their other activities.

As there is no primary school in Chipapa Area, with the nearest primary school located in more than two hours' walking distance from there, its access is not easy even in dry seasons and impossible in rainy seasons. Thus building a primary school in this area was hoped for and Sport2build requested Japan to assist it.

We considered and decided to extend US\$ 160,073 (1,533,347 Kwacha) for the construction of a new building with seven classrooms and an agricultural farm for training purpose.

When completed, about 180 additional children in the area will be able to receive primary education from Grade 1 to Grade 7 in the school. I hope that the construction will proceed smoothly and the benefits which I mentioned will be realized soon.

Thank you.