

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia at
the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Zambia JICA Fellowship Association
Saturday 22 July 2017

Dr. Joseph Mulenga, Chairman, Zambia JICA Fellowship Association
(ZAJIFA),

Mr. Junichi Hanai, Resident Representative, JICA Office, Zambia,

ZAJIFA Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to join the Officials and Members of ZAJIFA and JICA, and say a few words on this occasion of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the ZAJIFA.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere sympathy to those who lost their shops by the fire in the Lusaka City Market on the 4th of this month. I humbly hope for their recovery and the restoration of the market.

With respect to Japan's official cooperation to Zambia, after the commencement of JICA training programs in Japan in 1968, Japan is sending JOCVs from 1970, providing ODA Loans from 1972, and extending Grant Assistance from 1980, culminating in the total assistance to Zambia of more than 230 billion Japanese Yen (more than 2 billion US Dollars).

Through the JICA training programs, Japan has received more than 3,000 Zambians, and recently Japan receives about 100 Zambian trainees each year.

At TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August last year, Japan expressed its intention to further contribute to human resource development in Africa, as part of its support for the economic reforms through economic diversification and industrialization there.

Thus we will continue to implement the ABE Initiative, or African Business Education Initiative for Youth, to invite about 1,000 people from Africa to Japan, launched at TIVAD V.

Also, including the above, we will provide training to 30,000 people by 2018 to work in various industries who are expected to become a core of economic activities in their respective countries in Africa.

A TICAD Ministerial Meeting will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 24th and 25th of August to follow up TICAD VI, and prepare for TICAD VII.

For your information, last month, Mr. Shunsuke Takei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan visited Zambia, and in his meeting with the Hon. Harry Kalaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia, agreed to launch negotiations on an Investment Agreement. We hope that, through such endeavors, among others, the bilateral relations between our two countries will further progress, and Japan will contribute to further development of Zambia.

I believe that the people to people exchange and cooperation, including training programs, play an extremely important role in enhancing the friendship between our two countries.

And the existence and activities of ZAJIFA strongly support our friendly and cooperative relations.

Thus I, as Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the officials and members of ZAJIFA.

In conclusion, I wish the 24th Annual General Meeting of ZAJIFA will progress and conclude with great success.

Thank you.