

**REMARKS BY MR. HIDEKI YAMAJI, CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES
AND INTERIM OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF ZAMBIA-GERMANY-JAPAN-AUSTRALIA
WORLD WATER DAY FRIENDSHIP TOURNAMENT 2013
AT YAMATO FIELD ON 21 MARCH 2013**

Hon. John Kuhuna MP., Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing,
H.E. Mr. Bernd Finke, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Zambia,
Hon. Consul Saul Radunski, Honorary Consul of Australia to Zambia
Mr. Thomas Shaef, GIZ Country Director for Zambia,
Mr. Yoshihide Teranishi, Representative of JICA Zambia Office,
Mr. George Phiri, Technical Director, Football Association of Zambia
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Boys and Girls,

It is my honour on behalf of the Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, H. E. Mr. Akio Egawa, to be here today to participate in the Zambia-Germany-Japan -Australia 2013 World Water Day Friendship Tournament. This tournament is once again being held here at “Yamato Field”, which was constructed with grant assistance from the Government of Japan in 2011 as a symbol of friendship between Japan and Zambia.

The aim of this tournament is to promote health and hygiene among the youths with particular focus on water and sanitation. Safe water and sanitation constitute two of the most indispensable requirements for a healthy human existence. They

are an important part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Statistics show, however, that there are approximately 1,800,000 (one point eight million) children dying every year in the world due to diarrhea. In Africa, there are 570,000,000 (five hundred and seventy million) people who do not have access to basic sanitation facilities. There are approximately 330,000,000 (three hundred and thirty million) people in Sub-Saharan Africa who do not have access to safe water. These statistics suggest that in Africa, provision of safe drinking water and sanitation is a particularly urgent challenge requiring concerted efforts by all stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I take this opportunity to introduce to you an example of the engagement of our Government in the area of water supply and sanitation in Zambia. Over the years, the Government of Japan has been supporting water and sanitation improvement efforts by the Government of Zambia with particular focus on rural water supply. Since 1985, almost 2000 deep bore holes with hand pumps have been installed by Japan throughout the country. The performance of the bore holes has remained exceptionally high, to the extent that even 20 years after the installation, most of them are still working.

In February 2011, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in their assistance to the Water and Sanitation Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. Both Japan and Germany have vast experience in this sector, and the MoU is aimed at expanding their assistance by

harmonising their approaches and sharing experiences and knowledge in this field. The collaboration in friendly football tournament today reflects the spirit of the MoU.

Today's event is a shining example of the partnership between Japan, Germany, Australia and Zambia. It is very opportune that we gather here at the Yamato Field, because the Japanese word "Yamato" is the name for ancient Japan and can be interpreted as "unity and harmony". I wish all the teams participating today maintain this united and harmonious attitude as they compete in the tournament.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank the individuals and organizations who have worked hard to organise this wonderful event.

Thank you very much.