

**REMARKS BY H. E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZAMBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE GRANT CONTRACT
WITH JATA AND JOICFP, AT JAPANESE AMABASSADOR'S RESIDENCE,
ON TUESDAY, 1st DECEMBER, 2015**

Ms. Yukari Takemura, Acting Office Representative of Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association (JATA),
Ms. Amane Funabashi, Project Manager of Japanese Organization for International Cooperation for Family Planning (JOICFP),
Mr. Edford Mutuma, Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia (PPAZ),
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 21 projects totaling about 6.7 million US Dollars (or 668 million JPY) under the **Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects** scheme in Zambia, 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 **375,711 United States dollars**, or approximately 4.3 million Zambian Kwacha, to JATA. The purpose of the grant is to enable JATA to start the implementation of **Comprehensive TB and HIV Control with a Strengthened Community Participation in Rural Area in Chongwe District, Zambia**. This is the first year, Phase One, of the three-year community-based project.

Since 2008, JATA has conducted TB intervention projects in Lusaka Districts. From 2008 to 2012, JATA embarked on **the Project for TB/HIV Community DOTS with people-centred approach in Zambia. JICA/JATA Community Mobilisation for TB Diagnosis & Treatment Support Project** of 2012 to April, 2015 had a similar

undertaking, and both have successfully contributed to strengthening the TB diagnostic and treatment system and raising awareness for the people in the community.

I would like to point out that JATA successfully compiled the TB and HIV/AIDS Treatment Supporter's Handbook in June, 2014. The handbook has been distributed and utilised at national level for the training of TB Treatment Supporters under the approval of the Ministry of Community Development and Child Health. Bearing these facts in mind, the Government of Japan, upon a request from JATA, has decided to extend financial assistance to the organization in order to enable them to implement the Project.

From this year, JATA will start the implementation of **Comprehensive TB and HIV Control with a Strengthened Community Participation in Rural Area in Chongwe District, Zambia**. Of the expected activities, JATA will train medical personnel such as doctors, X-ray technicians, and laboratory medical technologists for the purpose of strengthening the TB diagnostic and treatment system. The other activities for this year also include the training of TB Treatment Supporters and sensitization activities for the communities. It is expected that JATA's new project will contribute to the establishment of a well-functioning TB diagnostic and treatment system and the reduction of TB and HIV/AIDS co-infection in Chongwe District.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Secondly, the Government of Japan will provide a grant amounting to **451,106 United States dollars**, or approximately 5.2 million Zambian Kwacha, to JOICFP. The purpose of the grant is to enable JOICFP to implement **The Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) One Stop Service Project in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts in Zambia**. This is the second year, Phase Two, of the three-year community-based comprehensive project within ten project areas of Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts.

Under Phase One of the Project, JOICFP constructed a maternity ward and a maternity waiting house, where expectant mothers can stay in the period leading up to childbirth, within the Mutaba Health Centre in Masaiti District. You may recall that JOICFP hosted the opening ceremony of those newly constructed facilities in September. Currently, expectant mothers in the community have access to facility-based delivery with appropriate medical treatment in the health centre. It was in appreciation of these

efforts that the Government of Japan decided to extend financial assistance to JOICFP to enable the organization to implement the second phase of the Project.

This year, JOICFP will start the construction of a maternity waiting house and other facilities in the Kalweo Health Centre, Mpongwe District as it did in Mutaba. After the establishment of a One Stop Service Site in the Kalweo Health Centre, people in the community will have access to a comprehensive selection of medical services at a single location.

The project activities for this year 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. It is hoped that activities of JOICFP will contribute to the further reduction of mortality rate of mothers and babies in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts.

Since the 1990s, JOICFP has cooperated with PPAZ in order to improve the health status of the people in the Copperbelt Province. You may recall that from 2011 to 2013, JOICFP embarked on **the Community Safe Motherhood Project** in Fiwale Rural Health Centre, Masaiti District, with PPAZ. As a consequence of the project, the number of deliveries at Fiwale Rural Health Centre increased from 290 in 2010 to 398 in 2013. I would like to appreciate the commendable efforts by JOICFP and PPAZ.

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 with the aim to improve the health status of the people in Zambia.

You may recall that Hon. Alexander Chikwanda, Minister of Finance, in his presentation of the 2016 National Budget, said it is important to achieve Universal Health Coverage, in order to achieve equitable access to quality health services for the people in Zambia. 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 made an address at a side event of the United Nations General Assembly in September, 2015, announcing that the Government of Japan will continue to promote Universal Health Coverage, which

ensures that all people can obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship.

Here in Zambia, the Government of Japan just has started the implementation of **the Project for strengthening the basic health service management for the Universal Health Coverage**, which supports the capacity building of the health management staff at the Ministry of Health and district medical offices for better health service delivery for all.

Moving forward, next year, the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI), will be held in Africa for the first time. And the health sector is expected to be upheld as one of the pillars of Japanese development cooperation. I am confident that, with the commitment from the Government of Zambia and the technical support by the Government of Japan as well as Japanese NGOs, we can achieve Universal Health Coverage 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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