



# news

PRESS RELEASE

**EMBASSY OF JAPAN: P. O. BOX 34190, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

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## **JAPAN EXTENDS GRANT AID TO ZAMBIA**

Today, the Government of Japan exchanged Notes with the Government of the Republic of Zambia concerning the provision of Grant Aid amounting to 712 million yen, approximately equivalent to 8.7 million United States dollars, or 41 billion Zambian Kwacha, for the implementation of the **Second Phase** of the **Project for Groundwater Development in Luapula Province**. This follows the successful completion of the **First Phase** of the **Project** which had been implemented from 2008 to 2010.

The Notes for the Grant Aid were signed and exchanged in Lusaka, between H.E. Mr. Akio Egawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia and Honourable Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, MP, Minister of Finance and National Planning.

Specifically, the Project will involve the drilling of 216 boreholes in four districts of Luapula Province and the setting up of a sustainable operation and maintenance system for the boreholes. The system will include putting in place measures to reduce levels of iron in the water, as groundwater in some parts of Luapula Province contains iron. Water quality tests will be conducted after drilling, and iron removal plants will be installed if the test results show higher levels of iron than those set by the Government of the Republic of Zambia. This Project is expected to benefit more than 54,000 people.

Access to safe, potable water remains indispensable for survival, particularly for people in rural areas where the commodity is in short supply. In recognition of this dire need, starting with Southern Province in 1985, Japan has contributed to the construction of more than 1,000 boreholes in Zambia. From 2008 to 2010, Japan has assisted in the construction of 200 boreholes in Luapula Province under the

**First Phase of the Project for Groundwater Development in Luapula Province.**

The aim of the Second Phase of the aforementioned Project is to further improve access to safe water in Luapula where the access rate is at 23.1%, the lowest level among the nine provinces.

Stable supply of safe water is not only essential for good health and decent living conditions but also contributes to the freeing of women and children from walking long hours and distances in search of water. This, in turn, enables women to expand their role in the society and more children to enroll and attend school. It is therefore Japan's desire, through this Project, to contribute towards the attainment of Zambia's social development.

The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), which was held in Yokohama, Japan in 2008, culminated into the "Yokohama Declaration". The Declaration contains the "Yokohama Action Plan" under which Japan has committed itself to providing assistance towards improvement of water and sanitation as well as in the implementation of measures against climate change. In this regard, the Project whose Notes were signed today is directly related to the "Yokohama Declaration" and is a reflection of Japan's obligation to assisting African countries through this TICAD process.

Japan is now faced with unprecedented challenges caused by the earthquake and the tsunami in the last March. However, the Japanese nation is now all united together and the Government and people of Japan are making every possible effort to overcome this difficult situation. The Government of Japan would like to express the sincere gratitude of the Government and people of Japan for the kind sympathy shown by numerous organisations and individuals in Zambia. Despite the current situation, the Government of Japan remains committed to continued cooperation with Zambia for the promotion of the economic and social development of the country and its people.

The people of Japan hope and trust that once implemented, the Project will contribute significantly to the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Zambia as well as to the further strengthening of the cordial relations that exist between the people of Japan and the people of Zambia.

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