

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE AUTOMOTIVE  
COURSE FACILITY, ON 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2016**

The Guest of Honor,

Mr. Owen Mgemzulu, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Higher Education,  
Representative of the Provincial Permanent Secretary,

The Town Clark, Kabwe Municipal Council,

Mr. Titus Ikowa, Board Chairperson – Kabwe Institute of Technology,

Mrs. Rhoda K. Simwanga, Principal – Kabwe Institute of Technology,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan to handover the Automotive Course Facility to Kabwe Institute of Technology. This project has been implemented through the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme of the Government of Japan. The Grant Contract for this project amounting to 90,588 US Dollars was signed 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

The Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme was introduced in Zambia in 1990. The primary objective of this programme is to support various development and human security projects at grassroots level. Until now, more than 160 projects have been funded and implemented in this country.

Kabwe Institute of Technology has stunning history since its establishment in 1943. The school has provided varieties of skills training for youths in three departments; mechanical, construction, and commercial. The automotive course under the mechanical department has over 250 students. This course is very popular since students can learn skills for automotive mechanics and machinery maintenance.

Since the 1980's, the Government of Japan has supported the organization through dispatching JICA engineers and providing training equipments. Now, a JICA volunteer is serving to improve of the quality of training.

However, there are still some challenges. For example, the institution does not have enough space for lectures or most training equipment is old and outdated. The Government of Japan has supported this project to enhance skills of the students through upgrading the training environment. It will accommodate the increasing demand for competent automotive mechanics in this country.

The unemployment rate of the youth in Zambia is still high. The Government of Zambia has addressed youth empowerment and job creation. In line with this policy, the Government of Japan is fully aware of the importance to provide skills training for youths which furnishes more employment opportunities for them. Therefore, the Government of Japan will take continuous and multidimensional methods for youth empowerment.

We held TICAD VI on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, August, 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya. As we declared, Japan will support African countries to promote economic diversification and industrialization. Through accelerating education, technical and vocational training, the Government of Japan will contribute to developing private sector for African Countries.

Japanese people have been supporting the economic and social development of Zambia since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1964. It is my sincere hope that the facility will be fully utilised in a sustainable manner. I hope this project will benefit the people of Zambia and then the bilateral relationship between Zambia and Japan will be further accentuated.

Thank you for your attention.

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