

**REMARKS BY MR. SHUICHI SAKAKIBARA,
CHARGE D’AFFAIRES AD INTERIM OF JAPAN,
TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 6th NATIONAL KAIZEN CONFERENCE
AT MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY, 26th OCTOBER, 2016**

Hon. Cristopher M. Mvunga, Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Financial and Economic Development),

Honorable Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Mrs Margaret Mwanakatwe,

Mr. Getahun Tadesse, Director General, Ethiopia Kaizen Institute,

Mr. Chola Mwitwa, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Kaizen Institute of Zambia,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan to witness the opening of the 6th National Kaizen Conference in Zambia. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Kaizen Institute of Zambia, and all the stakeholders involved in organizing this conference which has become an annual event.

Kaizen Conferences have been held since 2008. Under the National KAIZEN Project, which started in 2014, the Kaizen Institute of Zambia, or KIZ, was newly established. In terms of training, 16 KAIZEN consultants at KIZ and 60 KAIZEN coordinators in companies and public institutions have been trained. In terms of promoting KAIZEN

activities, KIZ has supported implementation of KAIZEN at 46 public and private institutions. Furthermore, as part of capacity building at KIZ, staff have attended KAIZEN conference and toured companies in Japan, Thailand and Ethiopia. I would like to pay my humble respect to the strong commitment by the Government of the Republic of Zambia and KIZ.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Japanese Government is committed to promoting trade and investment between the two countries. In Zambia, Japanese companies such as Hitachi Construction Machinery Zambia Co. Ltd. and Toyota Zambia Ltd are still few but are achieving steady growth and continue to invest in Zambia. As we strive to promote further trade and investment, we are hoping to witness continuous improvement in the investment environment in Zambia. Therefore, KAIZEN in the workforce and end products, which is the main theme of this conference, is one of the important issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), was held here in Africa for the first time. And, capacity development and enhancing productivity in the industrial sector are upheld once again as one of the important areas of Japanese development cooperation. Thus, we announced to promote “KAIZEN Initiative” throughout Africa.

In Zambia, National KAIZEN Project Phase II, a three year project, will start from the beginning of 2017. I am confident that, with the continued commitment from the

Government of Zambia and the KIZ, and the Japanese technical support, we can achieve industrial growth and economic diversification in Zambia.

In closing, I would like to commend the KAIZEN activities of the participants of the conference gathered here today, and hope that you will greatly contribute to the development of Zambia. It is also my sincere hope that the KAIZEN activities will symbolize the cordial relationship between the people of Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.

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