

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia
at the Zambia-Japan Public-Private Conference for
High Quality Infrastructure

The Hon. Ronald Kaoma Chitotela, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure
Development of the Republic of Zambia,
The Hon. Shinsuke Suematsu, State Minister of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism of Japan,
Engineer Charles Mushota Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing and
Infrastructure Development of the Republic of Zambia,
Mr. Yoji Okumura, President and CEO of Fujita Corporation,
Other Members of the Delegation of Japan to the Zambia-Japan
Public-Private Conference for High Quality Infrastructure,
Officials of the Government of Zambia,
Business Leaders from Japan and in Zambia,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.

I am Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia.
As Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, it is my duty to endeavor to further
advance the friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and Zambia.
In this regard it is my honour and pleasure to welcome State Minister
Suematsu and his Delegation which includes business leaders of 19 major
Japanese companies in such fields as construction, trade, consulting,
engineering, and manufacturing from Japan in Zambia, and to be graced by
the presence of Minister Chitotela, and officials and business leaders of
Zambia.

This Conference is the first major conference of Zambia and Japan, after
TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya in August last year, where Japan
announced various initiatives to advance its relations with Africa.
Thus I look forward to a fruitful discussion today, and certainly my Embassy
is determined to follow up this Conference in cooperation with the Zambian
side, to bring about tangible results to benefit both Zambia and Japan.

Thank you.