

Address of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia
at the Annual Assembly of Japan Scholars on 16 February 2017

The Hon. Prof. Nkandu Luo, Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of Zambia,

Prof. Luke Evuta Mumba, Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia,

Prof. Ichiro Ueda, Executive and Vice President of Hokkaido University,

Mr. Hisanao Noda, Chief Representative of JICA Office, Lusaka,

Dr. Victor Zulu, Senior Lecturer, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zambia, and Acting President of Japan Scholars Association,

Japan Scholars,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

It is my honour and pleasure to host the 2017 Annual Assembly of Japan Scholars Association with the presence of the very important Minister and all those Dignitaries I have just mentioned.

As Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I have repeatedly stated in the past few months since my arrival in Lusaka that I am determined to do my best, building upon the long-standing friendly and cooperative relationship between Japan and Zambia, and in cooperation with the numerous people concerned, to advance our relations between our two countries in various fields.

Tonight is the occasion to highlight the people to people exchange and cooperation and that in the fields of education, study, research, science and technology.

Japan annually receives 2 to 3 students from Zambia by the Japanese Government's Scholarship Programme, and this year we will receive 4 students, making the number of the members of Japan Scholar Association 49.

By the way I have heard that the younger sister of the Hon. Minister Luo also studied in Japan.

So the membership might be larger than this number 49, subject to the

confirmation by the Association.

Among the 4 newest members of the Association, is a student who passed the examination for an undergraduate course in Japan for the first time in Zambia, with high scores in the written exams, particularly in mathematics. Congratulations!

Last month I had the privilege to be invited to the Swear-in and Prize Giving Ceremony of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Zambia as the Guest of Honour, and I spoke on the importance of human resources development to the gathering led by Vice Chancellor Mumba.

There I reviewed the history of Japan's economic development, propelled by the hard work of the people, among others, and explained its current problems of the rapidly aging population, but suggested a hope for economic recovery, referring, among others, to the fact that as for the past three years from 2014 to 2016 a total of 6 Japanese scientists received the Nobel Prizes every year, continuously.

So study in Japan is worth doing, isn't it?

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Hokkaido University for hosting the largest number of Zambian students with the Japanese Government's Scholarship, for its contribution to the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Zambia, the open Japanese language classes in the University, and study abroad coordination.

Thank you, Vice President Ueda, and Professor Okumura and other members of the Lusaka Office, of Hokkaido University.

Japan Scholars,

You are our treasures for the roles which you are playing now or you will be playing in the future for underpinning the friendly and cooperative relations between Zambia and Japan.

I hope that my Embassy is regarded by you as your treasure, too.

If yes, please enjoy this evening here in the Japanese Ambassador's Residence as your second home.

Thank you.