

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia
at the opening of the Interactive Seminar on
Global Landscape for Achieving Universal Health Coverage through
Resilient Health Systems on Monday 27 March 2017

The Hon. Dr. Chitalu Chilufya, Minister of Health of the Republic of Zambia,
Dr. Jabbin Mulwanda, Permanent Secretary Health Services, and Directors
and Officials of the Ministry of Health,

Dr. Tomohiko Sugishita, MD, PhD, MPH, Professor and Chair, Department
of International Affairs and Tropical Medicine, Tokyo Women's Medical
University,

Dr. Aaron Mujajati, President of Zambia Medical Association,

Dr. Jacob Mufunda, Country Representative, WHO

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words at the opening of this
Interactive Seminar on Global Landscape for Achieving Universal Health
Coverage through Resilient Health Systems, with Dr. Sugishita from Japan.

I have repeatedly stated on various occasions that, as Ambassador of Japan
to Zambia, I am determined to do my best, building upon the long-standing
cooperative relations between Japan and Zambia extending from political
and economic to cultural and other areas, and in cooperation with the
Japanese experts, volunteers, NGOs and companies in Zambia, to advance
our bilateral relations in such fields as ODA, trade and investment,
particularly by implementing the TICAD VI initiatives.

At TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya in August last year, Prime Minister
Shinzo Abe expressed Japan's determination to promote universal health
coverage, including its target of increasing the number of people in Africa
who can enjoy the basic health services by 2 million in three years.

TICAD VI attached importance to promoting resilient health systems for
quality of life, among other priority issues.

Therefore, we regard this seminar as very important.

I look forward to good presentations and discussions today.
Thank you.