

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to Zambia at
a Networking Meeting for ZACCI and Japanese Companies
on Friday 21 July 2017

Mr. Emmanuel Chilufya, Board Member, and Members and Officials of
Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Mr. Tsuyoshi Yato, Chairman, Japanese Society in Zambia, and
Representatives of Japanese and Japan-related Companies in Zambia,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words on this occasion for
networking Japanese and Zambian companies, and I thank Mr. Chilufya, Mr.
Yato and, indeed all those present here this evening for their participation.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere sympathy to those who lost
their shops by the fire in the Lusaka City Market on the 4th of this month.
I humbly hope for their recovery and the restoration of the market.

Now about the Japanese business community in Zambia.

Currently 13 Japanese companies are doing business in Zambia, in such
fields as construction, trade, retails and consulting.

At TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August last year, Prime Minister
Shinzo Abe expressed his plan for the Japanese Government and private
sector to invest a total of 30 billion US Dollars in Africa.

This year, in January, Mr. Shunsuke Suematsu, State Minister of Land,
Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, leading a delegation from
Japan, co-hosted with the Hon. Ronald Chitotela, Minister of Housing and
Infrastructure Development of the Republic of Zambia, the Zambia-Japan
Public and Private Conference on Quality Infrastructure.
The two Governments held a follow-up meeting in April, and established 4
Study Groups on Urban Transportation, Roads and Bridges, Power and
Batteries, and PPP.

Another follow-up meeting is scheduled for November.

In May, Mr. Patrick Chisanga, Director-General of Zambia Development Agency visited Japan to participate in an Investment Promotion Seminar, and urged Japanese companies to make further investments in Zambia.

Last month, Mr. Shunsuke Takei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan visited Zambia, and in his meeting with the Hon. Harry Kalaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia, agreed to launch negotiations on an Investment Agreement.

Japan dispatches experts and senior volunteers to Zambia for the purpose of promoting investment.

Under these circumstances, we are now having a meeting for the purpose of networking Japanese and Zambian companies.

As we understand that many Zambian participants this evening are interested in Japanese culture, we have prepared some Japanese food, Sake, films and music, in addition to the company profiles and materials about Japan piled on the desk at the entrance of this building.

I sincerely hope that active exchanges will be made between Japanese and Zambian companies to result in actual business collaboration.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the Government of Japan intends to support, as much as possible, further promotion of business collaboration between Japanese and Zambian companies, and through this, among others, we hope that the friendly and cooperative relationship between our two countries will further develop.

Thank you.