

**Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia at the Dissemination Workshop for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service Project in Zambia (2015 - 2017)
on Tuesday 9 November 2017**

Dr. Kennedy Malama, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Zambia,
Mr. Joseph Kabamba, M.P. from Kafulafuta, Masaiti District,
Dr. Andrew Silumesi, Director, Public Health, Ministry of Health,
Dr. Consity Mwale and Other Representatives from Copperbelt and Central Provinces, Masaiti District Health Office, and Mpongwe District Health Office,
Ms. Mayumi Katsube, Executive Director, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, or JOICFP,
Mr. Nang'andu Joan Kamwale, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, or PPAZ,
Representatives from the U.N. Agencies,
Representatives from Civil Society Organizations,
Representatives from Local Communities,
Members of Safe Motherhood Action Groups, or SMAGs,
Peer Educators,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to say a few words at this Dissemination Workshop for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service Project in Zambia (2015 - 2017).

When I participated in the Launching of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) One Stop Service Project in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts, at Mikata Rural Health Centre, officially commissioned by the First Lady Mrs. Esther Lungu, represented by the Permanent Secretary of Copperbelt Province, on 23 September, I referred to TICAD VI, and explained the importance Japan attaches to promoting resilient health systems for quality

of life, to achieve universal health coverage, and create “Resilient Africa”.

I also stated that as we believe that for Zambia to continue to achieve further development in a sustainable manner, the strengthening of the health sector is important, among other sectors, the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in cooperation with its private sector, in various ways.

And, of course, I appreciated the renovation of the 3 Rural Health Centres at Mutaba in Masaiti District and Kalweo and Mikata in Mpongwe District, by newly constructing a maternity waiting house and a youth centre, with the cooperation from the architect Ms. Mikiko Endo who is present here, among others, to develop them to One Stop Service Health Centres, using the grant assistance from the Government of Japan totaling US\$ 1,747,130, or about 16 million Kwacha, and the training of about 300 members of SMAGs and about 60 Peer Educators to benefit about 91 thousand people in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts, and I expressed my hope that these One Stop Service Centres will significantly contribute to improving the health of Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts, rewarding the efforts of JOICFP, PPAZ, the Rural Health Centres, the District Health Offices, SMAGs, PEs, and the local residents.

This Dissemination Workshop intended to contribute to the good sustained operation of the One Stop Service Centres is very important for realizing my hope expressed and for contributing to achieving universal health coverage in Zambia.

Thus I hope that, with the active participation of those present here, the Workshop will bear a good fruit.

Thank you.