

**Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia at the Signing Ceremony for the Project for Promotion of Women's Health throughout the Life Cycle at One Stop Service Site in Zambia on Friday 26 January 2018**

Dr. Mzaza Nthele, Director, Clinical Care and Diagnostic Services, Ministry of Health,

Dr. Davis Mwewa, Masaiti District Health Director,

Dr. Jacob Ngambi, Lufwanyama District Health Director,

Ms. Amane Funabashi, Program Manager, representing Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, or JOICFP,

Ms. Nang'andu Joan Kamwale, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, or PPAZ,

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this Signing Ceremony for a project of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects by the Government of Japan, for Promotion of Women's Health throughout the Life Cycle at One Stop Service Site in Zambia, amounting to up to US\$ 685,167, or about 6.8 million Kwacha, for the first year of this project.

This is the first new commitment of the Government of Japan for development assistance for Zambia in 2018.

Today I particularly value the presence of the Director from the Health Ministry and District Health Directors from Copperbelt Province here, in addition to the representatives of JOICFP and PPAZ, which showcases the importance of this project.

JOICFP, in the past three years, had implemented, in cooperation with PPAZ, among others, with the grant assistance from the Government of Japan, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service Project in Masaiti and Mpongwe Districts in Copperbelt Province, covering 10 areas, by establishing Maternal, Newborn and Child Health One Stop Service facilities, through renovating the Rural Health Centres at Mutaba in Masaiti

District and Kalweo and Mikata in Mpongwe District, particularly those buildings for maternal and child health, and newly constructing a maternity waiting house and a youth centre at each of the Rural Health Centres, as well as by training a large number of members of Safe Motherhood Action Groups engaged in enlightening activities on reproductive health, and Peer Educators in the covered areas.

This time the project covers 11 areas in Masaiti, Mpongwe and Lufwanyama Districts in Copperbelt Province, and aims to improve access by all women in the areas, including girls and pregnant women, to health services throughout their life cycles, by renovating existing Rural Health Centres there as well as capacity improvement of the staff of Health Offices and those responsible for health and medical services in the Districts concerned so that they may appropriately train SMAGs and PEs in the areas, among other activities.

Thus the new project covers wider places and generations, indeed the whole life cycles of the beneficiary women.

TICAD VI, held in Nairobi, in August 2016, attached importance to promoting resilient health systems for quality of life, to achieve universal health coverage, and create “Resilient Africa”.

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.

Thus the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in cooperation with its private sector, in various ways, including funding this project.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly to significantly benefit the women in the target areas, to contribute to universal health coverage in Zambia.

Thank you.