

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia at the Signing Ceremony for the Project for the Construction of a Learning Centre at St. Joseph College in Lusaka West, Lusaka Province on Friday 2 February 2018

Sr. Nirmala Savarimuthu, Mission Superior, and Members of Congregation of the Immaculate Conception (Zambia),
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 Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan, for the Construction of a Learning Centre at St. Joseph College in Lusaka West, Lusaka Province, amounting to up to US\$ 88,888, or about 880,000 Zambian Kwacha.

TICAD VI, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2016, attached importance to human resources development to promote economic diversification and industrialization in Africa to create “Quality Africa”, among other priority issues.

St. Joseph College established by Congregation of the Immaculate Conception in Lusaka West in 2010, which currently accepts about 70 students who quit near-by schools, had a total of about 50 graduates from the College obtain the certificates of completion of vocational training, who are now doing their own business or working in the College as its trainers.

In addition, as the College lets the pupils at near-by schools use its computers, about 140 such pupils obtain the certificates of completion of primary school education annually.

However, Lusaka West area, among other areas, has a huge population of young people who are in need of various education and training, including primary education, and thus the people in the area hope that St. Joseph College will accept more children for education there.

Under the circumstances, Congregation of the Immaculate Conception formulated a proposal of construction of a Learning Centre at the College, equipped with a lecture room, a computer room, and a library, and requested the Government of Japan to fund its construction.

We considered the proposal and decided to respond positively.

When completed, the study environment for about 70 students there will be improved, the College will be able to accept about 200 additional children, and about 500 pupils studying at near-by primary schools will be able to use the computers of the College to obtain the certificates of completion of primary school education.

I hope that this project will proceed smoothly to contribute to human resources development in Zambia, and create “Quality Zambia”.

Thank you.