

Remarks of Mr. Toshio Sugiura, Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission at
the Embassy of Japan at
the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Zambia JICA Fellowship Association,
Saturday 6 October 2018

Mr. Bornface Changwe Chimbwali, Permanent Secretary, Public Service
Management Division, Cabinet Office, Office of the President of the Republic
of Zambia

Dr. Joseph Mulenga, Chairman, Zambia JICA Fellowship Association
(ZAJIFA),

Mr. Junichi Hanai, Resident Representative, JICA Office, Zambia,
ZAJIFA Members,

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate the Zambia JICA Fellowship Association
(ZAJIFA) as we commemorate this special occasion, the 25th Annual General
Meeting. It is my honour and pleasure to join Mr. Boniface Changwe
Chimbwali, the Officials and Members of ZAJIFA and JICA, and say a few
words on this occasion.

With respect to Japan's official cooperation to Zambia, after the
commencement of JICA training programs in Japan in 1968, Japan has been
sending JOCVs since 1970, providing ODA Loans since 1972, and extending
Grant Assistance since 1980, culminating in the total assistance to Zambia of
more than 230 billion Japanese Yen (more than 2 billion US Dollars).

Through the JICA training programs, Japan has received more than 3,600
Zambians, and recently Japan receives about 150 Zambian trainees each
year.

At TICAD VI held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August in 2016, Japan expressed its
intention to further contribute to human resource development in Africa, as
part of its support for the economic reforms through economic diversification
and industrialization there.

Thus we have continued to implement the ABE Initiative, or African Business Education Initiative for Youth, to invite about 1,000 people from Africa to Japan, launched at TIVAD V, and its numerical target has already been accomplished.

Also, including the above, we are supposed to provide training to 30,000 people by 2018 to work in various industries who are expected to become a core of economic activities in their respective countries in Africa.

A TICAD Ministerial Meeting is currently being held in Tokyo today and tomorrow to follow up TICAD VI, and prepare for TICAD VII held next year.

For your information, in July, Mr. Manabu Horii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan visited Zambia as Public and Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa, which is a framework established in TICAD IV. They paid a courtesy call to the president Edgar Chagwa Lungu and 3 Ministers, attended Trade and Investment Promotion Seminar and inspected Lusaka South Multi Facility Economic Zones (LS-MFEZ) together with over 30 Japanese companies as the Public Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa.

We hope that, through such endeavors, among others, the bilateral relations between our two countries will further progress, and Japan will contribute to further development of Zambia.

I believe that the people to people exchange and cooperation, including training programs, play an extremely important role in enhancing the friendship between our two countries. And the existence and activities of ZAJIFA strongly support our friendly and cooperative relations.

Thus I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the officials and members of ZAJIFA.

I hope that this meeting will give opportunities for all the participants to interact, and will enhance the mutual understanding between Japan and Zambia for the cordial relationship between the two countries.

Thank you very much for your attention.