

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia at the Awarding Ceremony of the 2018 Commendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan on Wednesday 17 October 2018

Mr. Kazuyoshi Nakai, JICA Expert and Chief Advisor on Science Education Improvement of Pedagogical Content Knowledge, and Mrs. Nakai, Dr. Grace Chilekwa, representing Permanent Secretary Tukombe of the Ministry of General Education, Mr. Junichi Hanai, Chief Representative, JICA Zambia Office, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to present the Commendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan to Mr. Nakai today.

I will do so after the congratulatory remarks of the guest speakers have been made.

The Foreign Minister's Commendation is awarded to individuals and organizations with outstanding achievements in international fields, in order to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries and territories.

The Commendation also aims to promote the understanding and support of the Japanese public for such activities.

This year, 205 individuals and 49 organizations from around the world have been awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation, and Mr. Nakai is the only recipient in Zambia.

Mr. Nakai has been working as a JICA Expert for 25 years in such countries as the Solomon Islands, Kenya, the Philippines and Zambia.

He introduced in the Philippines the method of "lesson study" as a unique Japanese education method in JICA activities for the first time.

In Zambia, he spent 12 years from the introduction to dissemination of “lesson study” to contribute to the capacity building of teachers of various fields in Zambia, and Zambia has developed to become a central venue for “lesson study” in Africa, as a program of “lesson study” entitled “Knowledge Co-Creation Program” was participated by a number of teachers from 17 African countries this year.

Congratulations!

For his contributions, Mr. Nakai was awarded by the President of JICA in 2014.

The “lesson study” was nominated as one of the finalists of the DAC Award in 2015 and was acknowledged by the Brookings Institution as one of the best 10 “Millions Learning Projects” in the same year.

Now Mr. Nakai will be receiving the Commendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan from Mr. Taro Kono.

Congratulations!

While I hope that we will soon see the second and third Mr. Nakai who will contribute to further development of friendly and cooperative relations between Zambia and Japan, let us concentrate here this evening on appreciating and celebrating Mr. Nakai’s accomplishments.

In so doing, I hope that all of you present here will have a good time.

Thank you.