

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic  
of Zambia at the Premiere Evening of Japan Film Festival 2018 at  
Ster-Kinekor, Manda Hill Mall Cinema on Tuesday 20 November 2018

Mr. Tobias Chomba, Director, Human Resources, Ministry of Tourism and  
Arts of the Republic of Zambia,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Representatives from the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Premiere Evening of Japan Film Festival 2018.

Our Embassy has been hosting Japan Film Festival from 2005 and this is  
the 12<sup>th</sup> Festival to be held from tonight to the Thursday night.

Earlier in this afternoon, we hosted Japan Day within this mall, to introduce  
several examples of Japanese culture.

I hope that a number of spectators here have visited the Japan Day venue.  
So, the three days from today 20 November to Thursday 22 November are  
Japanese culture days in Zambia.

As for the Film Festivals, until last year we had screened a total of 32  
Japanese films in 13 years, viewed by thousands of people here.

Since I arrived in Zambia about two years ago, I have repeatedly stated on  
various occasions that, as Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I am determined  
to do my best, building upon the long-standing friendly and cooperative  
relations between Japan and Zambia extending from political and economic  
to cultural and other areas, and in cooperation with the Japanese experts,  
volunteers, NGOs and companies in Zambia, to further advance our bilateral  
relations in various fields.

Japan Film Festival and Japan Day should deepen understanding of  
Zambians about Japan and the Japanese people, and thus should contribute

to consolidating the bases of the friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries for their further advancement.

We will be showing “PARKS” tonight, “Tremble All You Want” tomorrow, and “Let’s Go JETS!” on Thursday.

“PARKS” is a story which evolves in Inokashira Park in Tokyo, where Haru, a girl who searches for her late father’s past will meet a grandson of the girlfriend of her father, and they will try to revive the music their father and grandmother played. Then something unexpected will happen. I stop here.

I hope that you will enjoy the Japanese film and will return home safely, hopefully with better appreciation of Japan and at least better understanding of Japan.

Thank you.