

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Annual Assembly of Japan Scholars
on 15 March 2018

The Hon. Prof. Nkandu Luo, Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of
Zambia,

Mr. Junichi Hanai, Chief Representative, JICA Zambia Office,

Mr. Satoshi Nakamura, Study Abroad Coordinator, Lusaka Office, Hokkaido
University,

Dr. Victor Zulu, Senior Lecturer, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of
Zambia, and Acting President of Japan Scholars Association,
Japan Scholars,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

It is my honour and pleasure to host the 2018 Annual Assembly of Japan
Scholars Association with the presence of the Hon. Minister of Higher
Education and those concerned with the study exchanges between Zambia
and Japan.

As Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I have repeatedly stated on various
occasions that I am determined to do my best, building upon the
long-standing friendly and cooperative relationship between Japan and
Zambia, and in cooperation with the numerous people concerned, to further
advance the relations between our two countries in various fields.

Tonight is the occasion to highlight the people to people exchange and
cooperation and that in the fields of education, study, research, science and
technology.

Japan Scholars,

You are our treasures for the roles which you are playing now or you will be
playing in the future for underpinning the friendly and cooperative relations
between Zambia and Japan.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Hokkaido University for hosting the largest number of Zambian students under the Japanese Government's Scholarship Programme and study abroad coordination, as well as for its contribution to School of Veterinary Medicine and the Japanese language classes in the UNZA.

Japan annually receives 2 to 3 students from Zambia by the Japanese Government's Scholarship Programme, and this year we will receive 3 students, to make the number of the members of Japan Scholars Association, I understand, 52.

Last month I attended the launch of the Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 of the UNZA entitled "Towards Improving Service and Excellence in Higher Education Beyond Fifty Years", which was commissioned by Minister Luo. The Minister, referring to the fact that a number of the UNZA Vet students visited Japan and witnessed how hard the Japanese were working, emphasized that the UNZA should learn from that and the UNZA people should contribute to the development of this beautiful country Zambia.

I remember that the Hon. Minister made a similar statement about a year ago at our last year's gathering here.

As we intend to continue to receive Zambian students in Japan, surely we hope that, on their return, they will contribute to the development of Zambia, in addition to contributing to underpinning the friendship between our two countries.

Japan Scholars,

Having said this, I hope that you will enjoy this evening here in the Japanese Ambassador's Residence as your second home.

Thank you.