

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Annual Assembly of Japan Scholars
on 8 February 2019

Mr. Mabvuto Sakala, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education of
the Republic of Zambia,

Prof. King Nalubamba, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of
Zambia,

Dr. So Kawanobe, Deputy Director, Institute for International Collaboration,
Hokkaido University,

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

Senior Government Officials,

Japan Scholars,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to host the 2019 Annual Assembly of Japan
Scholars Association with the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the
Ministry 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, 55.

About a year ago and two years ago in this place, I recall that the Hon. Prof. Nkandu Luo, Minister of Higher Education repeatedly emphasized that Zambians who had studied in Japan should contribute to the development of Zambia.

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.