

Greetings by Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia at a Concert at his Residence on 21 February 2019

Your Excellency Mr. Sylvain Berger, Ambassador of France, and Mrs. Berger,
Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners,
Distinguished Guests,

It is my honour and pleasure to host a concert by French, Japanese and
Zambian musicians.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the
musicians who have agreed to play here this evening.

Ms. Delphine Scelles Hocquard, soprano singer, and Ms. Agnes de
Longevialle, pianist, are experienced musicians performing both in France
and internationally, and they will perform at Alliance Francaise, Lusaka,
tomorrow evening.

Ms. Chinatsu Hirayama, whom many of you know, is a music teacher at
International School of Lusaka, and a soprano singer who has performed not
only in Japan and Zambia, but also Italy, Indonesia and the United States.
Mr. Chrispin Samisana Lindunda, is an electric engineer and a tenor singer
performing at Alliance Francaise, among other places.

Without your cooperation this concert would not have become possible.
Thank you all for your cooperation.

And thank you, distinguished guests, to have come to this concert, as this is
my first concert with the guests like you here at my residence.

I have hosted a music gathering of Japanese residents here before.

But that was an informal concert by and for the amateur musicians, mostly
children who are learning to play the piano or the violin, without having the
piano here properly tuned.

So this is the first formal concert I host at my residence.

And last but not least, indeed the main the last.

I would like to thank most sincerely Sylvain.

It was only three weeks ago that Sylvain proposed the idea of having a
concert here, as I have a piano here, French musicians will be visiting, and

Chinatsu-san, Japanese singer is in Lusaka, as a project of collaboration between France and Japan for Zambia.

I agreed.

Later in the process of preparation, Sylvain and I agreed to invite a Zambian musician, too.

But the preparation was not easy, as a number of issues had to be resolved.

It's Sylvain, not me, who solved all difficult issues.

I presume that Mrs. Berger contributed, too.

And again, the musicians, you are great, as, to make this concert happen, you made various compromises in the spirit of cooperation.

Distinguished Guests,

Please give big hands to Ambassador and Mrs. Berger, and the musicians.

Before allowing Sylvain the right of reply, some housekeeping matters.

Please refrain from photo taking for security reasons.

Please switch off your mobile phone, or put in the silent mode, not to disturb the music.

Drinks will be available until 6:45 pm, but no longer.

If you move to the drink bar during the concert, please do so quietly with the courtesy to the players.

The rest rooms are over there, again please move quietly.

The 14 songs will be played according to the programme distributed.

Distinguished Guests,

I hope you will enjoy this concert of collaboration by French, Japanese and Zambian musicians.

Thank you.

Sylvain?