

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia at the Signing Ceremony of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Project for Strengthening Access to Quality of Integrated TB Prevention, Management in High TB/HIV Burden Community in Lusaka, Zambia on Thursday 28 February 2019

Dr. Richard Mwila, Clinical Care Specialist, Lusaka District Health Office,
Ms. Yuko Matsuoka, Acting Representative in Zambia, Japan
Anti-Tuberculosis Association or JATA,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this Signing Ceremony of a project of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects, for Strengthening Access to Quality of Integrated TB Prevention, Management in High TB/HIV Burden Community in Lusaka, Zambia, amounting to up to US\$ 591,679 or around 7 million Kwacha, for the first year of the 3 year project.

TICAD VI, that is the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2016, attached importance to promoting resilient health systems for quality of life, to achieve universal health coverage, and create “Resilient Africa”, among other priority issues. On the occasion of the visit of H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia to Japan in December last year at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, the two leaders reconfirmed the importance of achieving universal health coverage in Zambia.

This is why Japan is currently implementing various health projects in Zambia, including the Phase 2 Project to Upgrade Lusaka Health Centres to First Level Hospitals with the grant assistance of around 400 million Kwacha.

Vis-à-vis JATA, the Government of Japan already extended the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects totaling US\$ 1,265,957, or around 10

million Kwacha, for JATA's three year project entitled "Comprehensive TB and HIV control with a strengthened community participation in Chongwe District, Zambia" for the period from December 2015 to December 2018.

Through this project the members of JATA have cooperated with the various parties concerned in the Ministry of Health, and Chongwe District, to strengthen the capacity of the District to diagnose TB of patients, particularly those of co-infection of TB and HIV/AIDS, by training and supporting many scores of volunteers, training the nurses, and capacity building for X-ray photo taking and reading at the medical facilities in the District.

The new 3 year project by JATA from March 2019 to March 2022 which aims to strengthen the systems for TB screening and treatment with a view to decreasing the victims of TB, covers 7 public medical facilities in Chipata Sub-District and Chelstone Sub-District in Lusaka District, and plans the provision of GeneXpert for TB screening and X-ray equipment, the training of doctors, X-ray experts, and laboratory technologists for X-ray photo taking and reading, and the recruiting new volunteers and training them.

We believe that for Zambia to continue to achieve further development in a sustainable manner, the strengthening of the health sector is important, among other sectors.

Therefore, the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in cooperation with its private sector, in various ways, including funding this project.

In conclusion, we sincerely hope that this project will proceed smoothly to contribute to promoting universal health coverage in Zambia and creating resilient Zambia.

Thank you.