

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the  
Republic of Zambia at the signing ceremony for the Project for the  
Improvement of X-ray Equipment of Mtendere Mission Hospital in Chirundu  
District, Lusaka Province on Wednesday 6 March 2019

Dr. Erminia Ferrario, Hospital Director, and Members of Mtendere Mission  
Hospital,  
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 Grassroots Human  
Security Projects by the Government of Japan”, for the Improvement of  
X-ray Equipment of Mtendere Mission Hospital in Chirundu District,  
Lusaka Province, amounting to up to US\$ 137,375 or about 1.6 million  
Zambian Kwacha.

TICAD VI, 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.

We appreciate the activities of Mtendere Mission Hospital, established by an  
Italian church organization, which provides various medical services to the  
residents of the area as well as people coming from outside Chirundu, as the  
hospital took care of a total of 64,678 inpatients and outpatients in 2017.

While the X-ray examination was conducted at the hospital for 5,317 cases in  
2017, as the X-ray equipment used was of an old analogue type which had  
been used for many decades, its staff had to develop the X-ray images  
manually in a darkroom, the patients had to wait for a long time for them,  
and the images produced were not as clear as these made using the latest

technologies.

Also, the disposal of the big films and liquids for development has been burden to the environment.

Therefore, Mtendere Mission Hospital wished to obtain new Japanese digital X-ray equipment and requested the Government of Japan to assist it.

We have considered and decided to respond positively.

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.

Thus the Government of Japan intends to contribute to this process in various ways, including promoting further introduction of high quality Japanese medical equipment to Zambia, by funding this project.

In conclusion, I hope that this project will proceed smoothly to contribute to universal health coverage in Zambia, and to creating “Resilient Zambia”, and Mtendere Mission Hospital will develop to become a symbol of friendship between Italy, Zambia and Japan.

Thank you.