

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Handover Ceremony of a Vehicle to Organization
to support Rural Medicine in Zambia on Monday 1 April 2019

Mr. Martin Chowa, Chisamba District Commissioner, Central Province,
Your Royal Highness Chief Chamuka VI,
Dr. Kayoko Yamamoto, Deputy Director and Zambia Office Representative,
Organization to support Rural Medicine in Zambia, or ORMZ,
Mr. Dino Bianchi, Managing Director, Toyota Zambia,
Mr. Takuji Tagawa, Company President, Hitachi Construction Machinery
Zambia,
Mr. Tsuyoshi Yato, General Manager, Toyota Tsusho Zambia,
Representatives from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to attend this handover ceremony of a Toyota
Land Cruiser to ORMZ.

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 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
cooperation with its private sector in various ways.

We appreciate the activities of Dr. Yamamoto and ORMZ.

Dr. Yamamoto contributed to enhancing the health and medical services in
rural areas in Zambia, as a JICA expert from 2005 to 2007.

After that, having found the need for the improvement of the health

situation of remote areas of Chisamba District, Central Province, Dr. Yamamoto considered devoting herself to the health and medical care activities including mobile clinic activities there, and obtained the license of medical doctor also from the Government of the Republic of Zambia, in addition to that of Japan.

Dr. Yamamoto actually started mobile clinic activities in Luano area in October 2011.

While some organizations and people in Japan financially supported her activities, as the funds were not sufficient, eventually she had to use her own money to purchase medicines, equipment, and fuel for the car, and to pay her team members.

Noticing her difficult situation, the people who were willing to support her activities joined her in establishing an NPO (nonprofit organization) “Organization to support Rural Medicine in Zambia”, or ORMZ, in 2012, and Dr. Yamamoto and her team of ORMZ are now working for the health of the people in remote areas, conducting mobile clinic activities, in principle on every Wednesday, in Luano and other 3 areas in Chisamba District, Central Province.

As a result, a total of 2,620 people benefitted in 2018 alone.

However, as her car broke down, under severe road conditions, Dr. Yamamoto’s team needed to rent a car to continue the mobile clinic activities. Under the circumstances, Toyota Zambia and Hitachi Construction Machinery Zambia decided to present ORMZ with a Toyota Land Cruiser.

I am pleased to join ORMZ, Toyota and Hitachi in congratulating this development.

I am proud of Dr. Kayoko Yamamoto and ORMZ for their activities, and I am proud of Toyota Zambia and Hitachi Construction Machinery for their support to the activities.

This time our role is appreciation only, but we would like to consider additional possible cooperation, as the activities of Dr. Yamamoto and ORMZ are commendable but they do not have stable financial bases for their activities and they are in need of donations from the people who are willing to support their activities.

In conclusion, I hope that the activities of ORMZ led by Dr. Yamamoto with a new Japanese car will contribute to promoting universal health coverage in Zambia, and to creating “Resilient Zambia”, and thus to contribute to further strengthening the friendship existing between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you.