

Remarks of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic  
of Zambia at the Handover Ceremony of the Project for the Construction of a  
Learning Centre at St. Joseph College in Lusaka West, Lusaka Province  
on Tuesday 9 April 2019

Mr. Chisenga, Representing the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of General  
Education of the Republic of Zambia,  
Your Royal Highness Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II,  
Senior Officials of Lusaka Province,  
Mr. Langson Chibuye, Chilanga District Education Board Secretary,  
Mother Alphonsa, Chairperson, Sr. Nirmala Savarimuthu, Mission Superior,  
and Other Members of Congregation of the Immaculate Conception Zambia,  
Representatives from the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan at this  
handover ceremony of a Learning Centre at St. Joseph College.

TICAD VI, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2016, attached importance to  
human resources development to promote economic diversification and  
industrialization in Africa to create “Quality Africa”, among other priority  
issues.

Congregation of the Immaculate Conception in Lusaka West currently  
accepts at its school a total of 126 pupils from preschool to grade 12,  
including those who quit near-by schools and those who are economically  
vulnerable, and provides vocational training to the youth in such fields as  
dressmaking, handicraft, and computer skills, having established St. Joseph  
College in 2010, resulting in a total of about 50 trainees having obtained the  
certificate of completion of vocational training from TEVETA.  
In addition, the College lets a total of about 140 pupils at near-by schools use  
its computers annually.

However, as Lusaka West area in Chilanga District, among other areas, has  
a huge population of young people who are in need of various education and

training, including primary education, the people in the area have hoped that St. Joseph College would accept more children for education there.

Under the circumstances, Congregation of the Immaculate Conception formulated a proposal of construction of a Learning Centre at the College, equipped with a lecture room, a computer room, and a library, and requested the Government of Japan to fund its construction, and we, having considered the proposal, decided to respond positively.

I signed a grant contract of a project of Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan, for the Construction of a Learning Centre at St. Joseph College in Lusaka West, Lusaka Province, amounting to up to US\$ 88,888, or about 880,000 Zambian Kwacha, with Sr. Savarimuthu in February last year.

With the completion of this project, the study environment for 126 pupils here has been improved, the College is now able to accept many more additional children, and about 500 pupils studying at near-by primary schools will be able to use the computers of the College.  
Congratulations!

I hope that St. Joseph College with the new Learning Centre will contribute to human resources development in Zambia, and creating “Quality Zambia”, and will develop to become a symbol of the friendship between India, Zambia and Japan.

Thank you.