

Statement of Mr. Hidenobu Sobashima, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia at the Signing Ceremony for the Livelihood Support
Project in Meheba Local Integration Area in Kalumbila District
on Tuesday 17 September 2019

Mr. Andrew Banda, Director, Department of Resettlement, Office of the Vice
President of the Republic of Zambia,

Ms. Kazune Takahashi, Programme Coordinator, and Other Members of
Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan),

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my honour and pleasure to represent the Government of Japan to sign
a grant contract of a project of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects
from the Government of Japan, i.e. the Livelihood Support Project in
Meheba Local Integration Area in Kalumbila District, amounting to up to
386,637 US Dollars.

TICAD 7, that is the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African
Development, held with the theme of Advancing Africa's Development
through People, Technology and Innovation, in Yohokama, Japan, last
month, with the presence of H.E. Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the
Republic of Zambia, among other African leaders, emphasized the
importance of humanitarian, development, peace and security nexus, and of
addressing the issues of refugees in Yokohama Declaration.

On the occasion of TICAD7, AAR Japan hosted an official side event entitled
“Refugees and Sports – from the field of Refugee camps in Africa”.

We appreciate the activities of AAR Japan such as the implementation of
the Maternal and Child Health Project in Chisankane Area, Kafue District
continued 3 years from 2016 with the Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO
Projects, which directly benefited as many as 4,520 people in Chisankane
Area alone, and that of a JICA's grassroots technical cooperation project

which developed self-help groups in Meheba Local Integration Area.

This time, AAR Japan will, with the Grant Assistance from the Government of Japan, provide such necessary agricultural inputs as agricultural tools, seeds, seedlings, and fertilizers to 11 self-help groups consisting of about 24 families, support their joint transportation to markets, promote their information sharing of living activities and networking, involving also the relevant District officials, and support capacity-building of their institution management and accounting, benefiting about 1,700 people.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that this project implemented by AAR Japan will demonstrate a success story of humanitarian, development, peace and security nexus, and contribute to advancing Zambia's development through people, technology, and innovation.

Thank you.