

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Ryuta Mizuuchi on the Occasion of  
JOICFP's Activity Report Presentation at the Ambassador's  
Residence, Leopard Hills Road 16C, Lusaka  
On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Dr. Kennedy Malama, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health,  
Ms. Kumiko Goto, General Project Manager, representing Japanese Organization  
for International Cooperation in Family Planning, or JOICFP,  
Ms. Nang'andu Joan Kamwale, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood  
Association of Zambia, or PPAZ,  
Mr. Laurian Haangala, Vice-President, Zambia Chamber of Commerce and  
Industry, or ZACCI  
Representatives from the Media,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome you to my residence on the occasion of the Activity Report Presentation by JOICFP, concerning the programme "Promotion of Women's Health throughout the Life Cycle at One Stop Service Site in Zambia".

First, I am glad to have Dr. Kennedy Malama here in my residence for the second time in less than one week. I thank him sincerely for his readiness to deliver encouraging remarks on behalf of the Government of Zambia on this occasion. I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ms. Kumiko Goto, Ms. Nang'andu Joan Kamwale and other delegates from JOICFP, for coming from Copperbelt Province to report their outstanding activities. I further recognize other high-ranking officials of the Zambian central and local Government, Mr. Laurian Haangala from ZACCI and its members, for their participation.

JOICFP is a Japanese NGO which has been actively supporting the maternal and child health sector in Zambia. Its on-going project covers 16 areas in Masaiti, Mpongwe and Lufwanyama Districts in Copperbelt Province, and has steadily supported improving access of women to health services throughout their life cycles in these areas. Teenage girls and pregnant women are the direct beneficiary of this project. JOICFP's activities include renovating existing Rural Health Centres and capacity building of the staff of Health Offices and personnel trainings, who, in turn, can now teach other local officers and junior experts in the areas. And indeed, local people in the targeted areas have come to deepen their understanding for maternal and child health, and the rate of women who got prenatal and postpartum cares has improved dramatically since the start of the programme.

To this very important project, the Government of Japan has extended USD

1,172,457 within the framework of Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects since 2018. Encouraged by the success as I explained above, we approved the extension of this programme for another year. By doing so, we expect JOICFP to implement its far-reaching project even in a more sustainable manner.

However, improving the access of women to these Health Centres and preventing the mortality in the maternal and neonatal phase is not enough for the sustainable development of Zambia. These mothers and new-born children must have their means to sustain themselves and be able to contribute to the Zambian economy. For, a rise in the population without effective supportive measures for job creation may end up with retreating to poverty and increase in the gap between the rich and the poor.

It is, therefore, all the more remarkable that JOICFP has been making efforts to provide the women with an opportunity to learn how to produce competitive textile and other products. And that these activities are supported by prominent Japanese private companies such as Link Theory Japan Co Ltd.

I firmly believe that this indicates the direction that the cooperation between Japan and Zambia should be diverted. I therefore hope that this small but bold enterprise engaging both conventional humanitarian aid and new business dimension will receive appropriate attention of the Zambian public and business and bring interested players together. It is in this sense that I warmly welcome Mr. Haangala, Vice-President of ZACCI and its members as well as potential interested partners of JOICFP.

In concluding, I appreciate the contribution by JOICFP for maternal and child health in Zambia anew, and hope the next phase of its programme will bring more fruitful outcomes to further benefit women throughout their life cycle in target areas and beyond. Finally, I wish a new model of cooperation between Japan and Zambia every success and good luck in the future.

Thank you