

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Ryuta Mizuuchi on the Occasion of
JATA's Grant Contract Signing Ceremony at the Ambassador's
Residence, Leopard Hills Road 16C, Lusaka
On March 5th, 2020**

Dr. Kennedy Malama, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health

Ms. MATSUOKA Yuko, Resident Representative, Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, or JATA

Ms. AMANO Satomi, Project Coordinator, JATA

Dr. Rhoda Mukandawire, Lusaka District Health Director, Lusaka District Health Office

Dr. Patrick Lungu, NTP Manager, Ministry of Health

Mrs. Margaret Makukula, Executive Director, Community Based TB/HIV/AIDS Organization, or CBTO

Mrs. Grace Mbulo, Head of TB Laboratory, University Teaching Hospital, or UTH

Mr. Pharaoh Daka, Lusaka District Agricultural Coordinating Officer, Lusaka District Agricultural Office

Representatives from the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome all of you to my residence on the occasion of the Signing Ceremony of the Grant Contract of a project within the framework of "Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO projects" by the Government of Japan. Today, it is the project titled "Strengthening access to quality of integrated TB prevention, management in high TB/HIV burden community in Lusaka (Phase two)" implemented by JATA, that will be officially sealed and launched by the signing. Its total budget amounts to up to 569,651 US dollars.

At the outset, I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. Kennedy Malama for his readiness to deliver encouraging remarks at this memorable ceremony on behalf of the Government of Zambia. As Dr. Malama was the signatory of the MOU signed between the Ministry of Health and JATA in 2018, I think he is the right person as a witness of the signing and guardian for the implementation of this project in the years to come. I also would like to commend Ms. MATSUOKA Yuko and the delegates of JATA for their tireless efforts to bring forward this project, as well as Dr. Rhoda Mukandawire and other high-ranking officials from Ministry of Health, following my visit to Kalingalinga Health Center in January. I further recognize other government officials from the Zambian health sector, Mr. Pharaoh Daka from Lusaka District Agricultural Office, Mrs. Grace Mbulo from UTH and Mrs. Margaret Makukula from CBTO, for their participation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In hosting this signing ceremony, I am reminded of the World Tuberculosis Day will fall on March 24 in around 20 days. According to the WHO, 1.6 million

people died of TB in 2017, making it the number one cause of deaths from an infectious disease. Japan, too, has a long history of fighting against the spread of TB. Once referred to as Japan's "national disease" before the World War II, TB was a target of Japan's health care policy since the end of the war. To date, Japan has been successfully reducing the number of TB cases by one-hundredth compared to the past, owing, inter alia, to JATA's expertise in TB control.

Through its first phase of this project, JATA provided medical equipment including digital X-ray machine and GeneXpert to Kalingaliga Health Center and Chipata 1st Level Hospital, and trainings for health care workers and community empowerment in the target sites, in order to improve prevention, early diagnosis, care of TB and support for the patients at selected 7 public health facilities in Chipata and Chelstone Sub-districts in Lusaka District.

This success will be amplified, once the second phase of the project is put in place, aiming to ensure the installation of two more GeneXpert machines at the Mtendere Health Center and the Chelstone Health Center, as well as the maintenance of the donated digital X-ray machine and additional trainings for local health care staff and TB volunteers.

The seven public health facilities in the target Sub-districts will be further upgraded so that the capability of local TB control apparatus will come close to the global medical standard. Moreover, it is expected that local communities will expand their awareness campaign by TB volunteers. On top of that, I wish to mention that the high quality of medical service will be ensured by the Japanese-made equipment which are procured from Fuji Film, one of the leading industries in the medical field world-wide.

In concluding, I highly evaluate JATA's project and its contribution for the health sector in this country to date. The Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia hopes that the JATA's project will further enhance Zambia's efforts toward promotion of Universal Health Coverage by supporting the government to strengthen its programmatic and prompt response to various infectious diseases including TB. I wish JATA and its partners all the best for the continued success in the future!

Thank you.