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Remarks of Mr. OMINATO Satoshi,
Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Zambia,
on the Occasion of Aquarium Live Online Lecture
at David Kaunda Technical Secondary School on 25 January 2023

The Rt. Hon. Denny TAMAKI, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture,
Mr. Joel Kamoko, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education,
Mrs. Maureen Tonga, Head Teacher of David Kaunda Technical Secondary
School,
Dr. Keiichi SATO, Director of Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium,
Dr. Yoshihiro TAKAYAMA and Mr. Yosuke TANAKA, ROCINANTES,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Students,

It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this wonderful event today. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have worked so hard in the preparation of this event.

Japan consists of four main islands and more than 6,500 small ones spreading over 3,500 km in the seas and oceans. Our life and culture are deeply connected with the seas and oceans, and the rich lives under the water. That's why aquariums are so popular in Japan, which allow us to learn about the mysterious lives and ecosystems under the water.

Today, you will listen to a live online lecture of the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, one of the largest aquariums in Japan. Okinawa is a Prefecture located in the southwestern stretch of the Japanese archipelago, consisting of islands surrounded by beautiful warm tropical seas and coral reefs. Zambia has great rivers and lakes with rich ecosystems of their own. Yet I believe that there are a lot for you to discover about the seas and oceans. So I hope that you will enjoy today's tour, actively ask questions and deepen your knowledge.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to introduce a little about the connection between Okinawa and Zambia. When we at the Embassy hear about Okinawa, the first thing that comes to our mind is Mrs. Hatsuko Takara.

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Mrs. Takara, born in Okinawa, has been contributing to building friendship and goodwill between Japan and Zambia for over 40 years. She first volunteered at the Ndola Lions School for the Visually Impaired, and provided the school with financial and material support. In 1988, Mrs. Takara established the Zambia-Japan Association, which introduced scholarship to the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zambia and promoted youth sports exchanges. In 2021, the Japanese Government awarded Mrs. Takara with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for her contribution towards the friendship between two countries. Today, I am very pleased to see the renewal of ties between Okinawa and Zambia in this way.

I recognize that the students at David Kaunda School are very talented. Some of you may be considering studying in Japan. The Embassy of Japan invites applications for the Japanese Government Scholarship in April every year, and several Zambian students go on to study at Japanese postgraduate schools every year. One of the Zambian student alumni is now a researcher at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. I would be more than happy if you could study in Japan in the future, and visit Okinawa. Then, today, as a preliminary preparation, let's pay a virtual visit to the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium.

Thank you very much for your attention.