

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Takeuchi Kazuyuki**  
**At the Study in Japan Fair for Zambia to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
**2023 at the University of Zambia (UNZA)**

Dr. Michael MULENGA, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia,

Prof. Masahiro OKUMURA, Director of Hokkaido University Africa Office in Lusaka,

Dr. Yumi YAMANE, Director of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Nairobi Research Station,

Representatives of Hokkaido University, Nagasaki University, Soka University and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies,

Distinguished graduates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to join you today at the Study in Japan Fair for Zambia. Firstly, allow me to express my gratitude to the university for allowing the Japanese Government to partner with you in Zambia's Education system, and contribute to the common goals set for cultural exchange between the two countries.

We cannot stress more the importance of human resource development, namely for women and youth, and that is also the critical element in Japan's cooperation with Africa. This comes from the aspiration that Japan wants to be a “partner growing together with Africa”, focusing on 'people'. By mutually exchanging students through an Africa-Japan university network, Zambia and Japan aim to develop and foster high-level human resources on both sides, with good understanding and respect for respective cultures.

It is great to see that the traffic of students between Japan and Zambia is gradually returning to pre-COVID-19 disaster levels. Exchanging young people between two sides is the foundation of bilateral relations, and I am sure that all of us present here would like to pay every effort to encourage it. The Embassy of Japan would also like to name the Government Postgraduate Scholarship offered by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, now known as “MEXT Scholarship” as our another recommendation. We hope that many students from UNZA will become aware of it and apply.

The Government of Japan is currently formulating a new plan for sending our students abroad and accommodating overseas students. Our aim is to increase the number of Japanese students studying abroad to 500,000, and that of overseas students studying in Japan to 400,000 by 2033. In order to achieve this goal, more in-depth proposals are expected to be made. They will cover, for example, improving the environment for accepting promising students, reviewing visa status, facilitating employment in companies, or promoting the retention of students.

Finally but not for least, I would like to thank UNZA for organizing a short-term Japanese language course. With the cooperation of the Lusaka Office of Hokkaido University and support from Japanese students studying at UNZA, I understand that about 70 people are currently studying Japanese language at this three-month language course at UNZA, from April to July.

Learning Japanese language will provide you a gateway to know Japanese culture, history and its people. UNZA is the only place in Zambia where you can do it systematically. Students interested in studying in Japan are encouraged to attend this open course.

As we deepen our bilateral cooperation between Zambia and Japan, we should also promote contacts, cultivate human exchanges and deepen mutual understanding at the people-to-people level.

With these remarks, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish today's Study in Japan Fair be a great success for inviting you all to more intensive engagement with Japan.

Thank you for your attention!