

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki of the Embassy  
of Japan in the Republic of Zambia

On the occasion of

The 32nd swearing-in and prize giving ceremony of the school of  
veterinary medicine of the University of Zambia

Friday, 19th may 2023

Prof. NAMANGALA, Acting Vice chancellor of the University of Zambia,  
Hon. Dr. ANNA SONGOLO, the permanent secretary, Ministry of  
Fisheries and Livestock,

Prof. KING NALUBAMBA, Dean of the school of veterinary medicine,  
Distinguished guests,

Dear Graduands,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before anything, please allow me to extend my sincere greetings to you all. I am honored to be invited as guest of honor to the 32nd swearing-in and prize giving ceremony, an annual event of the school of veterinary medicine of the University of Zambia. It's an absolute pleasure to be here and be allowed to speak like this.

The areas in which veterinary expertise is required are extremely diverse. Animal production is one of the most important industries in Zambia, which bolsters livelihood of many people and growth of the country. Veterinary expertise is crucial for preventing health hazards such as zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases, thereby reducing the risk of social and economic losses. It is also to ensure the food safety and security in Zambia and other countries. There is also increasing demand for advanced disease treatment for pet animals. I dare say that future of this country of Zambia is on your shoulder.

### **(History of cooperation)**

Zambia and Japan have had history of close friendship. In 2024 you will be celebrating 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence, and celebrate same years of diplomatic relationship between two countries. Japan has walked, and will walk hand in hand with Zambia.

The long standing and warm relations have been reflected in the academic field. Japan has strong ties with UNZA, and the relationship between the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Japan is particularly outstanding. As you know, the current school building was built in 1983 with grant aid from the Japanese Government. This was built after the first Republican President, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, requested Japan to support the establishment of a veterinary school when the then Crown Prince and Princess of Japan visited Zambia. Over the years, active personal and academic exchanges have taken place, in which JICA and Hokkaido University have been playing a significant role.

In 2007, the Hokkaido university center for zoonosis control in Zambia was established in the premises of UNZA. This facility is promoting research and education in Zambia and the surrounding countries. With cooperation of Japanese partners, the school of veterinary medicine was at the centre of the COVID-19 response, through diagnosis at the biosafety level at three facilities.

In 2012, the Hokkaido University Africa Office in Lusaka was opened in the school of veterinary medicine. This Office encourages and promotes more students in Zambia and neighboring countries to study in Japan. It is my hope that academic exchange exercises between Japanese institutions of higher learning and research will be further enhanced as Japanese universities expand their activities abroad.

In December 2018, under the signed grant aid of the Economic and Social Development Programme, the Japanese Government donated various pieces of equipment, including a CT scanner and a small X-ray machine. The equipment has since been in the core of the Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine.

In 2021, another project started with an aim to further improve the capacity of veterinarians responsible for the early detection and appropriate management of livestock diseases by implementing the Clinical Studies Enhancement Project under the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

As I mentioned, Japan has long worked in close cooperation with UNZA to offer better environment as possible for everyone in this school. This comes from the belief that those who complete the study assume the role to contribute to the future development of Zambia, and more fruitful relationship between two countries accordingly.

**(Conclusion)**

Today I would like to congratulate the graduands for having successfully completed their training in veterinary medicine. I am informed that the school has a number of international students, some of them are graduating today. Congratulations to you, and to your family and relatives who have supported you till today. I sincerely wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.