

**Speech by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki, Ambassador of Japan to
the Republic of Zambia, at the Handover Ceremony of the Medical
Equipment at the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of
Zambia**

Wednesday, 14th June 2023

Her Honor Mrs. Mutale W. K. Nalumango, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia,

Hon. Douglas Siakalima, Minister of Education,

Hon. Felix Mutati, Minister of Technology and Science,

Prof. Anne Sikwibele, Vice-Chancellor, University of Zambia,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, it is my great pleasure to attend today's Grant Aid handover ceremony at the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Zambia in the presence of Her Honor the Vice-President.

Under the grant aid by the Japanese Government's Economic and Social Development Programme, we are pleased to provide Japan's high-quality medical equipment worth 3.7 million US Dollars (500 million JPY) for the University of Zambia's School of Veterinary Medicine.

In welcoming today's ceremony, let me touch upon once again on the history of close friendship and cooperation between Zambia and Japan.

Zambia will celebrate its 60 years of independence next year. At the same time, both countries will celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations. This is a great opportunity for us to further strengthen the close ties between our two countries. As it is well known, the School of Veterinary Medicine was established in 1983 with Japanese grant aid. Since then, there has been diverse cooperation in basic clinical and disease prevention education, system building and active people-to-people and academic exchanges among the School, JICA and the Hokkaido University.

In 2012, the Hokkaido University Africa Office was established in the School of Veterinary Medicine. Since its establishment, the Office not only played the pivotal role in promoting Japanese education and research institutions in collaboration with Zambia and neighboring countries, but also strengthened teachers and student exchange programmes.

In 2021, the Clinical Studies Enhancement Project for the School of Veterinary Medicine was initiated by JICA. The project aims to produce veterinarians who are capable of diagnosing and treating a wide range of animal diseases. The project also provided teaching trainings for teachers who are engaged in clinical and veterinary education curriculums that meet the international standards.

And today, with Japanese government's grant aid, state-of-the-art equipment such as mobile X-ray machine, CT scanners and anesthesia machine will be newly introduced, and obsolete equipment and machinery will be upgraded, which we believe will contribute to early detection of infectious diseases and to the enhancement of the research capacity of the School.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we have seen, the Japanese Government, JICA, Hokkaido University and Japanese partners have been committed to the School enhancement over a long period of time. Our cooperation area is not only tangible components of modernising equipment and facility, but also intangible components such as provision of education, basic and clinical research that align with the international standard.

As we all are aware, the need for veterinary expertise is extremely diverse and is one of the very important areas that require cooperation. Veterinary expertise is not only necessary to prevent health hazards such as zoonosis and transboundary animal diseases, but also to reduce the risk of social and economic losses, not to mention, it is also crucial in stabilising food supplies in Zambia and other countries for food security.

I believe that, with our cooperation to the University, the Veterinary School will become one of the finest educational and research institutions in the world. It is also my hope that the School will contribute to the further development of the country. Lastly, I wish our bilateral relationship will be further strengthened and that we will grow together as partners.

Thank you for your kind attention.