

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki at the CRA
Signing Ceremony of the SATREPS Project “Risk-based Participatory
WASH Planning and Citizen-data WASH Statistics for African
Peri-urban Settlements”
Wednesday, 8th November 2023**

Mr. Joe Kalusa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation,

Dr. Brilliant Habeenzu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Technology and Science,

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

Dr. HARADA Hidenori, Associate Professor, Kyoto University,

Prof. YAHARA Tetsukazu, Research Director, Japan Science and Technology Agency,

Distinguished Guests, and

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure to witness the signing ceremony of the Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) for the project “Risk-based Participatory WASH Planning and Citizen-data WASH Statistics for African Peri-urban Settlements” under the programme of Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development, the term which has been abbreviated as SATREPS.

Before anything, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Zambia, including the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, the University of Zambia, Kyoto University, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), JICA and all those who are present here today for celebrating and reaffirming their partnership and efforts in making this project a reality.

The importance of improving water and sanitation is emphasised in Zambia’s 8th National Development Plan and is one of Japan’s key areas of cooperation. In Zambia, only 65% of the population has access to basic water and just 32% to sanitation services. Even in the capital city of Lusaka,

development of such facilities as water supply and sewage systems are lagging. Especially in peri-urban compounds, the lack of proper water and sanitation facilities is severely affecting the growing number of people from rural areas, and thus periodically causing cholera outbreaks. Diarrhoeal symptom is a leading cause of death among young children and is a serious health hazard that we can never ignore.

In order to contribute to the improvement of this situation, the Government of Japan has decided to implement the SATREPS project with a grant of approximately 2 million US dollars (300 million Japanese yen) over the next five years. As Dr. HARADA explained the project detail earlier, what is noteworthy of this project is that it enables the community residents themselves to see visualised risks of faecal contamination and diarrhoea from below-standard water and sanitation in their living environment, as well as effects of risk reduction through remedial measures. I am also impressed by the approach of the project. Not to teach, but to motivate people to improve for quality sanitation through their own experiences would lead to big step forward.

As everyone knows, pollution in daily life is often invisible and neglected. But it is significant for people themselves to become aware of the importance of improving the environment around their lives and changing their own behaviour.

Japan has provided support for construction of water supply facilities in the compounds, waste management systems and reduction of lead pollution. I am confident that these collective efforts between our top-tier universities will greatly contribute to improvement of water and sanitation systems in Zambia and result in healthier lifestyle for Zambians.

As is well aware of, next year marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Zambia. I believe that partnership of this project will play a significant role in reinforcing our long-standing bilateral ties and I wish for every success.

Thank you.