

Remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia, at the Ceremony of Exchange of Notes on Japan's Grant Aid for "The Project for the Enhancement of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education"

Thursday, 25th January 2024

Hon. Dr. Situmbeko Musokotwane, Minister of Finance and National Planning,

Hon. Douglas Syakalima, Minister of Education,
Permanent Secretaries and Senior Government Officials Present,
Director of the National Science Centre (NSC),

Distinguished Guests, and
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here today to sign and exchange notes with Honourable Minister Musokotwane for the Grant Assistance by the Government of Japan. The project being sealed today is entitled "the Project for the Enhancement of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education" with a total budget of 1.6 billion yen, equivalent to approximately 11.1 million US dollars.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that the economic development and growth of the Zambia lies in the development of human resources in education. The New Dawn Government of Zambia has designated STEM as a key intervention in the Eighth National Development Plan and the National Policy on Education.

In addition to Zambia's high fertility rate as well as free education policy, the quality of education infrastructure plays an imperative role to cater for the country's growing enrolment, with a particular focus on promoting STEM education.

Support for the education sector has been one of the important pillars of Japan's development cooperation policy for Zambia. It is therefore a great honour for me to be able to take part in helping improve the quality of education for Zambia's young people, who are the future of the country. In

addition, it is my great honour to be able to contribute to the development of a physically and mentally healthy population. They will be self-motivated, and values hard work and sense of responsibility, so become the building blocks of a peaceful nation and society.

From 1998 to the present, the Government of Japan has continued to provide various forms of assistance in the field of education, totalling approximately 28.4 million US dollars (4.2 billion yen). The major projects include grant aids for the Projects for Construction of Primary Schools in Lusaka and for training to strengthen teachers' performance and skills.

The Project for the Enhancement of STEM will provide funding for the construction of additional specialised classrooms for chemistry experimentation and design and technology training in STEM secondary schools, as well as the provision of useful equipment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Japan is committed to providing continuous support to this great country of Zambia. We are absolutely confident that this project will be successfully implemented, and thus contribute significantly to the economic and social development of the people of Zambia.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Zambia and Japan. It naturally coincide with 60th anniversary of Independence of Zambia, because Zambia claimed the Independence during the time of Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964, and friendship between two countries started at that moment.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere wish that this project becomes another solid foundation for our cooperative relationship to flourish in the decades to come.

Thank you.