



Embassy of Japan

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**Remarks of H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki,
Ambassador of Japan to Zambia
at the Certificate Presentation Ceremony to the Participants to
the “Ship for World Youth” Programme 2023-2024
(3rd April 2024)**

Mr Kangwa Chileshe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts,
Ms Kangwa Mubanga, Acting CEO of the National Youth Development Council,
Dear Participating Youths,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It was January 19th that I saw you off to the trip of the Ship for World Youth Programme 2023-2024, as the first ever Delegation from Zambia. Today, I am even happier to welcome you back and to hear the report of the successful four-week session.

Before anything, please allow me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the National Leader, Ms Mulako Mwanamwalie. She has been so instrumental in making your participation possible. It was unfortunate that she had to leave Japan due to illness. However, the Cabinet Office has informed me that the remaining Participating Youths have rallied their strength to successfully complete the programme. I commend you all, including the National Leader, for your dedication and teamwork as Team Zambia, and offer you my sincere congratulations.

My thanks also go to the Ministry of Youth, Sport and the Arts and the National Youth Development Council, our two partner organisations in realising the participation of these young people in the Ship for World Youth Programme. You deserve to be thanked for the success of these young people.

Dear Participants,

You have experienced Japan from a number of aspects. I believe that the discussion with your colleagues was extremely fruitful. New experience in every aspect will definitely affect your future positively. How fruitful it will be for your life depends on your will to make it fruitful. I believe that you do not waste the opportunity you got. Please create future Zambia with your wisdom hopefully originated from your experience in Japan.

I am sure you felt that you, young Zambians, share the same interests and challenges with young people from Japan and other parts of the world, regardless of nationality and despite the differences in culture. President Hichilema has repeatedly stressed that 'instability anywhere is instability everywhere' and that it is important for Zambia to become more engaged in international and global challenges. It would give me immense pleasure if this programme has helped you to understand and develop such broader perspectives that are essential for young people today.

Dear Participants,

As you are aware, 2024 is the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Zambia. Your trip to Japan was essentially the kick-off for this commemoration. I sincerely hope that you will be a bridge of friendship between Japan and Zambia, and extend the bridge toward the future of this world. The programme completion certificates I am about to present to each of you represent the grand expectations of Japan and its people, including myself, for your future.

In conclusion, let me once again congratulate you on all that you have achieved and welcome back to Zambia. Congratulations and Okaerinasai.

(END)