

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia,
On the Occasion of
The 33rd Swearing-in and Prize Giving Ceremony of the School of
Veterinary Medicine of the University of Zambia
Friday, 17th May 2024**

Prof. Mundia Muya, Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia
Ms. Himba Cheelo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and
Livestock,
Dr. Victor Zulu, Acting Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Graduands,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me to extend my warmest greetings to you all. I am honoured to be invited as the Guest of Honour to the 33rd Swearing-in and Prize Giving Ceremony, an annual event of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Zambia. This is the second time for me to attend this auspicious ceremony, the first being last year. I am very delighted to come back to this beautiful campus again.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Zambia's independence and also the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Zambia. In such a particular milestone year, it is deeply moving for me to witness the graduation ceremony of the School of Veterinary Medicine that symbolises the long-standing friendship between the two countries.

Japan and UNZA have forged strong ties, especially the outstanding relationship with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Starting with the construction of the current school building in 1983 with grant aid from Japan, Japan and UNZA have closely worked together in various forms, including JICA's technical cooperation and active people-to-people and academic exchanges with Hokkaido University.

I would like to mention a few examples of such collaboration of recent years.

Since 2021, "Clinical Studies Enhancement Project for School of Veterinary Medicine" has been in progress. This project aims to train veterinarians so

that they are able to diagnose and treat various animal diseases.

In June last year, Japan donated state-of-the-art medical equipment such as mobile X-ray machine and CT scanners worth 3.7 million dollars under the “Economic and Social Development Programme”. At the handover ceremony we were privileged to have Her Honour Mrs. Mutale Nalumango, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, in attendance.

In this manner, we are very pleased to be able to contribute to the improvement of medical care of livestock and research capacity through the training of veterinary personnel as well as the update of medical equipment. We sincerely hope that this equipment will be properly maintained and fully utilised and that the training will be provided further to many generations of veterinarians, including those from neighbouring countries, making the School as a Centre of Excellence of the region. I am delighted to have learned that the school already has a number of international students, some of whom are graduating today.

The area where veterinary expertise is required is extremely diverse. Livestock production is one of the most important industries in Zambia, which bolsters the livelihood of many people and the growth of the economy. Veterinary expertise is also 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. I would like to underscore that the future of this country is on your shoulder.

Last but not least, I would like to express my utmost admiration and congratulate all the graduands on your commitment to the studies and having successfully completed the strenuous programme at the best veterinary school in this country.

Once again, congratulations to you all, and to the family and relatives who have supported them to this day.

Thank you.

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