

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia,
On the Occasion of
The 34th Swearing-in and Prize Giving Ceremony of the School of
Veterinary Medicine of the University of Zambia
Tuesday, 20th May 2025**

Dr. Charles Maseka, Director of Veterinary Services, presenting Ms. Himba Cheelo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock,
Prof. Boniface Namangala, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia,
Prof. Alfred Mwanza, Vice Chancellor, Kwame Nkrumah University,
Prof. Victor Zulu, Acting Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Graduands,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Warm greetings to you all!

It is great honour to be invited as Guest of Honour to the 34th Swearing-in and Prize Giving Ceremony, an important annual event of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zambia.

This is the third time I have had the privilege of officiating at this significant ceremony. It is a great pleasure to return and to celebrate this special day with all of you.

Last year, Japan and Zambia marked a major milestone—60 years of diplomatic relations. Building upon this solid foundation, our partnership is now entering a new and promising phase.

In this context, it is deeply moving for me to witness the graduation ceremony of this distinguished School of Veterinary Medicine—an institution that symbolises the enduring friendship of our two countries.

Over time, both of our countries have expanded our relationship in many areas of our economies and in the academic field, as exemplified by the academic exchanges between Hokkaido University and the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the decades, our bilateral cooperation has expanded across many

sectors, including health, education, and agriculture to name a few. Among these, collaboration in the field of veterinary medicine stands out as one of the most enduring and impactful one.

As most of you know, the strong ties between Japan and the School of Veterinary Medicine began with the construction of the school's current buildings in 1983, through a grant aid from the Government of Japan. This assistance included not only its infrastructure but also essential equipment for veterinary education.

Since then, our partnership has continued to grow through various academic exchanges and technical cooperation. I would like to reiterate that JICA and Hokkaido University have played key roles in promoting excellence through research collaboration, capacity development, and the exchange of students and academic staff.

I would like to highlight a recent cooperation. Clinical Studies Enhancement Project (CSEP), which has been implemented since 2021 under the Department of Clinical Studies, has supported training for veterinary staff in the use of advanced equipment, such as mobile X-ray machines and CT scanners. The Government of Japan provided these devices, valued at approximately 3.7 million US dollars, through the grant of "Economic and Social Development Programme."

In 2023, they were officially handed over at a colourful ceremony, attended by Her Honour Mrs. Mutale Nalumango, Vice President of the Republic of Zambia.

This grant programme has also enabled faculty from UNZA to visit veterinary institutions in Japan and the region, while Japanese experts have shared their knowledge and experience here in Zambia. As we all know, veterinary medicine plays a vital role in Zambia's development. It not only supports livestock production and food security, but also helps preventing zoonotic and transboundary diseases, thereby safeguarding public health and the economy as a whole.

Although the CSEP is scheduled to conclude later this year, I sincerely hope that our cooperation will continue through the strengthening of veterinary services—contributing not only to the Zambian Government's vision of becoming a net exporter of beef, but also to economic growth through

economic diversification.

I am also delighted to hear that the school continues to welcome students from neighbouring countries, some of whom are graduating today—congratulations! I commend the school for being the Centre of Excellence in its regional role in veterinary training and its contribution to excellence in Southern Africa.

To the graduating students, your training has equipped you with the skills needed to serve communities, strengthen food systems, and contribute to national development. The future of this country—and indeed the region—rests on the shoulders of professionals like you. I hope that you will make good use of the knowledge and expertise that you have acquired here to contribute to the nation's economic growth. As you go out there, may you serve the nation with diligence.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to all the graduands on your remarkable achievement.

I also extend my warmest congratulations to your families and to all those who supported you along the way.

I wish you every success in your careers and future endeavours.

Omedetou Gozaimasu!

Thank you.

(End)