

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia,
On the Occasion of the Official Opening Ceremony of the Hitachi
Construction Machinery Zambia's Remanufacturing Centre
Expansion and Engine Rebuild Facility**

5th June, 2025

Mr. President, Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia,
Her Royal Highness Dr. Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II ,
Honourable Chipoka Mulenga, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry,
Senior Government Officials,
Distinguished Executives from Hitachi Construction Machinery,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honour to be here with you today, Mr. President, on this memorable occasion to mark the official opening of the expansion of the Hitachi Construction Machinery Zambia's (HCMZ) facility here in Lusaka.

This occasion marks a significant moment not only for the Hitachi Construction Machinery, but also for the enduring partnership between Japan and the Republic of Zambia. I wish to begin by congratulating the Hitachi Construction Machinery and the entire team, for this impressive achievement. This expansion stands as a testament to your strong commitment to Zambia and your continued confidence in this country's potential.

As Ambassador of Japan to Zambia, I am proud to witness the tangible contributions that Japanese companies are making to Zambia's economic transformation. Japan's engagement in Zambia goes beyond diplomacy. Our bilateral relationship is grounded in shared values of sustainable development through human capital empowerment and technology transfer, and in mutual respect.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to share that the investment by the Hitachi Construction Machinery, amounting to a cumulative total of approximately 40 million US dollars today, is an outstanding testament of how Japanese enterprises are contributing to unlocking Zambia's potential for its economic growth. Through this new facility, I would like to further highlight that Hitachi is not only supplying the world-class machinery to Zambia's mining sector but is also advancing skills development, job creation, and local industrial capacity.

This expanded facility plays a vital role in supporting Zambia's ambitions to grow its mining sector and to reach its copper production target of 3 million metric tonnes per year by 2031. The presence of Hitachi's technology and expertise is instrumental in achieving this vision.

Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen,

This bilateral partnership being displayed today reflects Japan's broader commitment to Zambia's development goals. The Japanese companies, including Hitachi, have been increasingly focusing on sustainable and inclusive growth in Africa. This includes investments that bring about long-term value, knowledge transfer, and contribute to national development through compliance, transparency, and responsible business conduct.

Among other things, please also allow me to highlight Hitachi's strong Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, especially its academic partnerships with the Copperbelt University, Northern Technical College, and Kitwe Vocational Training Centre. Among such efforts to note is the "The Project for Promoting Youth Employment through Construction Equipment Operating Skills Training", which was launched in Zambia from 2021, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Government of Japan, the Government of Zambia and Hitachi Construction Machinery. To date, great milestones have been achieved. Last November, construction of the Kitwe Vocational Training Centre was officiated, and the construction machinery was also donated by Hitachi. Within the first Quarter of this year, great progress has been also registered in the construction works of the Heavy Equipment Operation workshop which is yet to be handed over within this year, and a number of training programs have already been launched, among which is the heavy equipment operations training program.

Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen,

These collaborations, I believe, would serve to enrich Zambia's educational ecosystem, promote hands-on industrial training, and empower the next generation of skilled professionals.

As the world continues to face complex global challenges - from climate change to supply chain disruptions - what we celebrate here today is not only infrastructure, but also resilience, foresight, and partnership. Zambia is rich in resources, full of talents and opportunities. Japan remains committed to being a reliable partner in realizing that potential.

Please allow me to conclude by reaffirming Japan's commitment for Zambia's industrial and economic growth. We will continue to encourage Japanese companies to explore Zambia as an investment destination and to engage in ways that benefit both our nations.

To the Hitachi Construction Machinery Zambia, I extend once again my heartfelt congratulations. May your continued growth be a source of prosperity for Zambia, and an inspiration for deeper collaboration between our two countries.

Thank you.

Arigatou gozaimasu.