

Remarks of H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki,  
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia,  
At the Handover Ceremony of Equipment for Research, Conservation,  
Exhibition and Education to Livingstone Museum donated by the Government of  
Japan to the Government of the Republic of Zambia.  
At the Livingstone Museum, Livingstone  
2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Hon. Mr. Rodney Sikumba, Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Zambia,  
H.E. Dr. Tobias Mulimbika, Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to Japan  
Ms. Eunice Nawa, District Commissioner,  
Her Worship Ms. Constance Muleabai, Mayor of Livingstone,  
Mr. Alexander Mutali, Board Chairperson, National Museums Board,  
Mr. George Mudenda, Director General, National Museums Board,  
Ms. Victoria Chitung, Director, Livingstone Museum,  
Media representatives,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today on the occasion of the handover ceremony of the equipment for research, conservation, exhibition and education to the Livingstone Museum.

The Livingstone Museum plays a vital role in preserving Zambia's cultural heritage and passing it on to future generations. This museum not only stores exhibits and artefacts of the past but also serves as a venue to promote a deeper cultural understanding among its visitors, including locals and tourists. The Japanese government is delighted to take part of this museum's role through upgrading of the museum's equipment with the cultural grant assistance. I hope this assistance will further enhance the activities of the Livingstone Museum and provide valuable cultural experiences to its visitors.

This project, which runs over a period of three years from 2023 to 2025, has been implemented at a total cost of approximately 660,000 US dollars, funded by the grant assistance of the Government of Japan. It aims not only to upgrade equipment, but also to promote cultural exchange between the peoples

of Zambia and Japan. I am delighted to hear that the photo exhibition by the JICA volunteers is already underway. Japanese people visit Livingstone to see the Victoria Falls. I hope they also visit this museum to know what kind of country Zambia is and its culture to deepen their understanding of Zambia. I look forward to the Livingstone Museum utilising these new technologies to convey Zambia's rich history and culture to a broader audience. Furthermore, through this cooperation, we aspire to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between our two countries.

Moreover, I believe that this equipment upgrade can expand the museum's impact on the local community. For instance, educational programs and workshops organized by the museum will provide opportunities for the younger generation to take pride in their culture and tradition and to develop the capacity to share its value with the world. Through such initiatives, the Livingstone Museum will continue to play its role as a beacon of cultural heritage.

Additionally, we must not overlook the importance of cooperation through culture. Cultural exchange transcends mere exhibitions or events, becoming a bridge for mutual international understanding and also for peace. Learning different cultures, traditions and history will provide us with the first step to build mutual understanding in our differences. Adding to our development cooperation, by working together in the cultural field, Japan and Zambia can lay the foundation for a better future. The experiences gained through our cooperation can also benefit exchanges with other countries, especially Zambia's neighbours—Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia—that share the border in the proximity of the Livingstone Museum.

Japan and Zambia have built and nurtured friendly relations over many years. Through this assistance, we hope to deepen cultural exchange and strengthen the bond between our two countries. I am hopeful that we can embark on new initiatives for the future together.

To the members of the Livingstone Museum and the government officials of Zambia present here, I look forward to our continued cooperation. Thank you very much.

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