

**Remarks of H.E. Mr. TAKEUCHI Kazuyuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia,
At the Inauguration of the Prof. Imasiku A. Nyambe Water and
Environment (WET) Laboratory and Launch of the Centres of
Excellence”
University of Zambia, School of Mines
Friday, 26th September 2025**

Honourable Collins Nzovu, Minister of Water Development and Sanitation,
Dr. Brilliant Habeenzu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Technology and
Science,
(TBA) xxx, Director of Higher Education, Ministry of Education,
Prof. Mundia Muya, Vice-Chancellor, University of Zambia,
Prof. Trywell Kalusopa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation,
University of Zambia,
Senior government officials and university members,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to join you here today at the inauguration of the Prof. Imasiku A. Nyambe Water and Environment (WET) Laboratory, which was established under the SATREPS's "SPLASH Project." On this occasion, I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the launch of the Integrated Water Resource Management Centre or IWRM Centre as one of the Centres of Excellence at the University of Zambia.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Zambia, University of Zambia, Kyoto University, and all other stakeholders who contributed to the realisation of this project and the establishment of the WET Laboratory.

As you clearly recall, Zambia suffered a severe cholera outbreak back in late 2023 to early 2024, resulting in many infections and tragic loss of life. Amid that challenging time, the Government of Japan decided to stand by Zambia and provided emergency relief supplies and technical support to the Cholera Treatment Centre in an effort to curb the transmission of the virus and protect the health and safety of the Zambian people.

In Zambia, waterborne diseases remain a serious public health issue. They

are caused largely due to contamination of water and living environment, and addressing them requires a combination of safe water supply, improved sanitation infrastructure, and the promotion of better hygiene practices, namely WASH.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this context, the WET Laboratory, which we are inaugurating today, is equipped with state-of-the-art technology that enables microbiological and molecular biological analysis of water and environmental samples—something that was previously difficult to achieve in Zambia. I understand that this laboratory boasts one of the most advanced quantitative measurement capabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa. This will make it possible to collect high-quality data on water and sanitation, identify sources of contamination, and assess the impact of pollution on people's health and the environment. I firmly believe that the laboratory, combined with Japanese expertise and experience, will serve as a powerful and effective tool for evidence-based policymaking and contribute to addressing Zambia's water and sanitation challenges.

Also, the SPLASH Project has been implemented since 2024 and will run over a total period of five years with a grant of approximately 2 million US dollars (about 300 million Japanese yen) from the Government of Japan. Through this project, I look forward to seeing further collaborative research between Japanese and Zambian researchers and graduate students, and the development of future experts capable of carrying out high-level analysis in this field, thus contributing to the overall health system not just in this country but across the region.

To that end, the IWRM Centre, as the counterpart institution of the SPLASH Project, will play a pivotal role in promoting integrated approaches to water and environmental challenges. I sincerely hope that the collaboration between the SPLASH Project and the IWRM Centre will generate meaningful outcomes, and further strengthen the partnership between Japan and Zambia in this vital field.

I also believe that this collective effort will further deepen the cooperative relationship between Japan and Zambia in the field of science and technology,

(Check against delivery)

and serve as a symbol of the strong friendship between our two countries.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that this project will contribute to the improvement of water and sanitation conditions in Zambia, enhancing public health and the quality of life for its people. Japan will continue to value its partnership with Zambia and provide sustainable and practical cooperation.

Thank you.

(End)