

REMARKS MADE BY H.E. MR AKIO EGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL DOCTORS OF ASIA –MULTISECTORAL AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AT 11:00 HOURS ON FRIDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY 2012

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my utmost pleasure to be here today, representing the Government of Japan at this signing ceremony for Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Project.

Today, the Government of Japan will provide a Grant amounting to 710,189 United States dollars, or approximately 3.7 billion Zambian Kwacha, to the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia -Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services. The purpose of the grant is to facilitate the implementation of the **TB Control Project with Focus on Childhood TB in Lusaka City, Phase 2**. This is a community-based comprehensive project to tackle tuberculosis (TB), with particular attention given to children exposed to the risk of contracting TB. The project areas are George, Matero Main, Matero Reference, Kanyama, Makeni, Chawama. It is expected that the grant will contribute to the establishment of a health system which promotes health services to children with TB, as well as those who are at risk of TB infection. The project activities include awareness-raising on childhood TB, strengthening of referral system, transport service to health institutions, strengthening Directly-Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) to children with TB, training of health volunteers, among others. The activities of this project are aligned with the Japanese Assistance Strategy to Zambia, as well as with the health sector priorities being implemented by the Zambian Government.

The Government of Japan appreciates the commendable and complementary role being played by the Association in ZAMBIA (by the name of ZAMINDS) in addressing TB at community level, in collaboration with Lusaka District Health Management Team. Furthermore, the Government of Japan is mindful of the critical role the **TB Control Project with Focus on Childhood TB in Lusaka City** is expected to play in improving the welfare and productivity of people affected by TB in the project areas. With this in mind, the Government of Japan has agreed to extend financial assistance to the organization to enable it to implement the said Project.

Allow me to mention that all the projects being implemented in Lusaka by ZAMINDS are based on requests by the Lusaka District Health Management Team AIDS/STD/TB and Leprosy Department. I would like to commend the Department for the efforts being made to enhance community access to health services and I am pleased, on behalf of the Government of Japan, to extend support to these efforts through the Association.

The Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects is a scheme for providing Japanese government funds for economic and social development projects undertaken by Japanese NGOs in developing countries and regions. The aim of this scheme is to provide timely and

direct support to Japanese NGOs involved in community development, primary health care, education, poverty relief and support for the less privileged people. The Embassy of Japan has rendered support to the past projects by the Association as follows:

- (i) Project for the Construction of the Matero Community Health Post in 2003**
- (ii) Project for the Strengthening of TB Control Measures in Lusaka City in 2008.**
- (iii) TB Control Project with Focus on Childhood TB in Lusaka City, Phase 1 in 2011**

It is hoped that the activities of the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia -Multisectoral and Integrated Development Services, will continuously contribute towards the well-being of the vulnerable people in Zambia, and further contribute to strengthening the cordial relations that exist between the people of Japan and the people of Zambia.

Thank you very much.