

REMARKS BY H.E. MR. AKIO EGAWA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF
THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR
WORKSHOP TO CHURCHES HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA
LUSAKA, 21TH AUGUST 2012

Hon. Dr. Patrick Chikusu, Deputy Minister for Health,
Ms. Karen Sichinga, MPH, Executive Director of Churches Health Association of
Zambia (CHAZ),
Representatives from CHAZ,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan to hand over this **Medical Equipment Maintenance and Repair Workshop** to the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ).

This Project was funded by the Government of Japan under its “Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects” Programme. First introduced in Zambia in 1990, this programme aims to support various development projects which would enhance human security at the grassroots level. Over 150 projects have been funded and implemented in Zambia since its inception.

CHAZ coordinates the provision of health and medical care services to clinics and health centres in different parts of Zambia. In particular, CHAZ engages in

important public health programmes such as HIV/AIDS mitigation initiatives and diagnosis and treatment of TB, malaria and other diseases. Currently, CHAZ is directly involved in running 126 clinics and health posts spread throughout Zambia. Indeed, CHAZ has been sent to heal the sick, as its motto says.

It was in appreciation of these efforts being made by CHAZ that the Government of Japan decided to extend a Grant amounting to **102,181 United States Dollars**, or approximately **480 Million Zambia Kwacha**, to the organization for the implementation of **The Project for Construction of Medical Equipment Maintenance and Repair Workshop**.

CHAZ's good fight to deliver health and medical care services has been compromised by frequent breakdown of medical equipment and the ensuing long delays in equipment repairs. This has proved particularly challenging due to insufficient number of experts to carry out repairs and tools to cover the whole country. This was the rationale for the Grant to CHAZ.

The funds extended to CHAZ were to be specifically used for the construction of the Medical Equipment Maintenance and Repair Workshop, as well as for the procurement and installation of the required workshop equipment and tools. I am very impressed to see that the project has been successfully completed.

It is my hope that this new Medical Equipment Maintenance and Repair Workshop along with the related facilities being handed over today will continue serving their purpose for a long period so that the quality of life in local communities, nigh or distant, will be improved through the tireless errand of mercy by CHAZ.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan's current challenges combined with the re-building after the unprecedented earthquake and tsunami that struck the eastern part of Japan in March last year have not seen a waning of Japan's commitment to the economic and social development of Zambia. On the contrary, the Government of Japan will host the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June, next year.

The Japanese people became acutely aware of the solidarity between Japan and Africa through the support and messages of sympathy that came from Africa in the aftermath of the unprecedented disaster. I hope that this successful project will contribute to the further strengthening of the cordial relations that exist between the peoples of Japan and Zambia.

Finally, allow me to emphasize that the funds that were used to undertake this Project have come from individual Japanese taxpayers. It is thus my sincere hope that the facilities will be well utilized and maintained in order to have a positive long-lasting impact on the people of Zambia.

Thank you for your attention.

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