

REMARKS BY MR. ATSUSHI KUWABARA, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES
AD INTERIM OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF THE
AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR
CENTRE TO CHIPEMBI FARM COLLEGE
CHIPEMBI, 12TH OCTOBER 2012

His Royal Highness Chief Chamuka,

Ms. Christine Mayondi, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education,

Ms. Peggy Kabonde, General Secretary, United Church of Zambia,

Mr. Paul Samba, Principal, Chipembi Farm College,

Distinguished board members of Chipembi Farm College,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the students for the beautiful songs
and welcoming and enthusiastic dances.

It is my pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan
to hand over these restored agricultural machinery maintenance and
repair centre and classrooms to the Chipembi Farm College.

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 what we call human security at the grassroots level. Over 150 projects have been funded and implemented in Zambia since its inception.

Japan has been extending its development assistance to the agriculture sector in Zambia based on the belief that improvement of agricultural knowledge has a direct impact on poverty alleviation for the people of this country. Since 1980, Japan has supported Zambia in promoting food crop diversification and other agricultural techniques. We hope that the result of this long-term cooperation will provide Zambia’s agriculture with huge benefits and profits.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chipembi Farm College has been making commendable efforts in offering technical training in agriculture to students and local small-scale farmers, despite the challenges in classroom space and the condition of the agricultural machinery maintenance and repair centre. It was in appreciation of these efforts that the Government of Japan decided to extend to this College a grant amounting to 101,509 US Dollars, or approximately 500 million Zambian Kwacha, to construct these new facilities.

It is my hope that these facilities will enhance the technical training in order to benefit the small-scale farmers in the surrounding community by increasing their agricultural production.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to inform you that His Excellency Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata, President of the Republic of Zambia, is now visiting Japan by official invitation of the Government of Japan. His Excellency the President has met with the Emperor of Japan as well as the Prime Minister. On Wednesday this week, the Kazungula Bridge Project was signed between the two countries, and Japan will provide Zambia with a loan amounting to approximately 36 million US Dollars. From tomorrow, the President will visit Hokkaido, in the North of Japan, for an official tour of agricultural facilities and institutions. Hokkaido University has a very good relationship with the University of Zambia for nearly 30 years. I hope that this successful visit will further strengthen the cordial relations that exist between Japan and Zambia. Looking at you student today, I remembered the very famous words often attributed to an American professor. In the 19th Century, after Japan opened the country to the world, Japan hired foreign advisors to learn scientific knowledge from abroad. One of them was Dr. Clark, who taught at Hokkaido University, and the famous words were “Boys, be ambitious”. Looking at you students, I thought the words were

meant just for you. “Boys and girls, be ambitions, and lead the country’s development”.

Finally, allow me to emphasise that the funds that were used for this Project came from Japanese taxpayers. Japan has its own challenges of re-building the infrastructure after the unprecedented earthquake and tsunami struck the country in March last year. However, the Japanese people remain committed to the economic and social development of Zambia and Africa. The Japanese Government will host the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June next year with participation of heads of states and governments from African countries. It is thus my sincere hope that these facilities will be well utilised and maintained, so that they will symbolize the friendship between the people of Japan and Zambia for many years to come.

Thank you for your attention.

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