

**REMARKS BY MR. ATSUSHI KUWABARA  
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES AD INTERIM AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE GRANT CONTRACT  
WITH ASSOCIATION FOR AID AND RELIEF, JAPAN (AAR JAPAN)  
ON FRIDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013**

Ms. Hiromi Kawano, Country Director, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan,  
Members of the Press,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today, representing the Government of Japan at this signing ceremony for Grant Assistance to the Association for Aid and Relief or AAR Japan.

Today, the Government of Japan will provide a grant amounting to 867,790 United States dollars, or approximately 4.34 million Zambian Kwacha (4.34 billion in pre-rebasing Kwacha), to AAR Japan. The purpose of the grant is to facilitate the implementation of the **HIV/AIDS Project in Kafue District**. This is the first phase of the three-year community-based comprehensive project to tackle HIV/AIDS within three project areas of Kafue District, i.e. Chilanga, Kafue Town, and Muwenbezi. This grant will contribute to the establishment of a support system for people who live with HIV/AIDS, as well as those who are at risk of HIV/AIDS infection. The project activities include construction of an Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Center at the clinics of three project areas to provide clinical examinations, improvement of data management, training of health volunteers, and awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS and ART. The planned activities of this project are aligned with Japan’s Country Assistance Policy to Zambia, as well as with the priorities of the Government of Zambia in the Health Sector Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan can make, and has been making, a considerable contribution to the improvement of health of people around the world, in both medical research and medical service provision.

A few months ago, people of Japan rejoiced at the news that Professor Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University of Japan was awarded with the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, together with Dr John Gurdon, for his research on

induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells.

Next year, at the margin of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD V, which invites heads of states and governments from Africa to Japan, an award ceremony for the Second Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize is expected to take place. The Government of Japan established the Noguchi Africa Prize in 2006 in memory of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, who made self-sacrificing efforts for medical advancement in Africa in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the Prize will be awarded to distinguished individuals or organisations in the field of medical research and medical services in Africa.

In the area of support to medical service provision, the Government of Japan has been providing financial support, which includes financial contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Also, under the model called EMBRACE, or “Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care”, the Government of Japan aims at strengthening health systems which create linkages between communities and facilities. In Japan’s Country Assistance Policy to Zambia, focus is on the improvement of social infrastructure for sustainable economic growth.

The Embassy of Japan appreciates the commendable role being played by AAR Japan in addressing HIV/AIDS at the community level in cooperation with equally dedicated Zambian people. We have rendered support to past projects by AAR Japan, such as the **Chilanga HIV/AIDS Project from 2005 to 2008** and the **Chipapa HIV/AIDS Project from 2009 to 2011** by providing grant assistance.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere hope that AAR Japan’s activities will continue to enhance the well-being of vulnerable people in the Republic of Zambia, and further contribute to strengthening the cordial relations that exist between the people of Japan and the people of Zambia.

Thank you.