

REMARKS BY
H.E. MR AKIO EGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE FOURTH NATIONAL KAIZEN CONFERENCE
LUSAKA, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2013

Hon. Richard Taima, MP, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry,
Mr. Trevor Kaunda, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour
Mr. Andrew Chipwende, Director General, Zambia Development Agency,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure today to say a few words at the opening of Zambia's fourth National KAIZEN Conference. I am delighted to see the KAIZEN movement gaining more momentum in Zambia, as evidenced by the increasing number of teams represented at this Conference.

I am also pleased to note that the KAIZEN movement is expanding in the African continent and to see representatives from other African countries, such as Mozambique and Rwanda, participating in today's conference.

Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Japanese manufacturing industry became highly competitive in the global market, producing a variety of products renowned for their high quality and

precision such as motor vehicles and electronic products. To a great extent, this was achieved through improved productivity. All stakeholders at all places of work must fully utilise their potential by working together to raise their productivity, product and service quality, and ultimately customer satisfaction. Without this, the economy will not become vibrant enough to achieve the target of broad-based job and wealth creation, and of equitable development. Indeed, I believe KAIZEN can be one of the pivotal components in ensuring poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth and thus job creation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since independence, Zambia has enjoyed renowned peace and stability. The country is also richly endowed with abundant natural resources. With such a comparative advantage, Zambia's further economic growth and improvement of living standards should depend on how the Zambian people, spearheaded by all of you here, could raise productivity.

I hear that the Government of Zambia is now planning to establish a national KAIZEN centre to be called the KAIZEN Institute of Zambia. It is a very welcome move. It is hoped that the Kaizen Institute of Zambia will help produce many professional KAIZEN consultants, who will hopefully play an important role in rolling out and familiarising companies with the KAIZEN

concept throughout Zambia. The Government of Japan will spare no effort to assist the Government of Zambia in those endeavours.

In conclusion, please allow me to urge all stakeholders to proactively and continuously engage themselves in KAIZEN, in the ongoing pursuit of productivity improvement. The Japanese Government remains committed to providing support to your efforts.

Thank you for your attention.

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