

Greeting Remarks by Ambassador Akio Egawa
On the Occasion of the Annual General Meeting of
The Zambia JICA Fellowship Association
New Government Complex, Lusaka, 2 March, 2013

Hon. Nicholas Banda, MP, Deputy Minister of Local Government and
Housing,

Dr. Joseph Mulenga, Chairperson of Zambia JICA Fellowship Association
(ZAJIFA),

Mr. Yoshihide Teranishi, Resident Representative, JICA Zambia Office,
JICA Fellows,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be with you today and thank you very much for
giving me this opportunity to say a few words to you.

In fact, it is always a pleasure for me to meet JICA Fellows. Since my
arrival in this country almost two and a half years ago, I have come across
quite a number of Zambians who have been to Japan under JICA training
programs. Some have stayed months or even years, while others have
stayed for a shorter time in Japan. But all of those I met told me
unanimously how useful and meaningful the programs were, and how they
enjoyed their stay in Japan. This indicates how successfully the JICA

fellowship program for Zambia has been carried out. Taking this opportunity, I would like to commend JICA Zambia office for such achievement.

Last year saw positive developments in Japan-Zambia relations. A number of high-level bilateral visits took place. In October, H.E. President Michael Sata paid a working visit to Japan. At the time of the President's visit to Japan, a monumental agreement was signed for Japan's cooperation for the Kazungula Bridge Construction Project. All in all, the Presidential visit further consolidated the friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and Zambia.

I expect further strengthening of our ties to take place this year. Another important development cooperation project, so-called the Inner Ring Road Construction Project, just started in January. In June, TICAD V will be held in Yokohama, where new initiatives for African development will be launched with African leaders and the international community.

Between our two countries, there still is a lot of room for expansion of interactions, especially exchange of people. The number of Zambian visitors to Japan was slightly over 300 in 2011. I hear JICA Zambia Office sends out about 100 Zambians a year on training programs to Japan. That means one out of three Zambian visitors to Japan is a JICA trainee. Indeed, JICA training programs are of extreme importance to Japan-Zambia

bilateral relationship and JICA fellows are the cornerstone of that relationship. For, after all, the strong partnership between our two countries is built upon trust and friendship between our two peoples, which you are spearheading.

It is gratifying that each one of you is now playing a leading role in various sections of society, spearheading also the national development of Zambia. I wish each one of you continued success in your respective careers.

Thank you very much.