

**REMARKS BY MR. HIDEKI YAMAJI,
COUNSELLOR/DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION,
EMBASSY OF JAPAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
SUPPORT CENTER (TISC) PROJECT MEETING & WORKSHOP
ON WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY, 2013**

Ambassador Albert Muchanga, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia,
Mr. Christopher Mapani, Acting Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Patents and Companies Registration Agency (PACRA),
Ms. Joyce Claire Banya, Senior Advisor, Mr. Mussadiq Hussain, Program Officer, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO),
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to be here today, on behalf of the Government of Japan to witness the launch of the training seminar and workshop on the Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) project. Today's seminar and workshop are held as a part of the contribution made by the Government of Japan, especially, Japan Patent Office, to the World Intellectual Property Organization or WIPO in 2013, which amounts to 570 million YEN, or approximately 31 million Zambian Kwacha through the WIPO Japan Funds. The Government of Japan appreciates the hard work and efforts made especially by WIPO and the Government of the Republic of Zambia, without which today's workshop could not have been realized.

The main objective of the seminar and workshop is to provide training programs so that you can gain necessary skills to utilize the newly established Technology and Innovation Support Center here in Zambia. Given such an opportunity, we expect all of you to learn the usefulness, value, and dissemination of the patent information, as well as patent search strategies and techniques.

As you go through these programs, you will be able to access technical information including high-quality patent information. It would be too ambitious to say that this training will enable you to invent high-tech products and reliable cars like TOYOTA right away. However, once equipped with the knowledge and information that you will acquire from this seminar, you will no doubt obtain valuable ideas that are required for infrastructure development and economic diversification, emphasized in the Sixth National Development Plan and for obtaining goals stated in the Vision 2030. The knowledge and

information would also lead to the development of local industries through the creation of original brands in Zambia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some of you may perhaps wonder why the Government of Japan has been providing support in the area of intellectual property for African countries. You may recall that, in early June this year, Japan successfully hosted the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD V, in Yokohama, Japan. The theme of the Yokohama Declaration 2013 of TICAD V, “Hand in Hand with a More Dynamic Africa,” is a clear indication that Japan aims at working with African countries as an equal partner and build a win-win relationship.

Furthermore, as more innovative initiatives are introduced in Zambia, more people will be aware of the importance of protecting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). This would lead to introducing and enhancing laws and regulations for IPR protection in Zambia. If IPR would be protected not only in Zambia but in all African countries, and eventually in all other countries in the world, the innovation would gain world-wide momentum. That would form the basis of worldwide prosperity. The Government of Japan would like to see this become a reality in the long run, and shares these aspirations with WIPO.

Based upon these ideas, the WIPO Japan Funds have been established to increase awareness of the importance of the industrial property system and to allow people to appreciate its benefits. This is being done through providing assistance to target countries by establishing or strengthening their industrial property laws and institutions, and by reinforcing the skills and capacity of human resources.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere hope that you will obtain necessary skills for searching high-quality technical information, and that this workshop will serve as a stepping-stone towards the enhancement of protection and utilization of IPRs in Zambia, which will foster technical innovations and contribute positively to the sustainable economic development of the Republic of Zambia.

Thank you.