

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. AKIO EGAWA  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
AT THE PREMIERE EVENING OF JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL 2013  
STER-KINEKOR ARCADES, LUSAKA, 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER, 2013**

Mr. George Zulu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Arts,  
Fellow Colleagues from the Diplomatic Corps,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all and thank you most sincerely for attending this evening.

This annual Japan Film Festival, organized by the Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation, was started in 2005 with a view to enriching the relationship between Japan and Zambia by promoting a better understanding of Japanese culture and arts. Since then, a total of 17 Japanese films have been put on the screen, from historical drama to human drama to comedy to animation, and about two thousand five hundred people have participated in this event.

Over the next three days, we are going to present the opportunity to watch three Japanese films, which were highly acclaimed in Japan and overseas.

They are:

- (i) “Shindo” for this evening
- (ii) “Glasses”, scheduled for Wednesday and
- (iii) “Sawako Decides”, scheduled for Thursday

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tonight, as we launch the Festival, we present to you “Shindo”, which is a Japanese word meaning a prodigy. This movie depicts a 13-year-old piano prodigy. The film is replete with beautiful music, so classical music fans will have much to appreciate.

Tomorrow, we present to you “Glasses”, depicting a woman who visited a seaside lodge and her relationship with those who are living in the same place. Beautiful seascape is one of the highlights.

On the final day, we present to you “Sawako Decides”, which is a comedy drama depicting a woman who compromised her job and life, struggling to reconstruct her father’s business. The people who were leading a lackluster life without any goals will face up to adversity.

I hope these three movies will transport you on a trip to Japan and afford you with a rich and meaningful cultural experience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I personally attach great importance to this cultural event, because cultural exchanges can significantly improve mutual understanding between our two countries. I would like more Zambians to know Japan is not only a country of high technology and Sony or Toyota products.

Next year, Zambia will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. As Japan and Zambia started official relations upon Zambia's independence, we will also be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-Zambia relations. The Embassy of Japan is planning to make 2014 a big year, full of commemorative events and cultural performances. The Japan Film Festival will also be held in a bigger way. After all, there won't be a similar occasion for the next fifty years! Why not celebrate in a big way?

In closing, once again I would like to thank you all for attending this premiere night of Japan Film Festival 2013. Please enjoy the film show for this evening.

Thank you.