

Speech by H.E. Mr. Kiyoshi Koinuma, Ambassador of Japan to the
Republic of Zambia on JICA Media Breakfast

(28 February 2014)

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to make a speech at this special occasion of the second media breakfast hosted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Zambia office. I have heard that many participants are attending from almost all the media companies in Zambia. This clearly demonstrates Zambia's great interest and expectation for Japan's Official Development Assistance, especially projects of JICA.

(Zambia's economic growth and Japan's economic cooperation)

Zambia's economy has been recording about 6 to 7 % annual growths in the recent years. Zambia is also renowned for its huge deposits and world-class production of natural resources such as copper and cobalt. Moreover, the country also has great potential in agriculture and hydro power generation. However, to sustain its economic growth, it is extremely important to boost productivities of the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, upgrading of infrastructure, social infrastructure and human resource development.

Japan has been particularly supporting those areas to encourage Zambia's economic growth. Japan's development cooperation with Zambia started with dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in 1970, followed by a loan in 1972 and grant aid in 1980, totaling 213.9 billion yen (2.1 billion US dollars). We believe that these supports have been contributing to Zambia's development policy, focusing to sustain the country's macro economy, social justice and equity through diversifying Zambia's economy, improving productivity, creating job opportunities, keeping healthy national finance and increasing the investments for basic economic infrastructure.

(TICAD V and Japan's development policy)

Since 1993, Japan has hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) every five years. The TICAD V in Yokohama in June last year marked the 20th year since then. During the TICAD V, the "Yokohama Action Plan" was adopted to pursue the economic growth in Africa through "Robust and Sustainable Economy", "Inclusive and Resilient Society" and "Peace and Stability". The Japanese government has set a basic assistance policy for Africa for promoting investments, in the private sector through infrastructure and human resource development.

In Zambia, we are considering seven sectors as main supporting pillars such as Private Sector Development, Agriculture, Transport, Energy, Education, Health and Water & Sanitation. Africa is now shifting from the recipients of development aids to a big investment market. Having recognized Africa as investment market, the Government of Japan is supporting investments to Zambia on a win-win base.

In line with this background, the Japanese Government, together with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Johannesburg Office and Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) hosted the first ever Japan-Zambia Trade and Investment Promotion Forum on January 29-30th in Lusaka, Zambia. The purpose of the forum was to promote both Japan and Zambia in seeking future partnership prospects in trade and investment for the middle to long term. The forum was a great success. The Japanese Government will continue to actively attract Japanese companies to invest in Zambia to contribute to sharing of profits for both countries, create job opportunities, technical transfer and to lead and sustain the economic development in Zambia.

(Follow up of TICAD and Japan's diplomatic policy towards Africa)

Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, as a follow-up of TICAD V, visited Africa, namely Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Ethiopia, from the 10th to 14th of last month. One of the objectives of his visit was to promote investment in Africa through public-private partnership, and to the improvement of business environment for supporting Japanese companies' investment. Looking at the fact that our Prime Minister visited Africa and announced additional assistance measures for Africa, you may realize the

seriousness to which the Japanese Government attaches importance of economic cooperation and to promote trade and investment with Africa at high level. Against the backdrop of this serious approach, Zambia and Japan now have a great opportunity to promote trade and investment to propel both countries' economic development.

(In Closing)

In closing, I would like to gladly announce that this year marks the 50th anniversary of Zambia-Japan diplomatic relations as well as the golden jubilee of Zambia's independence. Our Embassy prepared a small booklet looking back our diplomatic relationship in the half a century and looking ahead at our future relations. It is included in the handouts. Please read it when you have time.

I sincerely hope that our economic cooperation towards Zambia up until today, and promotion of trade and investment that we are currently working on, would, through positive interactions, bring benefit to both Japan and Zambia.

I trust that this great occasion hosted by JICA Zambia Office will promote meaningful exchanges of opinions between Japan and Zambia. I also hope the participants from the media will gain a deeper understanding of our activities in Zambia, so that Zambian citizens will have better understanding about Japan's cooperation in the country. We will continuously work closely with the media, as we consider media power is essential to enhance the relationship between Japan and Zambia.

Thank you very much for your attention.