

Speech by H.E. Mr. Kiyoshi Koinuma, Ambassador of Japan to the  
Republic of Zambia on the occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> ZAJIFA Seminar and  
Annual General Meeting

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,

I would like to congratulate the Zambia JICA Fellowship Association  
(ZAJIFA) as we commemorate this special occasion, the 21<sup>st</sup> Zambia JICA  
Fellowship Association Seminar and Annual General Meeting. I am pleased  
to be here to attend the meeting together with Hon. Nicholas Banda,  
Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing, Chairman of ZAJIFA  
and all other participants.

(Japan's Economic Cooperation to Zambia)

Japan has been particularly focused on supporting to boost productivities of  
the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, upgrading of infrastructure,  
social infrastructure and human resource development to encourage  
Zambia's economic growth. Japan's development cooperation with Zambia  
started with JICA's Training Programme in 1968, 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 by  
graduating from copper dependency to enhance growth in the agriculture,  
manufacturing and tourism sector, improving productivity, creating job  
opportunities, keeping healthy national finance and increasing the  
investments for basic economic infrastructure.

### (JICA's Training Programme)

JICA's Training Programme for Zambia started in 1968. In the recent years, JICA has received more than 100 trainees every year from Zambia to participate in the programmes which were formulated under Japan's prioritized area. The duration varies depending on the programme. JICA has received more than 3000 trainees up until today. Needless to say, the trainees acquire skills in an advanced country through the training programmes, but more importantly, the trainees have an opportunity to learn Japanese culture, traditions and ways of life in Japan.

### (Achievement of TICADV and Japan's Support to Zambia's Economic Development)

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 train the young generation and to empower the women.

The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) took place in Yokohama in June last year. During the TICAD V, "Yokohama Declaration 2013" was adopted. One of the basic themes of Yokohama Declaration 2013 was 'women and youth's empowerment' which was based on women's empowerment, youth's technical and vocational trainings for human development and creation of job opportunities. While on human resource development, we have developed the "ABE Initiative" that stands for African Business Education Initiative for the Youth. Under the ABE Initiative, we are inviting 1000 selected intelligent youth from all over Africa to shoulder future businesses between Japan and Africa through public private partnership. The plan is to provide opportunity for those selected Africans to study in Japanese Universities and/or to experience internship in the Japanese Corporations, as well as to

establish fellowship network. ZAJIFA has in fact already developed solid network within fellows. However we are expecting the importance of networking to be raised even higher because of ABE Initiative. Thus Japan would like to further support ZAJIFA in this regard.

Africa is now shifting from being a recipient of development aid to a big investment market. To support Japanese companies' advancement in Zambia, and also to encourage promotion of investment, it is important to utilize ABE Initiative well to enhance women and youth's empowerment to establish a mutually benefitting relationship between Japan and Zambia.

Having recognized Africa as an investment market, the Government of Japan is supporting investments to Zambia on a win-win basis.

#### (Conclusion)

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

To make Japan's economic cooperation effective in Zambia, also to develop economic relations between Zambia and Japan that will be mutually beneficial, it is essential to include in the process both the women and the youth who are well-acquainted with Japan. ZAJIFA, in this regard, plays an extremely instrumental role.

I trust that today's occasion will promote meaningful exchanges of opinions between ZAJIFA members, Zambian government and Japan. I hope that this occasion will enhance the mutual understanding between Japan and Zambia to further enhance the cordial relationship between the two countries.

Thank you very much for your attention.