

Speech by Mr. Hideki Yamaji, Chargé D' Affaires Ad Intérim  
at the Embassy of Japan on the Occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ZAJIFA Annual  
General Meeting held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2015

Hon. Nicholas Banda, MP, Deputy Minister of Local Government and  
Housing,  
Dr. Joseph Mulenga, Chairperson of Zambia JICA Fellowship Association  
(ZAJIFA),  
Mr. Hisanao Noda, Resident Representative, JICA Zambia Office,  
JICA Fellows,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Ambassador of  
Japan, His Excellency Mr. Kiyoshi Koinuma, together with Hon. Nicholas  
Banda, Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing, Chairman of  
ZAJIFA and all other participants. I would like to congratulate the Zambia  
JICA Fellowship Association (ZAJIFA) as we commemorate this special  
occasion, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Zambia JICA Fellowship Association Annual General  
Meeting.

(Japan's Economic Cooperation to Zambia)

Japan has been particularly focused on boosting the productivity of the  
agriculture and manufacturing sectors, upgrading of infrastructure, social  
infrastructure and human resource development. 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 218.7 billion yen  
(1.8 billion US dollars).

(JICA's Training Programme)

Since 1968, when JICA's Training Programme for Zambia was initiated,  
the Japanese Government established a very fruitful partnership which has  
resulted in a major and successful example of our international cooperation..  
In recent years, JICA has received almost 100 trainees every year from

Zambia to participate in the programmes. JICA has received more than 3000 trainees up until today. Needless to say, the trainees acquire skills in an advanced country through these training programmes, but more importantly, the trainees have an opportunity to learn Japanese culture, traditions and Japanese way of life.

(Zambia's Economic Development and Japanese assistance)

Zambia's economy has recorded about 6 to 7 % annual growth in the past years. Zambia is also renowned for its huge deposits and world-class production of natural resources such as copper and cobalt. Moreover, the country has great potential in agriculture and hydro power generation. It is therefore extremely essential to invest in human capital in order to sustain economic growth. I am proud to say that ZAJIFA's members who have acquired skills in Japan through the JICA training programmes are a treasure of Zambia, and a driving force of development in the country.

Last year, 2014, Japan celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Government of Japan has now revised Japan's official Development Assistance Charter, which has been disseminated as the Development Cooperation Charter in February this year. Under the new charter, priority areas will be ; (1)“Quality growth and poverty reduction through such growth”, (2)“Sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society” and (3)“Building a sustainable and resilient international community through efforts to address global challenges”. The Development Cooperation Charter emphasizes ODA's role as a catalyst in promoting Public-private partnerships and partnerships with NGOs, which will lead to farther investment and trade. Over the past 60 years, Japan has not only placed great emphasis on ODA, providing unilateral “assistance” to developing countries, but rather on extending its “cooperation”, as an equal partner, in order to facilitate self-reliance and sustainable growth of developing countries. Japan would like to work together with developing countries, for achieving “Quality growth” which will promote sustainable development.

(Conclusion)

I trust that today's occasion will promote meaningful exchanges of

opinions between ZAJIFA members, the Zambian government and Japan. I am confident that this occasion will have a positive impact on the mutual understanding between Japan and Zambia to further enhance the cordial relationship that exists between the two countries.

I thank you !