

REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA, AMBASSADOR
OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SYMPOSIUM FOR ZAMBIA-JAPAN COLLABORATION ON
ZONOSIS

LUSAKA, 16th June, 2015

Prof. Stephen Simukanga, Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia,
Prof. Shigeo Ito, Professor emeritus, Center for Zoonosis Control,
Hokkaido University in Japan,
Dr. Mwaka Monze, Head of Virology, University Teaching Hospital,
Senior Government officials,

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan at this momentous Symposium for Zambia-Japan Collaboration On Zoonosis.

I am pleased to announce that the Government of Japan will support a project for Global collaboration of research and development for the control of zoonoses for a period of five years. Amid this project, Hokkaido University will conduct research on infectious diseases such as influenza, tuberculosis, and dengue fever in collaboration with the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zambia and University Teaching Hospital at Hokkaido University Research Centre for Zoonosis Control in Zambia base.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Japan will continue to be actively involved in the promotion of preventive measures against infectious diseases. Japan pledged to contribute 500 million U.S. dollars to deal with health problems in Africa at TICADV in 2013 in Yokohama. This has gone a long way in assisting more than 27 African countries, by offering services for measures against infectious diseases, health personnel training, maternal and child health and health system reinforcement for Universal Health Coverage.

With regard to the Global Fund, Japan played a very instrumental role in its launch, working tirelessly towards its development, with the Fund aiming at putting an end to the "big three" infectious diseases of AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

This year as well, Japan will make a contribution of 190 million U.S. dollars to that Fund, and come December, Japan will host a meeting in Tokyo to discuss the future of the Fund.

In addition, the Government of Japan has been contributing approximately 173 million U.S. dollars towards prevention and control measures against the Ebola virus disease which has had devastating effects on the lives of so many. Furthermore, In-kind and Human support such as personal protective equipment and the dispatch of experts to West Africa has been ably provided.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1984, the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zambia was built under the Japan Grant Assistance at a cost of 40 million U.S. dollars. This year, the School of Veterinary Medicine will have been in existence for 30 years after its completion in 1985.

Several graduates of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zambia have been contributing to train and cultivate veterinary services and to develop stockbreeding industry after they graduated as doctors of Veterinary Medicine at Hokkaido University and returned to their home country.

May I add that Japanese researchers are also very active in Zambia; the interaction of people between the two countries evidently continues to become more and more intensive, and this is very encouraging.

The Government of Japan has been supporting research of infectious diseases since 2005 in Zambia, and this new project about to begin will be the fifth. The current project, which is the fourth, researches Ebola virus. This project, designated as the sole Ebola virus inspection agency in Zambia, has contributed positively to prevention of this deadly infection.

In closing, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to state that, according to WHO, one or more unknown diseases have occurred each year since 1970. No one knows when such diseases will strike. There have been grave prevalences of serious diseases such as SARS, AIDS, and Ebola, with evidence suggesting that these viruses are transmitted from wild animals. The frequent outbreaks of the Influenza virus, commonly known as the “flu” continue to ravage the lives of several people. Therefore, this project to

aggressively research these various infectious diseases is of vital importance.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere hope that Japan and Zambia will together obtain prolific results through joint research that will ultimately not only benefit our two countries, but will extend to people all over the world. I am confident that this project will further strengthen the cordial friendship existing between Japan and Zambia and furthermore amplify academic exchange between our two nations.

Thank you.