

**REMARKS BY H.E. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE JAPAN
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRESS TOUR
KASAMA, 18th AUGUST, 2015.**

Hon. Given Lubinda, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Hon. Freedom Sikazwe, MP, Minister of Northern Province

Hon. Maxus N'gonga, MP, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to give a special thanks to Hon. Given Lubinda, Minister of Agriculture and Livestocks, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestocks, and members of the press for participating in this Japanese Development Cooperation Press Tour. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge for the great support for Japanese aid in agriculture sector by the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestocks. Also I appreciate the member of the press for always showing interests and understanding in Japanese aid.

The main purpose of this tour is for the press to visit the sites of Japanese development cooperation and deepen the understanding of the accomplishments of our aid. I'll be even more grateful if you could convey the understanding broad to people in Zambia afterwards.

Japanese support in agricultural sector has started in the 1980th, with the maintenance of the infrastructure for the increase in food production in Zambia, such as the construction of agricultural roads and grain warehouses using grant aid. Also, it is a good example of Japanese aid that Japan has supported the foundation of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zambia, and at present it still bolsters the stockbreeding industry in Zambia with the continuous collaboration with the Hokkaido University in Japan. One of our recent projects is RESCAP, which aims to advance the extension services focusing on the technical assistance for the small-scale farmers, which the most of the Zambian residents fall into. The other project is FoDiS-R, which conducted the basic studies for the increase of rice production in Zambia.

The project that we are going to inspect with this press tour, T- COBSI, Technical cooperation Project in Community-Based Smallholder Irrigation, is literally a technical assistance project for the small-scale farmers, and its main approach is to construct simple irrigation facilities by the farmers themselves with the locally accessible materials. This approach that involves the farmers themselves and requires only simple technique makes the maintenance of the irrigation easy, and it is steadily spreading in three provinces in north. The size of each facility is small; however, the agricultural water to each community enables the vegetable production even in the dry season, resulting in the improved income for the farmers.

Japanese aid places emphasis on how the impact by the support can be sustainable. In T-COBSI, trained TSB officers and extension officers from the ministry carry out the project together with the farmers. Thus this technique can be taken over for many years.

Agriculture in Zambia has high potential; however, it still has room for development, and the Government of Zambia is making effort for the various challenges like diversification of the crops and vulnerability for the climate change. The Government of Japan would like to continuously contribute to the development of agriculture in Zambia with a focus on the technical cooperation hand in hand with the Government of Zambia.

Thank you for your attention.

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