

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA, AMBASSADOR
OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, AT THE
PREMIERE EVENING OF JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL,
STER-KINEKOR ARCADES, LUSAKA,
15th September, 2015**

Hon. Sydney Mushanga, M.P., Ministry of Education, Science,
Vocational Training & Early Education,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all and thank you most sincerely for attending the 9th Japan Film Festival. The Embassy of Japan started this Film Festival in 2005 with a view to promoting a better understanding of Japanese culture and arts in Zambia. Since then, a total of 23 Japanese films have been put on the screen and enjoyed by thousands of people.

Over the next three days, we are going to present the opportunity to watch three different Japanese films, which were highly acclaimed in Japan and overseas countries. Tonight, we present to you “WOOD JOB” produced last year. As the title suggests, the subject of the story is about forestry. This movie depicts a city-bred boy growing up through forestry training in a countryside. You will also see many sceneries of rural beauty of the countryside in Japan. I hope this movie will transport you on a trip to Japan and afford you with a rich and meaningful cultural experience.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan and Zambia have maintained a cordial and steadfast relationship since the independence of Zambia. Now, I believe that it is important that the friendly relationship between the two

countries is enhanced even more in the next 50 years on the basis of the good relations which we have enjoyed over the last 50 years. From this point of view, I would like to continue to promote interaction of people between our two countries, not only in economic fields, but also in the field of culture, arts and sports. To this end, the Embassy of Japan is planning a variety of cultural events, more than ever. It is my sincere hope that you will learn about Japan and get a better understanding about Japanese culture after joining such events.

In closing, I would like to once again thank you all for attending this premiere night of Japan Film Festival 2015. Please enjoy the film show this evening.

Thank you.