

REMARKS BY H. E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZAMBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL LEVEL LAUNCH OF
FEMALE YOUTHS LIVELIHOOD AND NUTRITION
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

LUSAKA, 19th January, 2016

Dr. Reuben Kamoto Mbewe, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health,

Ms. Ina-Marlene Ruthenberg, Country Manager, World Bank Zambia,

Ms. Danny Harvey, Country Director, Concern Worldwide Zambia,

Representatives from the Government of the Republic of Zambia and international organizations,

Members of the Press,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today on behalf of the Government of Japan at the National level launch of the Female Youths Livelihood and Nutrition Enhancement Project in the Republic of Zambia.

The Government of Japan supports this project through Japan Social Development Fund, JSDF, for the World Bank. JSDF was founded in June 2000 by the Government of Japan and is intended for sustainable social programs such as capacity building and empowerment that directly support the most vulnerable people. So far, the Government of Japan has contributed approximately 660 million United States Dollars to this fund.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Japan places importance on advancing women's active participation in society. In June 2013, Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, pledged in his address at the 68th UN General Assembly that Japan would implement official development assistance (ODA) in excess of 3 billion United States dollars over a period of three years. This is aimed at realization of a "society in which women shine."

The Government of Japan also hosted "The World Assembly for Women in Tokyo" last August in order to promote women's active role in Japan and the world over. This year, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), will be held in Nairobi, Kenya. Women's empowerment is expected to be one of the cross-cutting objectives to be discussed at the Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Japan has been supporting Zambia in various fields such as health, education, and agriculture. In the area of support for women, we are funding Japanese NGOs that implement projects for the improvement of maternal and child health.

This project, Female Youths Livelihood and Nutrition Enhancement Project, aims at improving the livelihood of young girls and women aged 10 to 24 through practical interventions. It will not only provide health and nutrition education, but

will also establish demonstration gardens that produce micronutrient rich crops and transfer skills in income generating activities.

Concern Worldwide has over 10 years' experience in Zambia in implementing projects in HIV/AIDS, agriculture, livelihood and food security. With guidance and monitoring by the national steering committee, I am confident that the project will be successful.

I also hope that the project will further strengthen the cordial friendship existing among Japan, Zambia, World Bank, and Concern Worldwide.

Thank you very much.

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