

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE GRANT CONTRACT,
28TH January, 2016.**

Mr. Alex M. Simumba, Director at Department of Technical and Vocational Education, Ministry of Higher Education,

Mr. Titus Ikowa, Board Chairperson, Kabwe Institute of Technology,

Mr. Kasanda Sayila, Principal, Kabwe Institute of Technology,

Dr. Emily Anderson, Vice President of External Relations, Zambian Impact Network,

Mr. Daniel Mwanza, Regional Director, Zambian Impact Network,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today at this signing ceremony for the Grant Contract under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme of the Government of Japan. This programme is aimed to support various development and human security projects at grassroots level. More than 160 projects have been funded and implemented around Zambia since its inception in 1990. Today, the Government of Japan will sign Grant Contracts with two organizations, namely; Kabwe Institute of Technology and Zambian Impact Network.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to 90,588 United States Dollars, or approximately 1 million Zambian Kwacha to Kabwe Institute of Technology, for the implementation of **The Project for Improvement of Automotive Course Facility in Kabwe.**

The recipient organization, Kabwe Institute of Technology is a public vocational school founded in 1943, and it provides varieties of skills training for youths under three departments, namely; mechanical, construction, and commercial. Among other training courses, the automotive course, which falls under the mechanical department, has over 250 students, being a popular course to obtain skills for automotive mechanics and machinery maintenance. It has also been deeply involved with the Government of Japan. From the 1980's, the Government of Japan has dispatched engineers and supported the procurement of training equipment for several times. Moreover, currently JICA senior volunteer Mr. Yamada and junior volunteer Ms. Sato work at the institute, contributing to the improvement of the quality of the training.

However, there are still some challenges to be solved, such as lack of classroom for lectures and old or outdated training equipment. With the hope to upgrade the skills of the students and thus accommodate the increasing demand for competent automotive mechanics in Zambia, the Government of Japan is pleased to support the implementation of this project, which aims to improve the training environment at the Institute.

The unemployment rate of the youth in Zambia is still high, and the Government of Zambia has been addressing youth empowerment and employment to create a productive generation in Zambia. In line with this, the Government of Japan is fully aware of the importance of the provision of skill training for youths, which gives them more opportunities for getting employed. Thus, the Government of Japan will make continued efforts towards the support of vocational schools and contribute to youth empowerment. In this project, material assistance such as buildings and equipment will be provided, but in the meanwhile, Japan contributes to skills transfer by activities such as dispatch of volunteers and remains committed for the multidimensional support.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Secondly, the Government of Japan is pleased to provide a Grant amounting to 40,588 United States Dollars, or approximately, 500 thousand Zambian Kwacha to Zambian Impact Network to implement **The Project for the Expansion of Three Community Schools in Katete.**

The recipient organization is a local NGO which has a mother body in the US. It started its activities in Zambia in 2009, and till now, it has succeeded in constructing 9 community schools in Katete, Eastern Province. At three of these schools, currently grade one to four of primary school students are studying; however, because of the lack of sufficient numbers of classrooms, some are forced to use inadequate church structures nearby. In addition, there is no room to

accommodate current students who will go on to upper grade from this year, so the expansion of the schools is urgent.

The notable characteristic of the community schools run by Zambian Impact Network is e-Learning style with the use of tablets. In the tablets, the educational contents which follow Zambian curriculum are installed, and the lessons are conducted by projecting the contents on the wall. The students also actually use the tablets to perform various activities. This active learning environment and small class size have contributed to the improvement of proficiency in these community schools.

The Government of Japan is pleased to support the expansion of three community school buildings to enable local children to complete their primary schooling with the quality education system which Impact Network provides. The challenges of Zambian education are high drop-out rate, improvement in quality of lessons and educational attainment by the students. It is hoped that this new approach by Impact Network will work as a good example and will be reflected to uplift the education standards in Zambia in future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, allow me to emphasise that the funds that were used for the Programme came from Japanese taxpayers. It is thus my sincere hope that these two projects will benefit the people of Zambia and the bilateral relationship between Zambia and Japan will be further accentuated.

Thank you for your attention.

(END)