

REMARKS BY H. E. MR. KIYOSHI KOINUMA,
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZAMBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF ZAMBIA BUSINESSWOMEN'S SPEAKER
EVENT 'Growing Your Business'
LUSAKA, 25th FEBRUARY, 2016

Honorable Professor Nkandu Luo, MP, Minister of Gender,
H.E. Mr. Eric Schultz, U.S. Ambassador to Zambia,
Ms. Nambula Kachumi, Executive Director, WECREATE Zambia,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be here today to co-host the Zambia Businesswomen's Speaker Event "Growing Your Business".

This year, I listed women empowerment as one of my priority actions. This event "Growing Your Business" co-hosted by the Embassies of Japan and the U.S., supported by WECREATE Zambia, is just appropriate to the theme of the year. I am sure this event will be a valuable opportunity to listen to how two Zambian women entrepreneurs have grown their businesses, playing active roles in the food and fashion industry. It is expected that the discussions arising from the presentations will generate new innovations, utilizing women's strengths and insights and expand business opportunities through information exchange.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is very important for women to attain socio-economic independence, and thus to decide on a way to live by their own will. In line with this, last year the Government of Japan announced the implementation of official development assistance (ODA) in excess of 3 billion United States dollars over a period of three years. Japan will be putting continued effort on taking actions and initiatives to resolve issues in gender equality, development and peace through protection of women rights, promotion of the participation and empowerment of women.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Among the support that Japan offers to Zambia, in the area of empowerment of women, we are funding Japanese NGOs that implement projects for the improvement of maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH). Also, in the area of support for private sector, we are implementing support for improving operations and trade promotion through Training Programs, KAIZEN Projects, and the dispatch of investment advisors and senior volunteers. This year, TICADVI will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, and women empowerment is expected to be covered as one of agendas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to take this opportunity to bring to your attention that the Embassy of Japan handed over a Japanese TV drama to MUVI TV this Tuesday. The title of the program is “Carnation”. This Japanese nonfiction drama depicts the turbulent life of a remarkable mother who achieved success in the fashion industry at the time when it was difficult for women even to go out into society, while raising her three spirited daughters who would become internationally known designers. I am most delighted that we presented this TV drama to Zambia because the theme of the drama is appropriate for what we will discuss today, women empowerment. It is my sincere hope that the drama “Carnation” will help boost the efforts and aspirations of Zambian women entrepreneurs.

Lastly, I would like to give a special thanks to the co-hosts of this event, the U.S. Embassy and WECREATE Zambia. I hope this event will promote wide-ranging exchanges between Japan, the U.S. and Zambia, by deepening the understanding of efforts toward business by each country. Also, I would appreciate if this event is utilized not only as a study session to expand your business, but also as a networking opportunity and will be a stepping stone towards a realization of a society in which women shine.

Thank you very much.

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