

**REMARKS BY MR. ATSUSHI KUWABARA, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION,  
EMBASSY OF JAPAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TRAINING  
PROGRAMME: ZAMBIA.**

**LIVINGSTONE, 19<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH, 2012**

Ms. Vivian Chiwila Chikoti, Town Clerk of Livingstone,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very much honored to speak on behalf of the Government of Japan at this official closing of the PPP (Public-Private Partnerships) Training Programme.

First, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Zambia for hosting this programme, especially to the PPP Unit of the Ministry of Finance and National Planning for organizing it. My thanks also go to all participants and stakeholders involved in this programme. I would also like to thank, of course, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and experts from various organizations for funding and carrying out this program successfully.

I am personally gratified to see this collaboration with the OECD since I am no stranger to the organization. Until I started to work for the Japanese Embassy in Zambia last June, I had worked for the Japanese Delegation to the OECD in Paris for three years. I served as Vice-chair of the Working Party of the Trade Committee of the OECD, where trade facilitation measures were discussed, and I know very well the high expertise of the analysts of the OECD Secretariat, as well as their ability to bring together relevant experts. Although I was only able to participate in today's sessions, I can tell from the quiz session today that participants learned a lot from the lecturer's knowledge and insight.

I am also aware of Zambia's cooperation with the OECD in the context of Policy Framework for Investment (PFI) with a view to creating a more favorable investment environment, and I welcome that as well.

The OECD has a tradition to learn from each other, so I hope the learning in these activities is not one way only. I hope the OECD Secretariat will take home the insights learned from the Zambian side and will share them with OECD member countries and beyond in their future endeavor.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan is committed to cooperating to enhance investment environment in this region, including infrastructure development. Last week, we hosted Japan-SADC Infrastructure Investment Seminar in Tokyo with participation of a minister and senior officials from SADC countries. Since Japanese companies' interest to invest in Africa is rising recently, a lot of Japanese companies participated in the seminar and the total participants recorded as many as 240. Some of the presentation materials from the seminar is posted on the web site of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so if you are interested, please take a look.

On this occasion, I would like to talk in a little broader context and touch upon TICAD, Tokyo International Conference on African Development. TICAD was initiated by Japan in the early 1990's, when so-called "aid fatigue" set in after the Cold War, in order to refocus international attention on the importance and urgency of African development issues. Since the first conference in 1993, Japan has co-hosted TICAD every five years, with large participation of heads of states and governments. The next conference, TICAD V, will be held in Yokohama, Japan from 1 to 3 June next year.

TICAD is not simply a forum to discuss Japan-Africa relations. It involves wide range of stakeholders, and it is a major international forum designed to provide fundamental and comprehensive policy guidance on the development of Africa. Infrastructure development has been a major theme since the first TICAD in 1993. It was a main pillar in the Yokohama Action Plan adopted at the last TICAD, or TICAD IV in 2008, and in fact, Japan was the top bilateral donor in Africa's infrastructure development in 2010. At TICAD V to be held next year, a core issue will be the mobilization of the private sector in infrastructure investment with public sector as catalyst.

So I think this PPP Training Programme fits well in this broad context. Not only PPP itself tries to make the best use of private sector input, it attracts more private-sector investment and trade through development of efficient infrastructure such as reliable transportation systems, thereby leading to faster economic growth and poverty reduction.

Through this PPP Training Programme, you participants have been equipped with the skills necessary to undertake high-quality infrastructure projects. I hope you will bring back the knowledge and information to your organizations and share them with your colleagues. We would appreciate it very much if you could take the lead in the discussion in Zambia on how to mobilize the private sector in

infrastructure investment, and if Zambia could make a good contribution to the discussion on this subject in the preparation for TICAD V.

Thank you again for your active participation and I hope this network of people will last beyond this Training Programme.

Thank you.