

# Zambia independence day

## Celebrating in a spirit of reconciliation

Mbikusita W. Lewanika  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY  
AND PLENIPOTENTIARY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO JAPAN

On the very happy occasion of Zambia's 45th anniversary of independence today, Oct. 24, 2009, on behalf of H.E. Rupiah B. Banda, president of the Republic of Zambia, I have the pleasure to extend my greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to the government and wonderful people of Japan. I also extend my fraternal greetings to my fellow citizens resident in Japan.



Zambia, the hub of Southern Africa, is a landlocked country surrounded by the eight friendly neighboring countries of Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. It is a politically stable and peaceful country, which contributed immensely to the liberation struggle in Southern Africa and has brokered peace in many countries within the region.

Zambia-Japan relations have grown steadily ever since Zambia's independence 45 years ago and entered a very intense stage with the introduction of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).

Zambia and Japan share the same vision of democracy, good governance and a nuclear-free world in which mankind's full potential can be realized for social and economic development.

Zambia and Japan also share a common fear of nuclear war, environmental degradation, pollution, natural disasters and catastrophes, which are beyond man's control. But we also share a common determination that mankind is capable of surviving these calamities.

Zambia's National Day, which coincides with United Nations Day, is this year being celebrated under the new and dynamic leadership of President Banda, the fourth president of the Republic of Zambia.

There is great potential for investment in the agricultural sector. The country's vast and fertile land (752,614 sq. km), which is mostly plateau, is suitable for growing a variety of crops, including rice, wheat, tropical fruits, cassa-

va, and a variety of fresh vegetables for the readily available regional and international market. Zambia also boasts of harboring 40 percent of SADC surface water or 30 percent of sub-Saharan Africa surface water, which can easily be harnessed for irrigation.

Under its Vision 2010 and its fifth National Development Plan 2006-2010, Zambia has strove to improve the living standards of its 12.2 million people by strategically focusing on education, health, infrastructure, mining, agriculture, tourism, energy, youth, women and human resource development. These developments, though being driven mainly by domestic investment and demand, have also enjoyed a fusion of donor funding and significant foreign direct investment. It is in this context that Zambia appreciates and cherishes the warm and cordial relations that exist between Zambia and Japan.

Over four decades the Japanese government and people have continued to underwrite important socioeconomic infrastructure in Zambia. In accordance with the Zambian people's priorities, key areas that are recipients of Japanese grants and aid are education, health, human resource development and grass-roots support for vulnerable people. Japanese NGOs have also been active in mobilizing grass-roots assistance, especially to the vulnerable groups in Zambian Society.

The Zambian government is also making efforts to exploit some of the incentives extended by the Japanese government such as duty-free and quota-free import of agricultural products from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). As a result, the volume and demand for Zambian coffee in Japan has increased. A number of outlets in Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto and Hiroshima sell Zambian coffee.

Other agricultural products now on promotion include honey, dried vegetables of various types, treacle and maple syrup, and horticultural products such as asparagus, paprika and baby corn.

Generally, Zambia's economic fundamentals are encouraging and these are being propelled by my country's free market economy policies, where trade, interest and exchange rates are fully liberalized. Zambia has been undergoing considerable economic reforms to create a macroeco-



President Rupiah Banda

conomic growth framework. The vision for Zambia is to create a middle-income country by 2030.

Zambia is a country very well endowed with vast natural and mineral resources. Mining has been for a long time the mainstay of the economy. Zambia is one of the largest producers and exporters of copper and cobalt in the world. The country also produces gemstones and precious stones, supplying about 20 percent of emeralds on the world market. Important rare metals and gemstones produced include nickel, platinum, uranium, some gold, zinc, tourmaline, aquamarine, garnets

and amethysts. Exploration for oil will soon commence following promising initial results. Zambia has become one of the continent's top investment destinations according to international ratings, and I encourage interested Japanese firms to take advantage of the lucrative investment opportunities and political climate to invest in the Zambian mining sector. Because of the recent recovery in prices, and ongoing discoveries of new deposits and commissioning of new mines, copper production is forecast to hit an all-time high of 1 million tons per annum by 2010. The discovery and extraction of rare metals such as uranium and nickel is making the Zambian mining industry competitive — attracting investors from major players in the global economy.

On future perspectives, the discovery of potential oil and gas deposits in Northwestern Province and other parts of Zambia has brightened Zambia's economic prospects. The government has demarcated and advertised invitations for bids for gas and oil exploration in 23 blocks across the country. The deadline for submitting applications for bids has been extended to November. A state

oil exploration company has just been formed, and the government will soon advertise bids for oil and gas prospecting open to investors from across the world. It is our hope that Japanese multinational corporations will seize this opportunity to consider investing in this strategic industry.

The government is also establishing two multifacility economic zones to diversify the economy and promote exports, with two locations in Lusaka and the Copperbelt. For more information on investment opportunities, visit [www.zda.org.zm](http://www.zda.org.zm)

On tourism, I wish to encourage Japanese people to visit Zambia and see one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the mighty Victoria Falls. The Victoria Falls is 1.7 km long, of which 1.2 km are in Zambia. Other interesting tourist spots include Zambian national parks such as North and South Luangwa National Parks (Mfuwe, the main settlement of South Luangwa National Park is famous for legendary walking safaris), Kafue National Park (the largest national park) and Lower Zambezi National Park (elephants and other game). For more on tourism, visit [www.zambiantourism.com](http://www.zambiantourism.com)

Zambians face many challenges, which are not insurmountable, in their pursuit of economic prosperity and improving welfare. The govern-

ment is focused and determined to fulfill its developmental objectives. We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude for the support received from The Japan Times, Japan-Zambia Friendship Association and Toyota Tsusho, which has facilitated the publication of this message.

ment is focused and determined to fulfill its developmental objectives. We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude for the support received from The Japan Times, Japan-Zambia Friendship Association and Toyota Tsusho, which has facilitated the publication of this message.

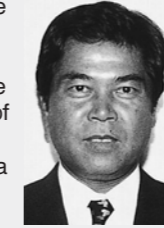
ment is focused and determined to fulfill its developmental objectives. We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude for the support received from The Japan Times, Japan-Zambia Friendship Association and Toyota Tsusho, which has facilitated the publication of this message.

## Extending the hand of friendship

Katsumi Yamaguchi  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP  
ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT, ECC GROUP OF SCHOOLS

Congratulations on the 45th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Zambia. Since the founding of our Japan-Zambia Friendship Association in 1975, it has been a great honor to join the people of the republic in celebrating its Independence Day each year.

The establishment of our association is based on the founding philosophy of the ECC Foreign Language Institute, which is the parent body of our association: "It is our goal, through the teaching of foreign languages, to contribute to the development of our students' capabilities, international awareness and leadership qualities. In this way, we hope to promote more interaction and



understanding among the peoples of the world, thus helping to contribute to world peace."

Our association has carried out various activities to promote mutual understanding, and form bonds of friendship between the people of Zambia and the people of Japan. It is indeed the greatest pleasure for our association to offer any assistance we can to this peace-loving nation. These efforts are made possible through joint work with the ECC Save-the-Earth Campaign, an annual endeavor of the ECC Group of Schools and the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association. This yearly campaign collects donations from students and staff, as well as the general public.

Last year we organized our campaign under the slogan, "Let's Extend Warm Hands to Friends" to supply children in Zambia with clothing, notebooks, pencils, erasers and crayons. ECC students and staff all over Japan joined the

campaign, and we shipped 19 crates of school essentials in October last year, which were received by the Maureen Mwanawasa Community Initiative (MMCI) in Lusaka.

It is indeed the greatest pleasure for our association to attempt to serve the needs of the people of Zambia, even in our small way. The association and the ECC Group of Schools will continue to make efforts in the hopes of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our two nations, and throughout the world, with the ultimate objective of eliminating the three great human tragedies of war, poverty and disease.

On behalf of the members of our association, all of the ECC students and staff, and the people of Japan, we are sincerely pleased on this occasion to once again extend our warmest congratulations to President Rupiah Bwezani Banda, and our love and friendship to all the people of the Republic of Zambia, with heartfelt wishes for an ever-brighter tomorrow.

### Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Zambia on Their 45th Independence Day



G VALUE  
with you  
Global Glowing Generating

**TOYOTA TSUSHO CORPORATION**  
Metals/ Machinery & Electronics/ Automotive/ Energy & Chemicals/ Produce & Foodstuffs/ Consumer Products, Services & Materials

Head Office : 9-8 Meleki 4-chome, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 81-52-584-5013  
Tokyo Head Office : 8-1 Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 81-3-5288-2081

[www.toyota-tsusho.com](http://www.toyota-tsusho.com)

**Toyota Zambia Ltd.**

(Official Authorized Toyota Distributor in Zambia)  
P.O. Box 33438, Cairo Rd., North End, Lusaka, ZAMBIA  
TEL: +260-1-229109 FAX: +260-1-223846  
Web site: <http://www.toyota-africa.com/countrytop/zambia.asp>

### Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Zambia on Their 45th Independence Day



## JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Head Office  
c/o Yamaguchi-Gakuen  
ECC Computer College Bldg. No. 3 (7F)  
1-4-13 Nakazaki-nishi, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0015  
TEL (06) 6372-5144 FAX (06) 6372-4151

Tokyo Office  
c/o ECC Tokyo, Headquarters,  
7-11-10 Nishi-shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0023

Nagoya Office  
c/o ECC Nagoya, Kanayama Bldg. 9F  
1-16-16 Kanayama, Naka-ku, Nagoya 460-0022  
Fukuoka Office  
c/o ECC Fukuoka, Grand Bldg. 2F  
9-5 Daimyo 2-chome, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810-0041  
Miyazaki Office  
c/o ECC Miyazaki, Kariyon Bldg. 2F  
3-10-36 Tachibana Dori Nishi, Miyazaki 880-0001