

# Zambia Independence Day Special

## Prime destination for mining investments

**TOBIAS MULIMBIKA**  
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA



On this occasion of the 59th independence anniversary of the Republic of Zambia, I wish to convey warm greetings from the President of the Republic of Zambia His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema

to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Masako, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the people of Japan.

Zambia and Japan share long-standing bilateral relations that date back from time immemorial. The two countries have engaged in a strong and cordial relationship since 1964, the year coinciding with Zambia's Independence Day. This year, Zambia is commemorating its national day under the theme "Accelerating National Development through Equitable Distribution of Resources." In line with the theme, Japan and Zambia have continued to cooperate in various key sectors of Zambia's economy. The sectors supported in this regard include the health sector, which is benefiting from health care projects, a focus on disease prevention, maternal health and child health, and the creation of health care infrastructure.

Japan has also supported the infrastructure development of Zambia through the construction of roads, bridges and energy infrastructure. Similarly, the education sector has benefited from scholarships and training programs to Zambian students and

professionals, thus enhancing educational opportunities and skills development.

Japan has continued to offer technical support in ensuring equitable distribution of resources via the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

On Sept. 29, Situmbeko Musokotwane, Zambia's minister of finance and national planning, unveiled the 177.89 billion kwacha (about \$8,292,017,000) national budget for fiscal 2024 under the theme "Unlocking Economic Potential." Zambia has continued on its positive economic transformation agenda and has made progress in restructuring its external debt under the Group of Twenty Common Framework for debt treatment for sovereign governments backed by the International Monetary Fund. Under this arrangement, Zambia has secured \$6.3 billion of its external debt to be paid back on highly concessional terms, favorable to Zambia for both the interest rates and loan maturities.

The country is committed to the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries in areas such as the mining sector. Recently, the Zambian Embassy in Tokyo facilitated a Japan-Zambia Mining Investment Business Roundtable with about 11 Japanese companies and Zambian companies in Lusaka, Zambia, to promote Japanese investment in our mining sector.

Our country is centrally located in Southern Africa, surrounded by many countries with important road corridors traversing Zambia, thus facilitating easy transportation of goods for both export and import of feed

to the mining industry. Given these conditions, Zambia is arguably the best investment destination in the region equipped to supply mineral requirements for the global energy transition.

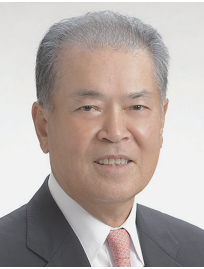
Zambia is committed to further strengthening bilateral relations with Japan, especially in the diversification of the supply system for critical resources to eventually meet the country's goals through joint investments. It is envisaged that such partnerships and cooperation between our countries will accelerate mutually beneficial investment projects involving Japanese companies in Zambia.



President of Zambia H.E. Hakainde Hichilema

## Hopes for deepening friendship

**KATSUMI YAMAGUCHI**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-ZAMBIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION; CHAIRMAN, ECC GROUP OF SCHOOLS



On behalf of the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association and the ECC Group of Schools, I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to the people of the Republic of Zambia

on the 59th anniversary of their Independence Day.

I am very impressed to see Zambia continuing to make steady strides as a peaceful,

independent nation. I pray for the continued progress of your country and the happiness of all the people of Zambia.

Our association is based on the founding philosophy of the ECC Foreign Language Institute, the charter body of the fellowship: "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."

With this in mind, 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.



Above: Mining activities in Zambia's Copperbelt province; Above right: The Zambezi River flows into Victoria Falls, one of the world's largest waterfalls.



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## Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Zambia on the Anniversary of Their Independence



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Congratulations  
to the People  
of the Republic  
of  
Zambia  
on the Occasion  
of  
Their Independence Day



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