

Zambia independence day

Zambia furthers goal of bilateral trade with Japan

African nation's stability, credit rating mean investment opportunities

Ng'ona Mwelwa Chibesakunda
AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA

Japan and Zambia have a steady bilateral relationship dating back to October 1964, the very month Zambia attained its independence from Britain. The relationship between our two countries has involved both cultural and social economic cooperation.

Zambians will always remember the national flag of a newly independent Zambia hoisted by Japan at the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. Since then, exchanges and contacts between the two countries have expanded. In 1983, Their Imperial Highnesses then Crown Prince and Princess of Japan paid an official visit to Zambia. In 1999, Prince Takamado also visited Zambia.

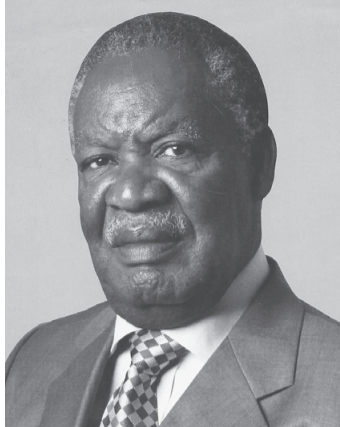
Four of Zambia's five presi-

dents since attaining independence have come to Japan on official visits.

The current visit by H.E. President of the Republic of Zambia Michael Chilufya Sata continues the long-standing tradition of having contacts at the highest level between the two countries.

For Zambia, Japan is a major aid donor and important source of investment capital and credit. In terms of loans, grants and technical cooperation, Japan's economic cooperation assistance cumulatively amounted to over ¥207 billion by the year 2010. Notable projects that helped improve the lives of Zambians are the construction of the pediatrics wing at the University Teaching Hospital and the establishment of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zambia in Lusaka. There are several large-scale, Japan-funded projects currently under way in Zambia. These projects include:

- Inner ring road project for Lusaka



H.E. President of the Republic of Zambia Michael Chilufya Sata

- Improvement of water supply condition in Ndola City
- Capacity development for rural electrification
- Groundwater development in Luapula Province and construction of the Kazungula bridge

Zambia is also participating in projects funded under TICAD

(Tokyo International Conference on African Development) and the SADC (Southern African Development Community) Japan Infrastructure Investment Program.

The bilateral trade between the two countries averages over ¥10 billion annually. Zambia's imports from Japan are mainly vehicles, industrial machinery and consumer electronics.

The Zambian government, through the Zambian Mission in Japan, is keen to grow the trade relationship between the two nations. Zambia has enormous investment and trade opportunities for Japanese businesses and entrepreneurs. Zambia has an abundance of natural resources and both skilled and semiskilled labor. Zambia holds 42 percent of all ground surface water reserves in southern Africa and is a major producer of copper, cobalt and zinc. The country is centrally located in the middle of Africa sharing borders with eight countries.

This makes Zambia the most land-linked country in Africa, which gives goods and services produced in Zambia access to wide markets in both the SADC member states and the Common Market for Eastern Southern Africa (COMESA) member states.

Zambia is a constitutional democracy with a parliamentary system of governance. The country has low political risk and has been an oasis of peace since 1964 with changes of governments always achieved through peaceful democratic elections. Zambia's investment environment is recognized as being among the best in sub-Saharan Africa; Zambia was ranked among the top 10 best reformers in Africa by a World Bank business survey in 2011. It is one of the fastest growing economies



Nature: Zambia is home to the eastern side of the Victoria Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Right: Zebras are popular for safari tourism in Zambia. EMBASSY OF ZAMBIA



in Africa and 25th fastest in the world.

Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings have awarded Zambia a B+ credit rating while the World Bank has reclassified Zambia as a lower middle-income country, thereby strengthening Zambia's position as a preferred investment destination.

Zambia has a fully liberalized economy and is by many measures: the only African country with no currency controls, no price regulations and no government involvement in managing interest rates.

In furthering the goal of increasing bilateral trade, the Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) and the Zambian Mission in Japan held two seminars on Zambia investment opportunities, in Tokyo on July 24 and in Osaka on July 25. The seminars were targeted at introducing invest-

ment opportunities to small and medium-size enterprises. The seminars were organized with the cooperation of the UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Tokyo and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). The ZDA is also working with Japan in a trilateral program called the Zambia Investment Promotion Project.

In Japan, the Zambian Embassy is in the process of establishing a desk at the embassy that will focus on continuous engagement with medium-size enterprises. The desk will engage the Japanese enterprises in Japan and will answer all the issues and questions pertaining to investment without lengthy consultation processes with Zambia.

For the rest of the people who are not in business or trading,

Zambia offers an excellent tourist destination. Zambia also has an abundance of wildlife and is home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world, the Victoria Falls, the historical heritage of Zambia. The customs and the people are the best anywhere in

the world. Zambians will always be happy to welcome Japanese tourists.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors for making it possible for me to publish this message in The Japan Times.



Culture: The Kuomboka Festival is one of Zambia's traditional ceremonies, which takes place at the end of the rainy season. EMBASSY OF ZAMBIA

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

Congratulations on the 48th anniversary celebration of the independence 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 of Zambia in celebrating its Independence Day each year. On behalf of the members of our association, all of the students at the ECC Group of Schools and staff, and the people of Japan,



we are sincerely pleased on this occasion to extend our warmest congratulations to President Michael Chilufya Sata, and our love and friendship to all the people of this peace-loving country, the Republic of Zambia.

The establishment of our association is based on the Founding Philosophy of 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."

Our association has carried out various activities to promote mutual understanding and to form bonds of friendship between the people of Zambia and the people of Japan. These efforts are made possible through joint work with the ECC Group of Schools and the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association by holding the ECC Save-the-Earth Campaign every year to collect donations from ECC students and staff, as well as the general public.

Currently, we are planning a scholarship program, starting April 2013, to sponsor a Zambian youth who wishes to study in Japan. We have selected ECC Kokusai College of Foreign Language, which offers a two-year Japanese language course in

Osaka, as the venue for the program. We sincerely hope the participant will play an active role both in further developmental work in Zambia, and promoting friendship between the two countries. We are all looking forward to the day when our projects are realized and our efforts bear fruit.

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. With heartfelt wishes for an ever-brighter future, 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.

Congratulations to the people of the Republic of Zambia on their 48th Independence Day



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