



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

SPEECH BY HON. YAMFWA MUKANGA MP,
MINISTER OF MINES, ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT

FUKUSHIMA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
NUCLEAR SAFETY

JAPAN

15TH TO 17TH DECEMBER 2012

Co-Chairmen,

Mr. Koichiro Gemba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan,

The Representative of Dr Maximus j. Ongkili, Minister of Science,
Technology and Innovation of Malaysia,

Cabinet Ministers present,

Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic
Energy Agency

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Zambian delegation and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to thank the people of Japan for the wonderful hospitality we have received upon our arrival in Japan. The people of Japan have given us a debt which will be difficult to repay. Allow me to express my utmost gratitude to the Government of Japan for organising this conference on nuclear safety. This conference has come at an opportune time given the fact that Japan has just recently experienced a horrific nuclear disaster, which was triggered by a 9.0 earthquake on a Richter scale, which I am informed is the largest recorded in Japan and the fourth largest in the world since 1900. I do firmly believe that there is no better place in the world than Fukushima to host a conference to discuss the topic of nuclear safety.

Also allow me to state that the Minister of Foreign Affairs Of the Republic of Zambia is unable to make it this morning but I am certain that he will be joining us by the end of the day. However I have the Deputy Minister of Community Development, Mother and Child Health, the Chief Executive Officer of ZESCO Limited (Zambia's Electricity Utility Company) and other Senior Government officials in the Zambian delegation.

I am thankful to the Government of Japan for extending the invitation to Zambia to participate in the conference. The invitation is indeed a demonstration of the good relations that the two countries have continued to enjoy. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Japan for the support that they have continued to give to Zambia generally and in particular to the Energy Sector.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan has helped Zambia to formulate the Rural Electrification and the Power System Development Master Plans which are currently the guiding documents for implementation of rural electrification and power development projects in Zambia respectively. The Government of Japan has also helped Zambia with the implementation of other

projects in the energy sector including capacity building, development of minihydro power plant and grid reinforcement projects. I want to applaud the spirit of generosity of the Japanese people, which has continued in spite of the difficulties that the country has recently gone through.

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, I wish to convey, once again, our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the government and people of Japan especially the victims of the Fukushima disaster and their families. The disaster brought about not only loss of lives but also displacement of people and extensive damage to property. Our prayer is that the people of Japan, under the capable leadership of His majesty the Emperor of Japan and Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, have become stronger and wiser as a result of this experience and will continue to promote socio economic development and contribute to maintaining peace and stability in the world.

Mr. Chairman,

May I point out that the conference on nuclear safety is very pertinent to the African continent as a whole and specifically to Zambia. One may ask the relevance of the conference to countries such as Zambia

considering the fact that currently we have no nuclear facilities. I believe that the lessons and experiences shared in this conference will shape the future of Energy Policies both in countries which aspire to have nuclear capability and also in those countries who already have it. A number of African countries, including Zambia possess uranium deposits whose presence has prompted calls from some sections of society to pursue nuclear development agendas. The Fukushima disaster and the lessons that have come with it calls for introspection among all the countries with nuclear capability and those aspiring for it. The foremost question that comes to mind is the question of whether developing countries and even those which are developed can guarantee the safety of their people in the face of a disaster when highly industrialised countries such as Japan struggled to cope.

I believe Fukushima has shown us that Energy Policy with regard to nuclear energy cannot continue on the same path as before. The Fukushima disaster necessitates the development of new safety measures which include early warning and reporting systems, new energy policies and new energy sources altogether.

Mr. Chairman,

I would be failing in my duties, if I don't applaud the strength, determination and resilience that the Japanese people demonstrated in the face of the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Indeed the people of Japan showed courage in the face of the danger posed by the nuclear threat.

The men and women of Tokyo Electric Power Company and other citizens of Japan demonstrated love for the country, and the passion and loyalty to help and protect those who were exposed to the disaster. They exhibited an admirable human trait, the trait to care for fellow human beings and hence, need to be respected, congratulated and imitated by all peace loving people.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that I am confident that this conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn from the expertise of the Japanese people. We will definitely take home the lesson learnt in Japan and look at how best we can domesticate the experience.

Thank you very much for your attention and may the good lord richly bless you all.