

**SPEECH BY MR. TOMIO SAKAMOTO, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.  
I. AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN THE REPUBLIC OF  
RWANDA ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY  
FOR THE PROJECT OF IMPROVEMENT OF SUBSTATIONS  
AND DISTRIBUTION NETWORK (PHASE 2) MARCH 8, 2016**

Honourable Claver GATETE, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning,  
Distinguished Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to have signed today the Exchange of Notes for  
the **Grant aid amounting up to JPY 2,219,000,000 (approx. 18.4 million US  
Dollars) for the Project of Improvement of Substations and Distribution  
Network (Phase 2).**

This Grant Aid is aiming at promoting a stable power supply in  
Kigali where supply service still needs to be improved. It will be  
implemented by Energy Development Cooperation Limited (EDCL) with  
support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) , the project  
targets Kigali. The fund will be used in such activities as constructing and  
expanding the substations and associated power transmission and

distribution facilities in Kigali to stabilize the power supply with higher efficiency. Upon the completion of the project, this will prevent the risk of a large-scale power outage, enable a stable power supply, reduce power loss, and improve the electrification rate in Kigali, having a positive impact not only on the economy but also on education, welfare and health care.

This is a second phase of the serial Project of Improvement of Substation and Distribution Network that the Japanese Government launched 6 years ago. For the first phase, which was completed in March 2014, the grant of 25 million US dollars at the exchange rate of that time, was provided. This project was a three-year-project to rehabilitate and re-construct old substations as well as to restore and expand distribution network in order to improve a stable electricity access and supply. The implementation of the project was connected in six areas in Rwanda, namely substations at Birembo, Jabana, Gikondo, Rwinkwavu and Musha as well as distribution network in Huye.

This phase 2 support is in line with the country's goals such as EDPRS 2 and Vision 2020, its power generation target is to reach 563MW by 2017/18. Although generation capacity has been increasing, with the rapid GDP growth at annual average rate 7% in recent years, power consumption and demand are exceeding. The demand for power is growing more than 10 percent each year. In addition, the amount of power consumed in Kigali accounts for approximately 64% of the total power consumption, thus, investment in the power distribution network of Kigali is a crucial matter and it will boost sustainable economic activities and improve living standards.

As an active development partner in the energy sector, Japan will continue to support Rwanda to achieve its development targets.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate that it is the sincere hope of the people of Japan and Japanese Government that this grant will contribute to promote a stable power supply in Kigali. The effective use of this

electricity will not only stimulate economic activities but also make daily life convenient.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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