

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Kazuya Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan, on
the occasion of the launching ceremony of the Project for
Improvement of Substation and Distribution Network, August
21st, 2013**

Honorable Professor SilasLwakabamba, Minister of Infrastructure,

Honorable Emma Francoise Isumbingabo, Minister of state in charge of Energy
and Water

Ms. Uwamariya Odette, Governor of Eastern Province,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentleman,

Good afternoon/ Bonjour/ Mwirwe

It is a great honor to be here today on the occasion of the launching ceremony of "the Project for Improvement of Substation and Distribution Network". This project plans to rehabilitate and re-construct the old substations and as well as to restore and expand distribution network in order to improve a stable electricity access and supply. Total cost of the project amounts to 25 millionUSD signed in March 2011. The implementations of the project are held in Jabana and Gikondo in Kigali, Rwinkwavu and Musha in Eastern Province, and Huye in Southern province. Today is the launching ceremony, but I heard

more than 50% of implementation has already been done, so I am delighted to know the project has been steadily implemented.

The energy sector is one of the most prioritized areas in the EDPRS2, which has just started last month. Strengthening economic infrastructure is challenging for Rwanda to accelerate its economic growth and to achieve its quest of being a middle income country by 2020.

The Government of Japan also attaches a high value to economic infrastructure development for economic growth of African countries. At the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD V, held in Yokohama in June 1st to 3rd which His Excellency President Paul Kagame attended, accelerating infrastructure development was confirmed as one of key factors for African countries' sustainable growth. Under "Yokohama Declaration 2013" adapted at TICAD V, we promised to contribute to accelerate the development of key hard infrastructure, including energy, in both urban and rural areas, because we know that economic infrastructures promote the creation of new markets by linking consumers and producers. In that sense, this

project embodies our commitment at TICAD V and we will continue to support the energy sector in this country.

In concluding my remarks, it is not too much to say that this project plays an important role for the future of Rwanda. In this context, I would like to commend the works done by JICA and EWSA through the contribution by NIPPON KOEI, TAKAOKA Engineering Company Ltd, NISHIZAWA Ltd and all concerned. I believe that with Japan's sophisticated and reliable skills and techniques, this project will play an important role in the distribution of electricity in this country. As a result of that, I hope more household can access to the electricity and people's lives, particularly in countryside will be improved drastically. I would like to end by wishing the safety of all the people engaged in this project.

Thank you for your attention/ Merci de votre attention/ Murakoze cyane.