

**SPEECH BY H. E. MR. KAZUYA OGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO THE NKAMIRA TRANSIT CENTRE ON 20TH JULY
2013.**

Your Excellency Ms Ertharin COUSIN, Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme;

Mr Antoine RUVEBANA, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs;

Mr Lamin Momodou MANNEH, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Rwanda;

Mr Abdoulaye BALDE, Country Director of WFP Rwanda; and

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning / Bonjour / Mwaramutse.

I am highly honoured to be here for the guided tour of the Nkamira transit centre on behalf of the Government of Japan, together with Ms Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of WFP. This is my first visit to refugee facilities in Rwanda after I presented my credentials to His Excellency President Paul Kagame in May, which took place just before TICAD V, the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. During the course of the TICAD process, the "consolidation of peace" was adopted as one of the three key policy pillars of Japan's assistance to Africa. Since long time, Japan has been working hard towards the peace and stability of Africa, placing special emphasis on the basic principles of the "ownership of Africa" and the "partnership with the international community".

In the context of Rwanda, Japan has had a great concern about the new influx of a great number of refugees from the DRC, due to the instability of its eastern part since April last year. Therefore, the Government of Japan was one of the first development partners to take action on the refugee issues, working very closely with the Government of Rwanda and concerned UN organisations in Rwanda.

First, as per MIDIMAR's request, the Government of Japan approved the Government of Rwanda to utilise the counterpart fund of the Non-Project Grant in May last year for establishing a new refugee camp in Kigeme. Secondly, early this year, Japan made a contribution totalling 5.9 million US dollars to UN organisations in Rwanda. As One UN, there is a division of labour for dealing with various refugee related issues. In other words, WFP provides food, like cereals and pulses, and oil and fats. UNICEF is engaged in enhancing water and sanitation conditions, child protection and education. And UNHCR focuses on, among others, providing essential and primary needs, environmental protection and livelihood improvement. According to a UNHCR's statistics, as of 30 June, more than 8,000 refugees are living here in Nkamira, and nearly 18,000 in Kigeme. I really hope that Japan's contribution has improved the living conditions of those vulnerable people.

While supporting Congolese refugees in Rwanda, Japan has also been engaged in Rwandan returnees' socio-economic reintegration activities through reputable organisations, such as the IOM Rwanda and the Rwanda Red Cross, and those organisations have established excellent relationship with MIDIMAR.

I have been informed that, using part of Japan's contribution, WFP has been implementing the project, entitled the "Food and Safety Net Assistance to Refugee Camps and Returning Rwandan Refugees" for those who have been sheltered in the centre. The total amount of 1.7 million US dollars, which Japan contributed to WFP Rwanda this year, has also been utilised for the benefit of people in the newly established camp in Kigeme. I sincerely appreciate WFP's commitment, and believe that Japan's contribution has further developed collaborative relationship with the UN Country Team, and WFP in particular.

Today, I am very keen to hear the voices of beneficiaries so that the Government of Japan will work more effectively than before on refugee and returnee affairs with the Government of Rwanda, and the UN and other relevant organisations in Rwanda.

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