

## **JAPAN HANDS OVER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND A VEHICLE FOR MOBILE CLINIC TO NORTON EYE CARE UNIT**



On 18 August, 2015, the Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe H.E. Mr Yoshi Tendai Hiraishi officially handed over specialised eye care medical equipment, including a vehicle for mobile clinic, to Norton Eye Care Unit.

The equipment was procured through “The Project for the Improvement of Eye Care Facility in Mashonaland West” implemented by the Zimbabwe Council for the Blind with funding of a Japanese grant of ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and seventy-eight dollars (USD 99,978), which was inaugurated at a signing ceremony in January this year.

The equipment will greatly improve eye care service at the Unit, which is the only medical institution offering cataract surgery in the province. It will also enable people to access more accurate and rapid medical service at the Unit. Overall, it is expected that annually over 2,000 people will be able to receive necessary eye care treatment due to the improvement of service. Furthermore, the new vehicle will make it possible for the Unit to carry out regular outreach activities and it will help a greater number of patients to access treatment throughout the province.

This project will contribute directly to the goals of the “National Eye Health Strategy” of the Ministry of Health and Child Care in terms of eliminating avoidable blindness through provision of appropriate eye care services.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. Mr. Hiraishi stressed the importance of constant maintenance of the equipment by the Unit and expressed his hope that the equipment would be fully utilized and greatly contribute to the improvement of the standards of living of beneficiaries.