

Handover Ceremony for Medical Waste Incinerators

On 26 August, Ambassador MAEKAWA Nobutaka attended the handover ceremony for medical waste incinerators utilizing Japan's waste incineration technology, under the project "Medical Waste Management Project in Zimbabwe (through UNOPS)." This project is supported by US\$ 2.2 million in funding from the Government and people of Japan, and is implemented in partnership with UNOPS under the leadership of the Republic of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Care.

In Zimbabwe, concerns have been raised about infections among healthcare workers and others from medical waste due to open burning and traditional disposal methods without adequate sorting, . The global spread of COVID-19 has led to a massive increase in the volume of medical waste, reaffirming the critical importance of proper medical waste management. However, in Zimbabwe, there were insufficient facilities capable of medical waste treatment, making proper disposal impossible. In response to this situation, medical waste incinerator with the latest Japanese technology have been installed at three major hospitals in Zimbabwe (Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, United Bulawayo Hospitals, Masvingo Provincial Hospital) with Japan's support.

These incinerators, through Japan's cutting-edge technology, can reduce fuel consumption by utilizing plastics contained in medical waste as fuel, and, because processing is conducted at high temperatures with no smoke, the efficiency of medical waste treatment is greatly improved and the impact on the environment is reduced. Through the provision of these incinerators, it is expected that the proper management of medical waste generated at the hospitals will be promoted, thereby helping to prevent the spread of infections via medical waste, mitigate pollution of the surrounding environment, and protect the health of healthcare workers.

The handover ceremony was held at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals in Harare on behalf of the three hospitals, and was attended by the Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care, Honourable Sleiman Timios Kwidini; Mr. Najibullah Safi, Deputy Country Representative of WHO Zimbabwe; Mr. Clement Mhlanga, Representative of UNOPS Zimbabwe; and Ambassador Mr. Nobutaka Maekawa, along with doctors and healthcare professionals.



Medical Waste Incinerator



Tour an incinerator



Ribbon cutting



Commemorative photo with
the Deputy Minister for Health and Child care



The Scene from the handover ceremony



Ambassador Maekawa giving a remarks