

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**November 20, 2013**

### **JAPAN TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE IN HARARE**

The Embassy of Japan has today supported “The Project for Construction of a Vocational Training Centre in Harare” with a grant of eighty-one thousand, six hundred and twenty-seven dollars (USD 81,627) to be implemented by a local organisation, Oasis Zimbabwe.

The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr. Yonezo Fukuda and Interim Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kevin Brits, signed agreements formalising the grant at the Embassy of Japan today.

The project is for the construction of a double-storey building in Hatfield. Trainees are young girls and women, between 16 and 24 years old, living in Epworth. They are orphans who could not complete their education and tended to be vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

The annual trainees intake will be 20 girls, and they will be trained in a host of high demand skills including sewing, IT skills and computer literacy, jewelry making and entrepreneurial skills. A 2 week-long industrial placement in local garment factories is also planned for each trainee. Upon graduation, Oasis Zimbabwe offers fortnightly mentoring for the girls as they seek employment or establish their own businesses.

Graduates are expected to share their skills with their community members. The space will also be open to the general public, and Oasis Zimbabwe hopes that approximately 240 people per annum will gain basic IT knowledge through workshops held at the centre. Computer equipment has been acquired from other well-wishers.

Oasis Zimbabwe is a registered Private Voluntary Organisation and currently has five community-based projects, including work with former street children, pre-school children, vulnerable youth and women, and local churches.