

## **Speech to be presented by H.E. Ambassador Yonezo Fukuda at a Signing Ceremony of Tennis Courts with Danhiko Project**

Distinguished guests!

It is a pleasure to welcome you all today – at the momentous document-signing ceremony between the Japanese Embassy and Danhiko Project.

As you will know, this document envisages Japan's Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects' full cooperation with Danhiko Project in order to construct three All Weather Tennis Courts, three Spectator Benches and provision of eighteen Tennis Wheelchairs.

Danhiko is a sporting center for Danhiko Annual Paralympic Games that have been successfully hosted for the past 24 years incorporating all sporting activities including tennis. During the years of hosting these games there was a challenge of tennis courts and tennis category players were transported to Harare Sports Club or Roosevelt School and Prince Edward which are far from the hosting center.

Ladies and gentlemen, the benefits are clear. Students with disabilities and able bodied who participate in tennis as part of their physical education activities , as rehabilitation or as a profession will find ease of access to these facilities contained at the same center.

Competitive tennis playing has become a source of living for people with disabilities and the able bodied. It can change many lives for students with challenges. A living example is Nyasha Marakurwa a Zimbabwean Wheelchairs Tennis player who is ranked among the top 100 tennis players in the world.

We are delighted to be a part of providing this facility to these special kids at Danhiko Project. All kids deserve access to quality, safe playing fields and we love being able to be just a small part of what happens at this terrific school every day.

I wish the best to all tennis players who shall have a chance to use these facilities in future.

Thank you, Tatenda.