

**SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YONEZO FUKUDA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF GRANT CONTRACTS WITH THE HALO TRUST FOR “THE PROJECT FOR MINE CLEARANCE IN MASHONALAND CENTRAL PROVINCE” UNDER JAPAN’S GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS-ROOTS HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS**

**MARCH 18, 2013**

**MR DIBB, PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE HALO TRUST,**

It is my pleasure to welcome you for the signing of grant contracts whereby the Government of Japan is extending to The Halo Trust a grant of over USD 864 thousand for your project.

Contrary to the fact, Zimbabwe may not be known as a country where a large number of landmines were placed. Thanks to the government’s efforts, the MOU with The Halo Trust was signed last year. We are glad to assist such endeavours in tackling the issue of landmines.

Landmines cause serious damage on people, both physically and socioeconomically. If not losing lives, those who were affected by landmines will suffer from injuries. They may need artificial limbs, which are costly, and may be often uncomfortable. To be employed would be difficult for them.

Through our support, I sincerely hope that such tragedies would not happen, and the local people, particularly children, could move freely without any fear. Following the successful partnership with The HALO Trust in other countries, including Mozambique, I am sure that this collaboration will make a positive impact on the community.

In the future, we look forward to a world where the production of indiscriminate munitions such as landmines and cluster bombs will be forever banned.

**THANK YOU**