

Zambia aims to enter new phase of development

By Faith Nabeene Chilube
First Secretary Press of Zambian Embassy

As Zambia marks its 62nd Independence Anniversary, it is looking toward a new chapter in its relationship with Japan, in which decades of diplomatic friendship and development cooperation are translated into greater investment, technology partnerships, trade and shared economic growth.

Sixty-two years after gaining independence on Oct. 24, 1964, Zambia is positioning itself as an increasingly attractive destination for international investment. At the center of this ambition is the Government's Grow Zambia agenda, which seeks to accelerate economic growth, increase productivity, attract investment and create jobs by unlocking opportunities across key sectors of the economy.

Zambia's Ambassador to Japan, Tobias Mulimbika, says that the anniversary provides an opportunity not only to reflect on the country's journey, but also to consider how international partnerships can contribute to its next phase of development.

He believes Japan has an important role to play in investing in Zambia, saying, "We have very high prospects."

His optimism comes at an important moment in Zambia-Japan relations. After decades of cooperation in development, education, health, agriculture, infrastructure and humanitarian assistance, the two countries are seeking to build a stronger economic partnership, supported by renewed political engagement, private-sector interest and a new legal framework for investment.

A major milestone came during President Hakainde Hichilema's official visit to Japan in February 2025, when Zambia and Japan signed the Japan-Zambia Investment Agreement. It came into force on July 30.

For Zambia, the agreement comes with a clear expectation. "We hope to see increased confidence by the Japanese private sector, beyond confidence, but the actual investment in a number of sectors focusing on value chains and enhancing productivity and increased partnerships with the Zambian companies," Mulimbika said.

The shift is significant. Japan has long been an important development partner. Zambia now wants the relationship to increasingly produce commercial partnerships, investment and jobs.



Ambassador of
Zambia to Japan
Tobias Mulimbika



President Hakainde Hichilema, left, meets His Majesty the Emperor in February 2025 during his working visit to Japan.

"Our focus now is what number of lead investments are we getting from Japan and how many are actually coming into Zambia to invest," Mulimbika said.

Among the most promising areas is mining and critical minerals. Zambia is internationally recognized for copper production and has potential to become an important partner in global supply chains for minerals required for the energy transition. For Japanese companies, this presents opportunities not only in exploration and responsible mining, but also in processing, value addition and technology.

Japan is already supporting Zambia's efforts to strengthen mineral-resource governance and geological mapping. Zambia's ambition is to build on this cooperation by attracting investment that creates greater value within the country rather than simply exporting raw materials.

Agriculture offers another strong area for partnership. Zambia has considerable agricultural potential, but droughts, floods and changing rainfall patterns are increasing pressure on farmers and food systems. Japanese technology and expertise could help address these challenges through climate-smart agriculture, irrigation, agricultural machinery, seed technology, digital systems, post-harvest management and food processing.

"We need to benefit from Japanese technology as we suffer from all these disasters and climate change effects," Mulimbika said.

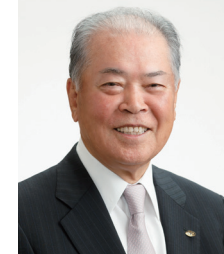
The objective is not only greater resilience, but higher productivity, food security and the development of agricultural value chains that can create jobs and investment opportunities.

Energy and infrastructure are equally important. Zambia is targeting 10,000 megawatts of power-generation capacity, while its strategic location gives it access to major regional trade routes, including the Nacala, Beira and Lobito corridors. Better roads, railways, energy systems, logistics facilities

Hoping for stronger Japan-Zambia ties

By Katsumi Yamaguchi
Chairman of the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association and
Chairman of ECC Co.

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the 62nd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Zambia. On behalf of the Japan-Zambia Friendship Association, students and staff from the ECC Group and people of Japan, I am sincerely pleased to extend our warmest congratulations to President Hakainde Hichilema, and our love and friendship to all the people of peace-loving country of Zambia.



Katsumi Yamaguchi

I hope through working together to promote bilateral friendship and mutual understanding, ties between the Republic of Zambia and Japan continue to grow as outlined in the founding philosophy of the ECC Foreign Language Institute, the charter body of the fellowship: "It is our goal, through the teaching of foreign languages, to contribute to the development of our students' capabilities, international awareness and leadership qualities. In this way, we hope to promote more interaction and understanding among the peoples of the world, thus helping to contribute to world peace."

It is the greatest pleasure for our association to attempt to serve the needs of the people of Zambia, even in our small way. The association will continue to make efforts in the hopes of strengthening and increasing the ties of friendship between our two nations, and throughout the world.

and border infrastructure can strengthen Zambia's position as a regional trade and logistics hub. The Ambassador says the country would welcome greater Japanese participation, particularly through public-private partnerships.

The Nacala Corridor illustrates the potential of such cooperation. Linking Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to the Indian Ocean, the corridor provides an important route for regional trade. Japan has supported infrastructure development along the corridor, including the modernization of Nacala Port and a one-stop border facility in Malawi.

Zambia is also looking to strengthen its own position through the proposed Chipata Logistics Center, which would serve as a dry port and facilitate the movement and handling of goods. Advancing the Chipata-Mchinji railway would further strengthen Zambia's connection to the Nacala route.

Japanese technology could complement these infrastructure ambitions. The Ambassador points to ongoing discussions around railway tracking technology and testing, illustrating how Japanese technical expertise can support Zambia's broader regional connectivity objectives.

Tourism is another area with significant potential. Zambia is targeting five million international tourist arrivals and sees Japan as an important emerging market. Zambia wants to use tourism to stimulate investment in

accommodation, infrastructure and other facilities while strengthening linkages with agriculture, transport, construction, entertainment and other services.

A forthcoming Japan-Zambia Policy Dialogue is expected to deepen cooperation across economic and investment matters, development cooperation, diplomacy and multilateral issues. The objective is to establish a broader framework through which Japanese government institutions, development partners and the private sector can identify and pursue concrete projects. For Zambia, Japan brings technology, capital, development expertise and access to global business networks. Zambia, in turn, offers opportunities in critical minerals, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, tourism and regional supply chains.

Zambia's relationship with Japan is entering a new phase. The longstanding friendship provides a foundation of trust; the Investment Agreement provides a stronger legal framework; and Zambia's economic potential provides the opportunity. The challenge now is to turn that opportunity into investment, jobs, value addition, stronger supply chains and measurable economic growth.

The next chapter of independence for Zambia is not simply building on the achievements of the past, but forging productive partnerships that can deliver sustainable prosperity for the next generation.

Congratulations

to the Republic of Zambia
on the 62nd Anniversary of
their Independence Day



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CONGRATULATIONS

to the People of the Republic of Zambia
on the 62nd Anniversary of Their Independence



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on Their Independence Day

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