

Japanese General Grant Aid

Equipment and Vehicle Handover Ceremony The Forestry Preservation Programme (Department of Forestry)

23rd May, 2013



Left: Ambassador Fujio Samukawa handing over vehicle keys to Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda, the State President of the Republic of Malawi
Right: Ambassador Fujio Samukawa presenting his speech

On 23rd May 2013, His Excellency Fujio Samukawa, the Ambassador of Japan to Malawi handed over a fleet of vehicles that included Trucks, Graders, Water tankers, Forklifts, Lorrie's and motorcycles among others estimated at **276 million Japanese Yen (equivalent of \$2.8 million at present value)**. This fleet is a component of a grant aid under the Forestry Preservation Programme.

In May 2010, Japan exchanged notes with Malawi to support the "Forestry Preservation Programme". The grant amounted to **1.7 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent \$17.3 million at present value)** under the Japanese General Grant Aid. According to Japan's support to developing countries in Africa towards climate change, Japan committed **10 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent \$102 million at present value)** to 9 African countries in 2010 and Malawi received the highest amount. The grant therefore, supports capacity development of the Department of Forestry and Department of Energy to address climate change. To date, the grant has enabled a Japanese Consultant and the Department of Forestry to develop data for Forest Reserves providing the first ever Forest Resource Mapping for the country. It has also enabled the Department of Energy to install an additional energy power Grid line to support the rural electrification programme. In future, the grant will support the Department of Energy with dredging equipment which will include a Dredger, Hopper Barges, Pusher Boat and Excavator and a Weed Hunter to support the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (Escom) dredging system in order to improve the capacity of the Hydropower station.

It is envisaged that the Forestry Preservation Programme will build the capacity of Malawi in forest protection and maintenance and also support the rural electrification programme with the aim of reducing dependency on wood for fuel as a long term measure to cut down on deforestation. The occasion was graced by Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda, the State President of the Republic of Malawi.