



Statement from the Government of Japan

Delivered by Yuji Yamamoto, Minister for Financial Services

Education is an important element for human development that enhances ability and possibility of individuals. Education also supports nation-building, works as a driving force for economic development and a foundation for a peaceful society. Education is also essential to people's empowerment that human security upholds. Therefore, the Government of Japan attaches its importance to support in the education sector in the international cooperation. Japan will make contribution for the Global Partnership for Education in the year 2011 USD 5.4 million. On the other hand we consider the issues of misuse of funds seriously, and would like to request to the GPE to show the revised policy for them, such as prepared by the Global Fund recently. Unless the progress of the revision was shown, it is difficult for our taxpayers to accept contribution for the GPE.

As the Government of Japan mentioned in the Japan's Education Cooperation Policy 2011-2015, we will strengthen our support to the Global Partnership for Education. We would like to promote and implement our assistance model in the area of basic education 'School for All' broadly by improving the comprehensive learning environment. We also support vocational training and higher education as post-basic education, and education in conflict and disaster affected countries.

Japan held the MDGs follow-up meeting in Tokyo this June and received the participation of a broad range of stakeholders. At the education breakout session, we discussed under the themes of "improving the quality of education" and "ensuring equity in education." We compiled a good practice list to share with various stakeholders. This list is available from our

website and we hope more effective approaches will be made by countries and international organizations by referring to or using this list.

Zimbabwe shares the Global Partnership for Education's vision of quality Education for All and seek to nurture robust, international partnerships to achieve this vision for the children of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe developed one of Africa's finest education systems in the 1980s and boasts some of the highest adult literacy rates on the continent. All members of our Government of National Unity are steadfastly committed to restoring Zimbabwe's education system. In the last two years we have made major improvements including the re-opening of schools, the provision of core textbooks for all primary students and the creation of a robust five year sector plan.

I, the Minister of Education, Sports Arts and Culture of Zimbabwe, pledge that we will retain our proud achievement of gender parity in primary and lower secondary education and expand access to quality basic education, especially for orphans and vulnerable children.

We will:

1/ Establish a national baseline of early primary literacy rates in 2012, track it and improve it with measures including the mainstreaming of ECD in all primary schools, teacher development and quality enhancing, per capita based school grants. We aim for a 10 percentage point increase in end of primary examinations by 2015.

2/ endeavour to increase domestic government funding for basic education by 75%, from \$469m (2011) to \$822m in 2014, benefitting over 4m young Zimbabwean learners.

3/ Zimbabwe, which has already abolished rural primary school fees, will offset the school costs for 700,000 orphans and vulnerable children in 2010 and prohibit exclusion of learners for non-payment of parental levies through reform of education regulations. We will further

reduce primary drop-out and increase transition to lower secondary through the phased reduction of compulsory schools fees and levies.

4/ We will introduce a major programme of 2nd chance and skills education for out of school children and youth who have missed out, in particular for orphans and vulnerable children.