

**REMARKS BY H.E. AMB. BENSON H.O.OGUTU, ON THE OCASSION OF THE COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY AT KIDZANIA-TOKYO BY MOTTAINAI OFFICE AT ECO-SHOP PAVILLION ON 24TH APRIL, 2013**

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- Mr. Einosuke Sumitani, CEO, KCJ Group Inc.,
- Mr. Toru Matsushima, Director, Managing Exceutive Officer, Itochu Corp.,
- Mottainai Campaign Kids Ambassadors,
- Media Houses present
- Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciations for the kind invitation to this auspicious occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Eco-Shop Pavillion. Congratulations for the achievements made thus far.

As you may all be aware, this unique Eco Shop pavilion was launched as a facility that would give a chance to our children to experience diverse occupational and social activities as they would be in a real day to day life setting. Since then, I am delighted to note that the pavilion has been of great significance in inspiring the children in what they meaningfully aspire to be in the near future. Thus my special thanks go to the Itochu Corporation, the official sponsor of this eco-shop since its inception in April last year, and indeed all other partners for their immense support for this cause.

It is indeed through such enterprises that we are able to instill and nurture the values of humanity, environmental awareness, good governance and even global citizenship in our dear children. It is equally through the same noble venture that our junior citizens are able to

discern what is best for them and the world and how best to harmoniously achieve the same.

My message today to the children present is that clean environment is our responsibility. When we save our environment, we save our own lives and the entire planet. We therefore need to appreciate and respect our natural surroundings. Indeed each living being has a purpose and each bug has a job. Each dried leaf will eventually degrade into nutrient-rich soil to feed the tree from which it fell. Nature wastes nothing.

Ladies and gentlemen, I note with delight that Kenya shares very special relations with Kidzania, Itochu Corporation and Mainichi Newspaper through the Mottainai Campaign associated with the Late Prof. Wangari Maathai; The First African Woman Nobel Peace Prize winner and the founder of the Green Belt Movement in Kenya, whose activities are featured in this pavilion. I am aware that for every child participating in this pavilion, an amount equivalent to one tree seedling is donated to Green Belt Movement. There couldn't be a better concept of familiarizing our children with the global environmental matters than through this noble initiative.

The Government of Kenya also prides herself in her globally recognized commitment to the conservation of wildlife and nature. Thus being the only developing country to host a UN office; United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) that is charged with the responsibility of global environmental conservation.

Finally, I am confident that this Pavilion will continue to mould our children into environmentally-friendly and high valued global citizens.

Thank you!