**Remarks Made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps on the Occasion of the National Day of Burkina Faso in Yokohama December 1, 2019:**

**H.E. Mr. Pascal BATJOBO Ambassador of Burkina Faso**

**Honorable guests present**

**Excellences and Dear Colleagues**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Konbanwa!**

The Agricultural Revolution that occurred during the 18th and early 19th centuries in Europe and the Americas was a period of technological innovations and increased crop productivity. During this important period of human history - slavery that didn't discriminate gender, creed or ethnicity engulfed the continent of Africa. The criterion was black people living in Africa.

The Industrial Revolution was a period of the transition to new manufacturing processes in Europe and the United States, in the period from about 18th and 19th centuries. During this period of human history, once again, colonialism engulfed the continent of Africa. The criterion was black "dark" continent of Africa.

As we know, those who opposed slavery and colonialism were brutally suppressed with no discrimination in the continent of Africa during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

Dawn after a long night, freedom and independence swept the continent of Africa in the 20th century. The "dark" continent started turning into a continent of hope. Freedom became a brand name of the movement of the black people all over the continent of Africa and outside. 54 countries of Africa became new members of the United Nations family.

Today we are honored to celebrate the National Day of one of this great nation of Africa Burkina Faso here in Yokohama, because independence of Burkina Faso means independence of Africa and independence of Africa means independence of Burkina Faso.

On this occasion, in memory of all those martyrs who fell fighting against slavery and colonialism, let us wish the best for the success of the nation building of resilient and strong Burkina Faso.

United we stand and divided we fall. The era of Africa is now - if not yesterday - but definitely not tomorrow.

Thank you,