

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo on the Occasion of Reception for JICA Directors in Africa by AFRECO Tokyo April 20th 2016:

AFRECO, President, Mr. Tetsuro YANO

Member of Parliament, President of Parliament Members Japan-Africa friendship Caucus, Mr. Ichiro AISAWA

Vice President of JICA, Mr. Hiroshi KATO

Director of JICA Ethiopia Office, Mr. Komei JIN

Senator, former Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mr. Teruhiko MASHIKO

Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Former Vice President of AFRECO, Mr. Jyunzo YAMAMOTO

Former Vice Minister of Finance Mr. Koki KOBAYASHI,

Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Katsuhito ASANO

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all let me thank AFRECO for giving me this opportunity to address this reception for JICA Directors in Africa in my capacity as Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps. My name is ESTIFANOS Afeworki. I am the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan.

On this very sad period in Japan, I would like to express our deepest condolences, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps and myself, for all the people who lost their loved-ones, as well as my sincere sympathies for all those who have been affected by this tragic event in the wide parts of Kumamoto and Oita prefectures' devastating earthquake of last weekend.

Honorable participants

It is the expectation of the African Diplomatic Corps that JICA Directors in Africa this year's meeting has given further an important impetus and role for this important arm of Japan to play in harmonizing the instruments of Japan's ODA to Africa by enhancing and further improving the operationalization of its implementation in all our countries concretely. According to (OECD) reports global ODA has reached \$131.6 billion in 2015. Out of this 7% (\$9.32 billion) has been disbursed globally by Japan in 2015.

As we all know, TICAD VI, which will be held in Nairobi Kenya in the coming August 27th to 28th, 2016 - is the first of its kind to be held in the African continent. Hence the TICAD process is expected by all the stakeholders to evolve into a new stage at this historic summit of African leaders and Japan i.e. both qualitatively and quantitatively. This new level will of course be in line with the African priorities, by embracing the bright future of Africa that we all want as an outcome for our continent, for the years from 2016 to 2019 with a concrete implementation policy, plans and priorities which include but not exclude African Agenda 2063, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - to support the national development plans and self efforts of all the countries in Africa towards achieving their economic growth targets.

Therefore, without-much-ado, let me take this opportunity to go straight and bring-up the current outlook of the African Diplomatic Corps concerning two important issues into this important annual meeting of JICA Directors working in our continent of Africa.

1. The introduction of “Implementation Strategy, Modalities and Roadmap” in the TICAD VI process:

Africa is rapidly entering into an age of investment, transfers of know how and capital as opposed to the traditional aid. Africa is well aware of its past legacy of slavery, colonialism and apartheid and naturally desists any attempt of the past negative balkanization of the continent for its rich strategic resources both natural and human. Hence Africa encourages and calls for its development partners in general and Japan in particular, to put as a core pillar in their ODA policy the mobilization of the people and their ownership of the national and regional programs. Since the TICAD process has been promoting ownership and international partnership, the policy dialogue conducted by Japan with each and every country of Africa must continue to focus on this line with a concrete architecture of deliverables such as supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), improving the business environment and supporting growth through trade and investment.

Therefore, it is in this context, that the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo is proposing the consideration of an “Implementation Strategy, Modalities and Roadmap” to reflect the above-mentioned policy, priorities of Africa to help the operational outcome of TICAD VI Summit in Nairobi Kenya. We seek JICA’s continued engagement, advice and support on this important endeavor.

2. To consider organized transfer of those success stories and experiences, which were recorded by Japan in Asia to the African continent:

Post World War II Japan has contributed in the development efforts of what are called popularly as TIGER economies of Asia. As a governmental agency that coordinates the Official Development Assistance (ODA), JICA has assisted successfully in the economic and social growth of those countries for more than 70 years now. The African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo are of the opinion that an organized transfer of those success stories and experiences, which were recorded by Japan in Asia, can be exported to and replicated as a best practice in Africa. It is imperative for JICA to tap into these experiences to make a repeat of these success stories in Africa through the TICAD process.

Thank you for lending me your ears and enjoy the evening!