

**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 Opening Ceremony of the 11<sup>th</sup> Africa Festival Yokohama 2018 April 6, 2018**

Mr. Ewdwin Matey Cofie, Chairman, African Festival Yokohama  
Mr. Hirotsugu Sato, President, Japan-Africa Friendship Yokohama City Council  
Mr. Ken Matsumoto, President, Yokohama City Council  
Mr. Katsumori Watanabe, Deputy Mayor, City of Yokohama  
Ambassador Masahoro Kiya, Deputy Director General African Affairs Department  
Excellencies and Dear Colleagues  
Honorable guests present

Ohaio Gozaimuse!

My name is Estifanos Afeworki, I am the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps.

First and foremost, let me join the other speakers once again to congratulate Mr. Cofie all those who participated with him for organizing the 11<sup>th</sup> Africa Festival Yokohama 2018. Allow me also to thank and express the African Diplomatic Corps' gratitude and my appreciation to the City of Yokohama for the support rendered to this African grass root activity. I am sure our common effort will certainly play a role of deepening understanding between Japan and African countries.

TICAD VII 2019 is going to be held in Yokohama. TICAD IV and V were also held in the past in Tokyo. The linkage of the City of Yokohama and African countries is growing year by year. The friendship and solidarity with our African countries is also developing slowly but surely day-by-day. Thank you Yokohama City for all the wonderful efforts that you are making. We look forward to work with you hand in hand for the success of the coming TICAD VII 2019 and TOKYO OLYMPICS 2020.

I am sure this event will give the public a chance to talk to Africa directly not to be limited to talks about Africa indirectly. Japan must not be left out from the opportunities that Africa can provide. Africa must not be left out from the opportunities that Japan can provide. Our mutual interest is a common destiny of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity that we must all strive to achieve.

I wish good success to the 11<sup>th</sup> Africa Festival Yokohama 2018.

Arigato