

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps at the reception hosted by Mr. Yuji YAMAMOTO, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 7th April 2017

His Excellency, Mr. Yuji YAMAMOTO, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Honorable participants

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening,

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

My country is situated in the tropical area of Africa. More than 90% of my countrymen's people livelihood is on agriculture, cattle-sheep-goats-cattle-herding-and-fisheries. Our population celebrates the end of the rainy season and harvest period widely. It is associated with the resumption of work and communications. Families and villagers gather to share food, drinks, folklore music and dances. Boys and girls donning new clothes gather daisies and different flowers from the fields to present to friends and family members. All members of our society blend with nature during this particular period with great joy and sound of music. I am sure such events are similarly celebrated with joy and hope in most of our countries in this globe. The cherry blooming and celebrations associated with them in Japan remind all of us here today of the beauty of our livelihoods everywhere which is mystically blended harmoniously with nature.

Therefore, let me take this opportunity to thank and expresses appreciation, on behalf of the diplomatic corps and myself, to Minister YAMAMOTO for the invitation extended to all of us today to celebrate life appreciating the temporal beauty of nature which is expressed throughout the cherry blossom "Hanami" viewing season in Japan.

Arigato!