

**Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) on Tokyo Africa Club (TAC) Meeting August 10, 2016:**

Ambassador Norio Maruyama, Director General of African Affairs Department  
MoFA

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues

After working with you and your team in MoFA on the TICAD VI preparations in a very flawless manner, I think it is appropriate, at this juncture, for me to express on behalf of the African Diplomatic and myself our deep felt gratitude and appreciation – for engaging our group in a very candid, open minded, continued, constructive approach during this important process of mutual importance to our countries.

Thank you so much for making the working environment of our engagements ideal for the enhancement and betterment of our friendly relations at all levels here in Tokyo.

In our preparation for TICAD VI, with your kind support, the African Diplomatic Corps has successfully lobbied and solicited support from the public and private sector of Japan through its collective diplomacy. ADC has successfully engaged itself with all the co-organizers, AfDB, government leaders of Japan, African Union – Japan Parliamentary Friendship League, House of Representatives (Diet) ODA Committee, Japan Association of Corporate Executives, Japan Business Federation, JICA, JBIC, JETRO, JOGMEC, NIKKEI, JATA, Corporates, NPOs, NGOs, media, academia, farmers, and local folks etc.

Hence, it is our high expectation and we are confident that a good quality level of activities i.e. diplomatic, political, scientific, economic, and cultural exchange and mutual tie-up program of events shall be launched between Japan and African countries in the Nairobi Summit by the end of this month.

Job well done and thank you again.