

Remarks Made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps on TICAD7 Official Pre-Event ICREP-NTDs International Symposium July 30, 2019.

Professor Koichi Suzuki (Teikyo University)

Dr. Makoto Suematsu, President of Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)

Mr. Yutaka Hishiyama, DG, Science and Technology Policy Bureau Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Honorable participants

Colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen

First of all, let me express on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo and myself as Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan, our deep felt gratitude and thanks for the invitation extended to me to make an opening remark in this important symposium of scientists being held today to promote cooperation between African countries and Japan on the infectious disease research.

As we all know, present day science and medicine have made tremendous progress and accomplishments in protecting humanity from threats of continued epidemics caused by the migration of unknown and known virus, bacteria, fungi, protozoan microorganisms and different parasites inflicting human beings - transported through different mediums - from wild plants, animals and their habitats.

Protecting humanity from diseases and epidemics is an ongoing international security issue. No nation in this planet is safe from the spread of diseases - known or unknown. Therefore, it is a duty and obligation of all states, institutions, health workers and researchers to work hand-in-hand and to collaborate to serve the common objective of human security across boundaries.

No one gathered here today in this symposium of scientist doubts that Africa is the original home of humanity. But it was only in 2000 that scientists discovered earliest well dated fossil reef on Eritrea's coast of the Red Sea where our ancestors, who migrated out of Africa, collected oysters, clams, scallops and crabs some 125,000 years ago. Abdur - 125, 000 years old - is the earliest best-dated evidence for human occupation of a coastal marine environment now. This is one example and another clear evidence that researchers have much to do and study from the continent of Africa especially in areas of scientific learning's and the future of mankind.

Therefore, it is desirable for Japanese experiences and lessons learned in the areas of scientific studies in general and cooperation on infectious diseases research between Africa and Japan in particular to get due attention and support

in TICAD7. It is an opportune period to share cutting age science, technology and innovation between African learning institutions and Japan.

TICAD7 must avail a mechanism to create a tie-up for learning institutions of Africa and Japan now. Transfer of know-how, technology and financial support to such an endeavor shall definitely serve our mutual common human security. I believe that there is much room for Japanese public-private contributions especially in creating a bridge and tie-up with the learning institutions of our African countries

Keeping in mind the policy and institutional capacity of Africa's learning institutions, it is imperative for the Government of Japan and the private sector of Japan to ensure sound financial grounds in the TICAD7 for expanding and creating a successful partnership. Hence, it is imperative for Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan to ensure sustainable support to the learning institutions of Japan to accomplish their missions in our African countries, as the resource demand is obviously substantial.

Wish you all successful deliberations and positive outcome and thank you again,