

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 Occasion of “The first Special Advisors Conference” 11 June 2014, Tokyo, Japan:

Honorable members of the Diet,
Mr. Tetsuro Yano President of AFRECO,
Excellencies Ambassadors of Japan working in Africa,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is ESTIFANOS: I am the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and currently Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo. I just came after making, on behalf of my colleagues, the African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo, a brief closing remark for the successful conduct of “Japan Africa Business Forum 2014”. Therefore, on the outset, I would like to extend our gratitude and heartfelt thanks, once again, for all your efforts and contribution to make this event a successful one.

Our special thanks goes Mr. Tetsuro Yano, who our group fondly call as Mr. Africa for his continued strong solidarity, friendship and support in the development of Japan Africa relations, President of the Association of African Economy and Development (AFRECO). I believe, this forum has been a great opportunity that has enhanced everyone's knowledge on business opportunities and tie-ups for both the Africans and Japanese participants. I would also like to take this opportunity, on the same note, to convey a very special thanks to the Excellencies, the Japanese Ambassadors and diplomats who are working very hard in African countries for the two ends to meet.

The African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo believes that recommendations, which the participants had proposed in this forum, i.e. both African and Japanese businesses, are worthy subjects for follow up actions by governments and policy makers both in Japan and African countries.

TICAD V policy, implementation plan and matrix have been put in place, what is remaining now is implementation. The cooperation road map between Japan and African countries can be described at this juncture as ready to take off: sky is the limit. The strategic implication of the growing relations and the on going dialogue in terms of peace, stability, prosperity and economic cooperation in the continent including but not excluding UN reform is clear and imperative too.

African countries look forward to investment in Agriculture because there is rich potential for the development of both intensive and extensive agriculture that could pay high returns to investors from Japan. Lucrative business opportunities include seafood processing plants, shrimp farms, boat construction, maintenance etc. African countries have extensive advantages to promote fast industrialization. Mineral and energy resources, tourism, backlog in infrastructure networks and services, transportation networks and services, free economic zones etc. are abundant. It is the Ambassadors of Africa in Tokyo and the Ambassadors of Japan in our capitals duty and obligation to lure Japanese foreign direct investment to Africa or vice versa.

In this brief remark, I must thank, all of you once again here especially all those Ambassadors of Japan working very hard in Africa and Mr. Africa to build vibrant Africa Japan relations. Thank you and let's work hand in hand to build a better Africa.

