

Remarks by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of African Diplomatic Corps on the Occasion of the Ambassadorial Conference hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan - June 11, 2014

Mr. Koichiro Matsuuara,
President of the Africa Society of Japan,
Mr. Tesuro Yano
President of the Association of African Economy and Development
Japan ECA Committee,
Ambassador Yoshifumi Okamura,
Director General African Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Japanese Ambassadors to African countries,
Honorable guests and participants of “Japan-Africa Business Forum 2014”
(All protocol respected),
Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

I again thank, salute and congratulate Japan, South Africa, African Diplomatic Corps, African Development Bank and all those businesses and leaders who made “Japan Africa Business Forum 2014” a successful event, by their active participation.

“Japan Africa Business Forum 2014” was not business as usual. In this forum businesses from the African continent have outlined their objectives, needs and requirements for a concrete tie-ups with Japanese business community in all their national and regional efforts of developments - encompassing all major sectors of their economies.

This very significant business dialogue from June 11 – 12, 2014 has substantively explored ways and means of creating a roadmap to achieve a-win-win partnership in the transfer of technology, know how and capital between Japan and Africa. The Government of Japan has once again shown its commitment in support of this kind of partnership as pledged in 2013 Tokyo International Conference for African Development Yokohama (TICAD V).

Therefore, realizing, the cardinal role investment could play in African countries development imperatives: such as in agriculture, fisheries, marine resources, tourism, infrastructure, transportation, banking, insurance, financial intermediation, construction, real estate, free zones, I once again echo in this reception, African Diplomatic Corps’ ardent support to “Japan Africa Business Forum 2014” and encourage Japanese Ambassadors to African countries, present here, to urge and lure Japanese businesses to come and open their offices in our capitals to explore the growing investment opportunities already available in Africa.

The world economies are increasingly becoming multipolar with their last frontier clearly placed in the continent of Africa. Africa has clearly regained its strategic importance not only for its proximity to the major flourishing Asian markets but also as a fast growing future market too.

Thank you.