

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 the Occasion of the 10th African Festival Yokohama 2017 on March 24th 2017:

**Mr. Edwin Matey Cofie, Chairman
African Festival Yokohama Organizing Committee**

**Mr. Hirofumi SATO, Chairperson
Japan-Africa Friendship Yokohama City Council Members' League**

**Mr. Makoto Sekiyama Director General
International Affairs Bureau City of Yokohama**

**DG
African Affairs Department MoFA**

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, let me congratulate the organizing committee, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps and myself, for their achievement to make this event possible for the 10th time in this historic part of Japan – the City of Yokohama. We deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication put by the organizers to make this event a successful one.

As you all know, Japan and 54 African countries together with the representatives of 52 other partner countries, 74 international and regional organizations, representatives of the private sector and civil society organizations from both Japan and Africa met in Nairobi, Kenya, 27 – 28 August 2016 for the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICA VI). The outcome document of this historically important conference held in Africa for the first time recognized people centered development as its core value. Enhancing the capacity of each person in Africa as well as in diaspora is a core value that has been underlined in the conference. Your efforts in organizing this event reflect this value and are also inline with the sustainable implementation of this goal.

Therefore, this people to people diplomacy and different activities held in **the 10th African Festival Yokohama 2017** - that will be held for the next three days by the different participants - are expected to further help and enhance a better understanding of Africa and African countries by the Japanese public as well as in fostering this core value of TICAD VI.

Thank you very much for the invitation extended to the African Diplomatic Corps to participate and let me wish to the organizers the successful conduct of this event once again. Keep up the good work.

Arigato!

