

Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in Tokyo on the Occasion of the Opening of the Africa Fair organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Construction and Tokyo Zoological Park in Tokyo March 26, 2016:

Mr. Katshiko Sano, DG, Bureau of Construction, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Mr. Yoshihiro Fujii, Chief Director Tokyo Zoological Park Society
Excellencies and Dear Colleagues
Honorable participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all let me thank the organizers of this event for creating this opportunity, for all of us, to promote and enhance the public understanding of the huge potential of the eco-system and biodiversity of the continent of Africa to the Japanese public, and for the invitation extended to me to attend and make a short remark in this opening ceremony of the Africa Fair organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Construction and Tokyo Zoological Park Society today March 26, 2016.

With the huge mainland and islands, the continent of Africa has a major asset of a unique eco-system and biodiversity and part of its great promising future is along these activities which are closely linked to the future of all mankind in terms of innovation, scientific research, food security, fisheries, tourism and transport. Therefore, the need to appropriately address developmental issues in the whole continent of Africa at a national and sub-regional level to benefit from and safeguard the integrity of this important bio-sphere of our planet earth is of prime importance.

It is important for mankind everywhere to realize and be educated through various communication medium and mechanisms that we must meet our present day generation needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs and destroying their chances to develop. I hope this event of today will help in creating this kind of awareness in the participating public.

Sustainable use of the ecosystems and biodiversity for multiple purposes, and protection of natural and cultural values of the continent of Africa is not a choice but a must for mankind's continued survival. The African continent is home to a multitude of species of animal and plant life, still in their natural habitat - in the wild. Basic laws, rules, regulations, guides and institutional structures for sustainable management of the continent of Africa's natural and human-made assets both at local and international level must be put in place in the interest of protecting these important heritages of mankind now and in the future

As you all know, the Tokyo International Conference on African development (TICAD IV) will take place in **Nairobi**, Kenya on 27-28 August 2016. Africa's centrality in the world prosperity and stability is expected to be lime-lighted in this summit. We hope and wish this event of today would help in this endeavor.....Thank you