

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 - November 30, 2016

Mr. Koichiro Matsuuara, President of the Africa Society of Japan (ASJ),
Mr. Tesuro Yano President of the Association of African Economy and Development Japan (AFRECO),
Mr. Shinchi Kitaoka President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Ambassador Norio Maruyama, Director General of the African Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Japanese Ambassadors to African countries, and African Ambassadors to Japan present

Honorable guests and colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity first and foremost to thank, salute and congratulate the Ambassadors of Japan in our African countries and the African Ambassadors here in Tokyo who made 2016 TICAD VI Nairobi Kenya, held for the first time in the African continent, a successful event.

I hope the same continued mutual effort will be made to the success of the next TICAD VII to be held here in Japan after 3 years.

The Government of Japan has once again shown its commitment in support of business partnership with African countries in 2016 TICAD VI Nairobi Kenya.

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 call to the Japanese Ambassadors in our African countries to urge and lure Japanese businesses to come and open their offices in our capitals to explore the growing investment opportunities already available in our countries.

The world economies are increasingly becoming multipolar with their last frontier clearly placed in the continent of Africa and our countries.

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.

The African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo have high expectations in from the Japanese Ambassadors in our countries to play their continued positive role by facilitating practical dialogue that would lead into concrete tie-ups between businesses of our counties in Africa and Japan before TICAD VII.

The yardstick of the coming TICAD VII and your diplomatic achievements will be how many companies from Japan invested in each of our countries by 2019.

Therefore in conclusion, with these few words of wisdom, allow me to wish all the best to the continued building of solidarity and friendship between Japan and African countries in this holiday season.

My name is Estifanos Afeworki. I am the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo.

Thank you for lending me your ears,