

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 UNIDO ITPO KAIZEN Workshop for ADC September 21, 2017:

Head of UNIDO ITPO Tokyo Dr. Yuko YASUNAGA

Distinguished participants from public and private entities of Japan
Excellencies and Dear Colleagues from the African Diplomatic Corps

Thank you so much for the introduction as well as for the kind invitation extended to me and other colleagues to participate in this event.

To start with, let me say that I am very much pleased to hear the appointment of Dr. Yuko Yasunaga as Head of UNIDO ITPO Tokyo. Hence, Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Yasunaga and wish him success on his new appointment. I see an experience of Africa embedded in Dr. Yasunaga, when he is assuming this important position at present. His experience in the resource diplomacy in our continent shall definitely contribute to further enhance the relations between our African countries and UNIDO.

Dr. Yasunaga,

The African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) looks forward to working with you closely. It is our strong belief and expectation to work together constructively hand-in-hand in the promotion and implementation of the Nairobi TICAD Declaration.

In my capacity as the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and as a member of the African Diplomatic Corps here in Tokyo, I am not new to this subject matter of our meeting that is focused on KAIZEN today. JICA and the Ministry of Health of my country, in a three years program, have introduced Toyota Quality Management (TQM), which is basically 5S plus KAIZEN, in Eritrea few years back. This management tool, which was originally developed in Japan, used hands on experience from Sri Lanka, Senegal, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Madagascar and other health services in our African countries has greatly benefited from this initiative.

Life cycles of technology, management and know-how used in social services of many of our African countries are not only obsolete but also redundant. Technology adoption is the most common phenomenon, which drives the evolution of efficiency in social infrastructures and services. Efficiency is a major component of development with out which no diplomatic, political, social and industrial transformation could be envisaged in our continent or in any other part of the world for that matter.

A growing economy, exponential growth of population can be an opportunity to many of our countries but a redundant obsolete management system is also a great handicap and impediment to growth. Quality management systems of Japan have been used in Asia effectively. The private sector has been key. Africa looks forward to working with the private sector of Japan in the continued

introduction of important management tools for the improvement of products and services.

Thank you,