

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 1st Anniversary of Japan Africa Infrastructure Development Associations (JAIDA) at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism September 27, 2017:

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Keiichi Ishii
Japan - Africa Infrastructure Development Associations (JAIDA) President Yoji Okumura

JAIDA Chairman Yoichi Miyamoto

Distinguished leaders of the private companies present

Colleagues from the African Diplomatic Corps

Ladies and gentlemen

In my capacity as the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) and Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan, please allow me first and foremost to extend my deep felt gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the invitation extended to me and my colleagues by the Ministry of Land and Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to attend this important event which is being held to commemorate the 1st Anniversary of the Japan Africa Infrastructure Development Association (JAIDA).

Let me express also on the onset that I am impressed by the turnout of attendance, especially of the more than 146 Japanese major engineering and construction companies represented by their key leaderships and CEOs and 38 Ambassadors and Colleagues from the African Diplomatic Corps in this important event of today. Your attendance clearly demonstrates that TICAD VI implementation plan of quality infrastructure is gaining traction and momentum. This is a clear sign that present constraints and bottlenecks of information and consultations between African countries and the private sector of Japan are clearly being shattered.

As you all know, defining the guidelines for the development of quality infrastructure at macro and micro level is indeed daunting but an important task that has been achieved at both national and regional level in each of our African countries. AGENDA 2063 – the first ten-year implementation plan for 2014 – 2023 is in place. TICAD VI has embraced it. SDGs have targeted it.

Land, infrastructure, transport and tourism are the major contributors in the GDP growth, which occupies a very high and significant scale of employment in all of our African countries.

African countries harmonization of trade routes with the neighborhoods - across the borders - as well as with far-off places shall depend on the deployment of quality infrastructure i.e. through the deployment of maritime, aviation, railways, land, pipeline, utilities and other related ancillary networks and services.

Japan has a highly qualified engineering and construction companies that can play a major role in changing the current infrastructure landscape in Africa.

Projects that have been implemented and are being implemented by Japanese companies in the different trade corridors of Africa and each of our countries are living proof. This shows that Japanese companies can definitely play a pivotal role to help African countries build and promote safe, efficient, economic, affordable and sustainable quality infrastructure networks and services. I believe that Japan's commitment in the TICAD process and its response towards these goals shall be an important contribution to Africa. Africa can also benefit from competitions of the Japanese companies with other foreign operators in the continent. There is no trade without harmonization of the routes.

Last but not least, let me state that the 38 African Embassies here in Tokyo are ready to facilitate and create ways and means of creating a business tie-up between your esteemed ministry, agencies, administration and companies with counterparts in our capitals. I wish a constructive outcome in today's deliberations. The Embassy of the State of Eritrea to Japan – would also like to assure the participants and express once again in this important meeting that we are ready to facilitate and serve you.

Thank you for lending me your ears,