

24th May 2022

Online Celebration of the 31st Independence Anniversary of the State of Eritrea

Remarks by Hon. Ichiro AISAWA, Member of the House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I am Ichiro Aizawa, a member of the House of Representatives and Chairperson of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League. I would like to congratulate Eritrea on its 31st anniversary of independence. Let me extend my heartfelt congratulations.

On behalf of the AU Parliamentary Friendship League, I, Ichiro Aizawa, from the National Diet of Japan, would like to support the growth and development of Eritrea. I sincerely hope that Eritrea will maintain and protect the universal values for human beings, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and humanity and human rights, to lead the country toward development.

I am well aware that Eritrea has a unique history and culture. I understand that Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, is registered as a World Heritage Site, which is a great honor the people of Eritrea are proud of. There are high expectations for the utilization of Asmara as a tourism asset and resource.

Now, let us greatly develop the bilateral relationship between Japan and Eritrea. Human exchange is important. It is also important to promote trade and investment. In August 2022, the TICAD will be held in Tunisia. Japan's diplomacy toward Africa takes it as "Business TICAD", and we would like to strongly develop it in Eritrea as well.

Eritrea is located in a very important geopolitical position facing the Red Sea. Now, the world's security system is drastically shaken by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Stability in Africa, Security in Middle East, I expect that you keep your eyes on these issues, to contribute to the stability and peace in Eritrea. I would also like to reiterate my promise as the chairperson of the Parliamentary Friendship League to support Eritrea's challenges in the area of people's welfare. Eritrean coffee is wonderful, isn't it? I hope that Eritrean coffee will be promoted more actively in Japanese market as well. As one of the supporters of Africa, I would like to assist you.

The first step in nation building is to develop human resources. Also, the strength of agriculture of Eritrea is the foundation for growth and development. In addition, the world has severely taken damage by COVID-19. I would like to encourage Japan to improve and strengthen basic health and medical systems in Eritrea.

In terms of human resources development, the ABE initiative is also important. I would like Eritrea's high qualified workers to come to Japan as students. Their experience as interns at Japanese companies will be utilized for the nation building of Eritrea, and the growth and development of the economy. I sincerely hope that this ABE Initiative program will be utilized more than ever before. I wish each and every citizen of Eritrea good health and the best of luck, and continued development of Eritrea on the occasion of its 31st anniversary of independence. Congratulations and best wishes for the future of Eritrea. Thank you very much.