



**Message by H.E. Mr. Kazuhiro Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia and
Permanent Representative of Japan to the African Union,
on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between
Japan and Ethiopia**

21 February, 2015

Today, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ethiopia. On this momentous occasion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the endeavors of our predecessors who made great efforts to maintain a strong friendship between our two countries. In the days, weeks and years to come, I expect both Japan and Ethiopia to continue to foster a stronger relationship as exceptional partners in various fields including business, economic development, educational and cultural exchanges. I will do my utmost to carry out this important mission.

On 21 February, 1955, diplomatic relations between Japan and Ethiopia were restored. Since then, Japan has taken a comprehensive approach in delivering official development assistance, not only in the area of infrastructure development, such as the construction of bridges and roads, but also in human resources development, such as education and health. As you are well aware, one of our major on-going projects is KAIZEN. The simple principles contained within KAIZEN, such as tidiness and self-discipline, impressed the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who adopted KAIZEN as a national strategy in 2009. Based on his request, Japan has been assisting Ethiopia in promoting KAIZEN nationwide ever since. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn is also eager to promote and implement this Japanese management philosophy throughout Ethiopia.

Since the day both countries restored diplomatic relations, people in Japan and Ethiopia, from both the public and private spheres, have come and gone to each other's countries for a variety of occasions. For instance, Emperor Haile Selessie visited Japan in 1956,

and in 1960 Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, then crown prince and princess, returned the courtesy visit to Ethiopia. Going forward, the flow of people and the close relationship mentioned above will only become closer as Ethiopian Airlines is scheduled to start offering direct flights to Japan this April. I sincerely hope that not only the peoples of our two countries but also the people of the African Continent as a whole will take advantage of this opportunity.

Due to the many efforts of our predecessors, Japan has received much appreciated affection and respect from the people of Ethiopia. I am sure that we will go far in promoting prosperity in this country by elevating bilateral relations to an even higher level by making use of the momentum we gained through Japanese Prime Minister Abe's visit to Ethiopia in January 2014. Japan is geographically far from Ethiopia but will continue to be a good neighbor of Ethiopia and other African countries as we come together to promote a truly enlightened and prosperous world.

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