



H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, met with H.E. Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and announced the Establishment of JETRO Addis Ababa Office

On 26 September 2015, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, had a meeting with H.E. Ato Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly which is held in New York.

When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Ethiopia in January 2014, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn requested H.E. Mr. Abe to establish an office of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Addis Ababa in order to accelerate Japanese private sector investment in Ethiopia. At the meeting on 26 September 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe conveyed to Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegne the message that JETRO decided to establish its office in Addis Ababa.

Prime Minister Hailematiam, for his part, welcomed the decision and expressed his hope for the further development of bilateral economic relations. Prime Minister Hailemariam also expressed his gratitude for the “KAIZEN” initiative, which Japan has promoted in Ethiopia, as well as his intention to keep boosting the movement in Ethiopia.

JETRO is a government-related organization working to promote mutual trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. At the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June 2013, Japanese Government had announced JETRO’s plan to double the number of offices in Africa.

Ethiopia has over 90 million population, which is the second largest in Africa. The United Nations estimates that it will grow to approximately 200 million in 2050. The Ethiopian market, therefore, is expected to be growing as well. The labor cost in Ethiopia is lower than any other major African countries. Ethiopia is, therefore, attracting foreign direct investment in the labor-intensive industry sector and has enjoyed around 10% economic growth for the last decade, attracting, currently, huge volume of foreign direct investment. Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, is the African diplomatic center where the Headquarters of the African Union and UNECA are located.

Taking those facts into account, JETRO decided to have its seventh office in Africa. JETRO expressed its hope that JETRO Addis Ababa office will be a new bridgehead to expand businesses between Japan and Africa.

JETRO has extensive experience in attracting Japanese companies to industrial zones of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, and therefore, an excellent contribution in promoting Foreign Direct Investment is expected.

There are around 33,000 Japanese companies engaged in export. Among them, 15,200 companies, or 46%, make use of JETRO services. There are around 4,500 Japanese companies with a corporate presence overseas. Among them, about 3,650 companies, or 81%, utilize JETRO services.

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**Embassy of Japan
Addis Ababa**

