

Japan inaugurates new Awash Bridge

- **This bridge is indeed a token of friendship between our two countries: Ambassador Suzuki**

Japan inaugurates the second bridge of friendship, the Awash Bridge, seven years after it handed over the Hidase (Abay) bridge, again ensuring the safe and speedy movement of goods and people to its main import/export destination-the port of Djibouti.

Speaking on the multidimensional benefits of the bridge during the inaugural occasion held on 28 February, 2015, Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Kazuhiro Suzuki remarked: “Japanese infrastructure is known for its exceptionally high quality, and we pride ourselves on our superior skill in building infrastructure in a comprehensive manner, not only utilizing technology, but also by emphasizing human resource development through technology transfer, as well as introducing maintenance and management techniques, with a focus on the environment and safety.”

Ambassador Suzuki underlined the importance of the bridge in reducing the numerous bottlenecks that frequently occur along the main road between Addis Ababa and Djibouti, adding that it will lower logistics costs and shorten the time for transporting goods, which culminates in bringing significant improvements in the nation’s business and investment climate.

The bridge construction itself was implemented as “the Project for the Replacement of Awash Bridge on A1 Trunk Road” by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), together with the Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA). JICA has been assisting road and bridge construction and maintenance through its technical cooperation and grant assistance schemes.

The new Awash Bridge was built for a total cost of around USD 10 million. In September 2008, Japan also inaugurated the Hidase (Abay) Bridge that links surplus producing areas of the north-west to the center of the country, and with neighboring Sudan.

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Embassy of Japan, Addis Ababa

