

**Joint Communiqué between Japan and Ethiopia  
on the Occasion of the State Visit of Prime Minister Abe to  
the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

13 January 2014

H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, who is on a State Visit to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 13-14 January, 2014 and H.E. Ato Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia held official talks on 13 January, 2014. Both leaders had a constructive dialogue for cooperation in bilateral, regional and international arenas. Noting more than 8 decades of bilateral relationship, which is the longest among the African countries, they reaffirmed the importance of further enhancing the long standing close and cooperative relationship between the two countries.

**1. Overall bilateral relations**

Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed Prime Minister Abe, as a host of his State Visit to Ethiopia and as AU Chairperson, for selecting Addis Ababa as his last stop of his tour in Africa. Prime Minister Hailemariam also expressed his determination that Ethiopia, as a founding member of OAU/AU, would continue to contribute to the peace and stability of the African continent.

Prime Minister Abe welcomed Prime Minister Hailemariam's determination and stated that he was privileged to be in Addis Ababa, *the capital of African diplomacy*, and reiterated his appreciation for the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Hailemariam of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in June last year, being indispensable for the success of the TICAD V.

Prime Minister Abe reiterated his commitment to closely follow up the implementation of the TICADV Declaration and the Action Plan.

Prime Minister Abe welcomed the assumption of the Presidency by Dr. Mulatu Teshome, who was a former Ambassador to Japan in the early 1990s, while commending the achievements over the past twelve years of former President

Ato Girma Wolde-Giorgis.

## **2. Economic relations**

Prime Minister Hailemariam expressed his Government's determination to continue Ethiopia's economic growth projected by the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). Prime Minister Abe emphasized the continuous support through the Industrial Policy Dialogue towards an achievement of the GTP. Prime Minister Hailemariam applauded the Industry Policy Dialogue for its high-quality input leading towards the transformation of industry sector, which is one of the main pillars of the GTP. Prime Minister Hailemariam highlighted the inspiring *Champion Products* approach, which is considered to bring pride to Ethiopian industrial sector and enhance trade capacity and export driven measures. He also expressed his hope that more Japanese direct investment, including from its small and medium sized enterprises, would be forthcoming and commended the entrepreneurial spirit shown by some Japanese business pioneers in Ethiopia, particularly in the leather industry sector.

Prime Minister Abe reiterated that there were growing interests among Japanese companies towards Ethiopia, shown by the presence of CEOs, and Executive Vice President of JETRO in his delegation. Prime Minister Hailemariam, in return, welcomed the Japanese companies' CEOs visiting Ethiopia. Prime Minister Hailemariam invited Japanese investors to take advantages of favourable investment climate in Ethiopia and invest in lucrative investment areas, such as textiles, leather, mining, energy, manufacturing and agro-processing. In order to promote investment in Ethiopia, Prime Minister Hailemariam promised that Ethiopian side would make efforts to reduce impediments to investment in various areas including inland transport and custom procedures.

Both leaders welcomed the signing of the Exchange of Notes between the two governments which enables direct and scheduled flights from Bole International Airport in Ethiopia to Narita International Airport in Japan, and expressed their hope that the said arrangement would contribute to closer business relations and encourage more people-to-people exchange between the two countries. Prime Minister Abe stated that this would have a significant impact on Japanese business interests as Addis Ababa is a hub of the African Continent.

### **3. Economic cooperation**

From the viewpoint of Human Security, Prime Minister Abe expressed to continuously promote Japan's bilateral Official Development Assistance in areas such as agriculture and rural development, infrastructure development and education in Ethiopia. In response, Prime Minister Hailemariam expressed his gratitude to these Japanese assistance in particular to the JICA's cooperation.

Prime Minister Hailemariam was particularly pleased to note that *KAIZEN*, which is currently implemented by Ethiopian ownership with Japan's cooperation for private sector development, has played a vital role in the economic transformation of Ethiopia. Responding to this, Prime Minister Abe emphasized the importance of continuous cooperation between Japan and Ethiopia for this matter and announced that Japan plans to establish a TICAD Human Resource Development Centre for Business and Industry in Addis Ababa while strengthening Ethiopia KAIZEN Institute as the first Centre in African continent. Prime Minister Abe also expressed his hope that the Centre serves as a catalyst in promoting human resource development not only for Ethiopia but for African continent in the industrial sector, bearing in mind that Ethiopia is a key player of Kaizen network in Africa. Both leaders also shared the view that the African Business Education Initiative for the Youth (ABE Initiative), which invites 1,000 eminent African Youth to study in Japan and intern at Japanese firms through public private partnerships, could provide Ethiopian young talents with opportunities to experience KAIZEN in Japan and access to Japanese private sector. Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed that these efforts would contribute to the development of the youth, an important element to connect bilateral business relations, and to the promotion of investment by Japanese companies in Ethiopia.

Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to resume a Japanese Yen Loan and conveyed his expectation that its first project would be the one for increasing the geothermal power generation capability of Ethiopia in Aluto Langano, which is currently under the Feasibility Study (F/S) funded by Japan. He also expressed his interest in the potential of development of the geothermal energy in Ethiopia and his determination to formulate a master plan on its sector.

Prime Minister Abe expressed that the Government of Japan would conduct a survey weighting on technical perspective of the urban water supply projects upon request from Ethiopian government in order to find ways of Japan's cooperation, and was also ready to provide technical cooperation in this area. Prime Minister Abe also emphasized that the Government of Japan intended to continue providing support for rural water supply and deploy a study mission for the Small Towns Water Supply Development in Rift Valley Basin in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Regional State.

Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to provide JPY 520 million grant assistance for underprivileged farmers to improve self-sufficiency in food.

#### **4. People-to-people exchanges**

Prime Minister Hailemariam congratulated Prime Minister Abe on Japan's hosting of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. While noting that the year 2014 is the fiftieth anniversary of Abebe Bikila winning the gold medal in the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964, both leaders reaffirmed their intention to increase momentum for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and hoped that the exchange of people through sports would further be promoted between the two countries. Both leaders welcomed that commemorative events for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 would be held in both countries in 2014.

In addition, Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed the Sports for Tomorrow programme announced by Prime Minister Abe through which Japan intends to promote the values of sports and the Olympic movement to more than 10 million people in over 100 countries.

#### **5. The Horn of Africa region's peace as a key to the international security**

Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of cooperation to fight against terrorism and shared the view that terrorism is threat to the international peace and should not be accepted by any means. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe commended Ethiopia's contribution to regional peace and security.

Prime Minister Abe also commended the Ethiopia's recent decision to join the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and its contribution to promote

political dialogue both in Sudan and South Sudan, and Somalia as the chair of IGAD and the AU as well as the contribution to UNISFA for peace and stability in Abyei region.

Prime Minister Abe announced his intention to extend grant aid for peace and stability including assistance for the refugees in Ethiopia totaling 11.6 million USD through international aid agencies, and to contribute totaling 500 thousand USD to the African Centre for Peace and Security Training (ACPST). Furthermore, Prime Minister Abe wished the two Peace Keeping Operation Training Centres, which are Ethiopia International Peace Keeping Training Centre and the ACPST, would contribute to the Ethiopian efforts towards African Peace and Security Architecture. Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed the Japanese government's intentions.

Prime Minister Hailemariam stated that he highly valued Japan's role in the Horn of Africa, particularly the activities of the Japan Self Defense Force and others in the area of counter-piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden, and Japan's contribution to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). Regarding the case of UNMISS, Prime Minister Hailemariam commended that Japan's contribution gives positive impacts on South Sudan communities through, for example, assisting in infrastructure development.

In response, Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's appreciation and support for the efforts made by Ethiopia and relevant countries, in cooperation with the institutions including African Union (AU) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), toward the peaceful resolution of the current situation in South Sudan.

In this regard, Prime Minister Abe explained his determination to act based on the policy of 'Proactive Contribution to Peace' based on the principle of international cooperation which will contribute to Japan's own security policy as well as peace and stability in the region and the world. In response, Prime Minister Hailemariam welcomed Japan's determination and its initiatives.

## **6. Cooperation in the international arena**

Both leaders shared the view that they should work together to achieve concrete progress in the reform of the United Nations Security Council, including increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent member of the Council, in view of 70th anniversary of the United Nations in 2015. In addition, both leaders emphasized the notion that African countries should be represented in both categories after enlargement of the Council.

Prime Minister Abe mentioned his vision of 'Society in which women shine' and, in addition to his efforts in Japan, reaffirmed his determination to support developing countries, including Ethiopia, and to implement ODA in excess of 3 billion USD over the next three years for the realization of such society. In this context, Japan invites Ethiopian female business entrepreneurs as well as government officials to Japan-Africa Business Women Exchange Programme in order to maximize potential of African women.

Prime Minister Hailemariam highly appreciated Japan's these commitments. Both leaders shared the view on the importance of women's empowerment as well as expanding their roles for enhancing vitality into society and creating peace and stable society, and reaffirmed the importance of cooperation based on human security in this area.

Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of maintaining close cooperation to implement the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) in order to promote investment and deployment of low carbon technologies, products, systems, services and infrastructure to achieve low carbon growth in Ethiopia.

Addis Ababa