

Focus on grass-root level projects brings effective change: Japanese Ambassador

By Ruth Agonafer

WOLAITTA SODO - The government of Japan says going to the grass-root level to solve a problem helps one country effectively.

On the inauguration of the ICT Center for the Wolaitta Liqa School built by the Japanese government the Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia Kazuhiro Suzuki said that, Japan does not build large sport stadiums, huge headquarters or building or elegant presidential palaces, rather "we build small local communities elementary and secondary schools, women's vocational training schools and drill wells in dry regions of Ethiopia."

The Japans Grant-in-Assistance for Grassroots

and Human Security Projects (GGP) were first introduced in 1989, and in Ethiopia, since 1991, over 340 projects, worth approximately USD 27 million, have been implemented through this scheme in such sectors as education, water supply, health services, and other basic human needs.

One of the recent works of the GGP was implemented in the sector of education at the Wolaitta Sodo in building an ICT Center at the Wolaitta Liqa School.

The project which was done by the Japanese government cost a total of USD 103, 277 (2 Million birr) and was inaugurated on Monday.

Continued on Page 13.

Focus on grass-root . . .

Continued from page 4



First Lady, Roman Tesfaye and Amb. Suzuki checking out the newly installed computers at Woliatta Liqa School during inauguration of the ICT Center at the school

"For the Wolaitta Liqa School, since 2007, we have been supporting classrooms and a library for students and office supplies in partnership with the Wolaitta Development Association because we believe that the children and local communities are the bases of Ethiopia's future," he added.

The just inaugurated project supports the construction of an ICT center, consisting of one ICT room, one technical drawing room and one satellite room with 50 computers and the necessary facilities to serve approximately 500 secondary and preparatory students in the Wolaitta Liqa School.

First lady Roman Tesfaye who grew up in that area attended the inauguration and addressed the students that, "we can create our own Oxford or Harvard if we work hard enough to achieve it. Education is improving now and we need to take this chance to change for the better."

"During our time we struggled

to get education. We use to go to school only by having a piece of 'Chornake' (Traditional biscuit) per day but now you students have the chance to a far more opportunity than we use to have to achieve your dreams, use it!," added the first lady.

A plan for good ICT education at the school was originally proposed by the first ladies Roman Tesfaye and Akie Abe during Japanese Prime Minister official visit to Ethiopia in January 2014.

Since its establishment in 2007, the school has achieved significant positive academic results and was awarded a prize for the best school in southern region for grade 12 level in 2013 and "it's my pleasure that Japanese grass-root support contributed to a quality education and students good academic performance," added the ambassador.

Students' representative spoke that this ICT center built in their school is a good opportunity to achieve a better education.