



Sakura-Meskel

Newsletter

Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia
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MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR



H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano

Dear Readers,

Throughout my tenure as the Ambassador of Japan over the past three years, I have had the privilege to make 46 visits to different parts of the country beyond Addis Ababa. The most recent one was to the Wollega region, in western Oromia.

I have a strong conviction that as we come closer to people and the places where they live, we can better judge what we should do and can do by our development cooperation with this country.

Since I assumed my job here, I have always wondered why this country is chronically suffering from different kinds of scourges, in spite of being very rich in terms of land, water, people and sunshine, all of which are indispensable elements of good agriculture. This is especially true in the western parts of the country. This time too, I witnessed really beautiful forests and landscapes during my drive throughout the region.

While preoccupied by these lingering questions, I was amazed at the initiatives being taken by local governments and people, such as the construction of Wollega University in Nekemte and several other higher education institutes plus a multi-purpose stadium under construction in the same area. I was also extraordinarily impressed by pupils and students who showed great enthusiasm in learning and becoming great men and women in the future. I observed this even in a high school located in a remote area called Bojji Chekorsa in west Wollega region. All these institutions are designed to train capable youths for the construction of a bright future for themselves, their communities and country.

In the course of about 500 kilometers from Addis Ababa to Gimbi and beyond, roads are in good condition in certain parts and being asphalted in other parts and all will be asphalted within two years time. Then, the already changing economic and social life in the region will be further geared up for more robust development. No need to mention that the key to success in such transformation is the people. Those youths I had the chance to meet during my visit assured me that they are willing to undertake these responsibilities. If I am right, then it will be almost certain that this region, and by extension, Ethiopia, will be able to solve the aforementioned lingering questions forever.

Kinichi Komano
Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF FEDERATION INVITED TO JAPAN

From 23 to 31 October 2009, a delegation headed by Hon. Ato Degefe Bula, Speaker of the House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, visited Japan at the invitation of Hon. Mr. Satsuki EDA, President of the House of Councillors National Diet of Japan (the Upper House). During this visit, the delegation had meetings with the President of the House of Councillors and the President of the House of Representatives. They exchanged views on the role of parliamentarians in each country and expressed their wish to promote the bilateral relationship.

They also visited the middle and western part of Japan, Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka. In Nagoya, the delegation visited the TOYOTA automobile factory. In Kyoto, the delegation visited Kyoto University, which accommodates many Ethiopian students and conducts research on Ethiopia. In Osaka, they visited the National Museum of Ethnology. Overall the delegation greatly appreciated their visit and were particularly impressed by the harmony of modern and traditional culture in Japan.



THE POLICY DIALOGUE ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE AMHARA REGION

The Policy Dialogue on development cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Amhara Region Administration was held on November the 27th in Bahir Dar.

The Amhara Region boasts the largest physical land area and population next to the Oromiya Region and is endowed with tremendous water resources flowing from Lake Tana and rivers such as the Blue Nile River. The region is also abundant in grain and other agricultural products as well as a livestock population. Moreover, it has rich tourism resources with three World Heritage Sites. Unfortunately, despite the rich resources and potential, the region suffers from a chronic food shortage, especially in the northeast area.

The area around Lake Tana was identified as a "growth corridor" by the central government and various developmental activities are about to take place. Such activities could link with Japan's current policy dialogue with the Ethiopian government on developmental strategy and industrial policy. Therefore, it is advantageous to discuss further the region's developmental cooperation on the basis of this effort.

Regarding industrial development, the Amhara Region has rich agricultural and livestock resources. However, they are not competitive due to an insufficient value chain and marketing

without doubt. The improvement of productivity and quality are crucial.

In addition, the region has high potential to collaborate with Japan's "One Product One Village" initiative and with its rich tourism attractions, linkage with tourism development is recommended.

The Policy Dialogue with Amhara's Regional Administration provided us the opportunity to build the foundation for future regional development. Thus, it is important to continue regular meetings of such policy dialogues.



H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano and H.E. Mr. Ayalew Gobeze

THE THIRD HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA



Professor Izumi Ohno

The Third High Level Forum on industrial development, co-organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), was held on November the 24th at the Sheraton Addis Ababa.

The policy dialogue on Ethiopia's industrial development policy was chaired by H.E. Mr. Neway Gebre-ab, EDRI Director and Senior Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister and H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia. The distinguished participants included H.E. Ato Tadesse Haile, State Minister of Trade and Industry, H.E. Ato Mekonnen Mayazewal, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development and other high government officials. The other participants were from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Embassy of Japan, JICA and GRIPS.

At the Forum, the current review by the Ministry of Trade and Industry on the PASDEP II (Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty II (for the next five years)) was presented. The recommendations for the trade and industry segment of PASDEP II were presented by Professor Izumi Ohno from GRIPS, Professor Kenichi Ohno from GRIPS, also presented on the international comparison of the contents and structure of Asia's industrial master plans. The Professor particularly emphasized the "internalization and scaling up of skills and technology" for the next five years and proposed the following ideas were proposed:

- 1) Expanding the scope and measures of priority industries
- 2) Strengthening the quality-based competition
- 3) Matching industrial human resources with demand
- 4) Agriculture-industry linkage
- 5) Geographical aspects of industrialization

Specific recommendations were made and the Ethiopian government agreed on the importance of internalization and scaling up of skills and technology. Through this policy dialogue, Japanese government will continue to provide policy recommendations based on Japan and Asia's experience of industrial development.

In addition, JICA's technical cooperation "Kaizen" project was started in October as the specific support to continuously improve productivity and quality for the private sector, aiming at economic development and poverty reduction. Japanese experts and the Ministry of Trade and Industry have already selected 30 pilot companies for the "Kaizen" project.



H.E. Kinichi Komano, H.E. Mr. Neway Gebre-ab and H.E. Ato Tadesse Haile

THREE PROJECTS SIGNED FOR IMPROVING THE CULTURE AND LIVES OF PEOPLE IN ETHIOPIA

3rd Grant Contract Signing Ceremony (289, 303 US Dollars) in JFY2009



Signing Ceremony

On 9 November 2009, a grant signing ceremony for the implementation of three projects took place at the Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia.

The signing ceremony was for Projects funded by Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects (GGP). What is unique this time was the addition of a new type of GGP for Ethiopia, the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (GCGP) designed for the implementation of cultural and higher education projects. GCGP provides non-returnable financial assistance to support the said projects by non-profit organizations (including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local authorities, research and higher education institutions, etc) that are active at grassroots level in developing countries.

The three recipient organizations who signed grant contracts on 9 November 2009 were:

1. The South Omo Research Center (95,632 USD)
2. Ethiopian Arbitration and Conciliation Center (96,973 USD)
3. HOPE 2020 (96,698 USD)

The total grant signed on this occasion amounted to 289,303 US dollars. The description of each project is as follows:

1. The South Omo Research Center (95,632 USD)
<Improving the research environment of Ethiopian culture>

This project provides a new facility at the South Omo Research Center (SORC) in Jinka. The SORC is a research institution which is under the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES), Addis Ababa University, and SORC conducts research on ethnic groups in the South Omo region. The new facility provides a space for research, a store and a library for SORC to attract more researchers and tourists from all over the world and therefore benefit the local community.

2. Ethiopian Arbitration and Conciliation Center (EACC) (96,973 USD)

<Improving Access to Alternative Dispute Resolution in Bahir Dar>

This project will help people settle their disputes peacefully and quickly. In big cities like Bahir Dar, there are always a lot of problems related to family conflicts, commercial disputes, insurance, loans, rentals, and so on. Nowadays, courts are overcrowded with enormous numbers of cases, and those who are poor and living in remote areas have no other choice than to resort to age-old, accepted traditional mechanisms. However, there are very few appropriate venues or sufficient dispute resolution services. As a result, many disputes remain unsolved, and the conflicts are repeated. In order to improve such a situation, this project will construct one ADR center in Bahir Dar. At the same time, EACC will provide ADR training for religious leaders, elders and judges, and also hold workshops to create awareness of ADR for people in this area.

3. HOPE 2020(96,698 USD)

<Supplying potable water by solar power in Chanco Kebena Kebele in Oromia>

This project will be implemented by HOPE 2020, and aims at the improvement of the water supply, hygiene and sanitation in Chanco Kebena Kebele in West Shewa Zone in Oromia. Since there is no safe water and most of the inhabitants don't have latrines near by, people in this area have been suffering from many types of water born diseases for a long time. This project will construct three spring boxes, three reservoirs and six water points. The community will also participate in this project by building more than eight hundred traditional pit latrines and excavating about nine thousand meters of trenches for pipe laying. At the same time, various trainings will be conducted by HOPE 2020 in cooperation with the Jeldu Woreda in order to improve hygiene and sanitation and to build capacity of the community. In addition, solar power will be installed as an alternative energy source to reduce fuel consumption and decrease pollution as part of the effort to address climate change.



Recipients of the GGP

INAUGURAL CEREMONY FOR THE PROVISION OF SOLAR PV POWER GENERATION SYSTEM TO NON-ELECTRIFIED VILLAGES



Inauguration Ceremony

Mitsubishi Corporation, in collaboration with MOARD, conducted the inaugural ceremony for Solar PV Power Generation System installed at Maki Village of Oromia Regional State, which MOARD selected as a model village, on November 29, 2009.

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed on July 13, 2009 between Mitsubishi Corporation and MOARD, the installation of Solar Power Generation Systems at Meki and Cheka Alemtena has been successfully completed and the Farmers Training Centers and Animal Health Posts of the two villages are now electrified.

The project, which costs more than half a million Ethiopian Birr, includes installation of the following equipment for two Farmers Training Centers and Animal Health Posts in the two villages:

1. Farmers Training Center: Solar Power Generation Systems to supply power and 40" TV Sets and DVD players
2. Animal Health Post: Solar Refrigerators and lights

Mitsubishi believes that the Solar Power Generation Systems at the Farmers Training Centers will enable farmers to take trainings on modern farming techniques at night so that they can do their farm work during the day. The Solar Refrigerators can be used



40" TV Sets and DVD players

to preserve medicines for livestock at the Animal Health Posts.

What makes this solar equipment special is that they are designed to provide power with no running costs for an unlimited period of time. Therefore, we believe that this solar power generation system not only benefits the farmers to have access to improved farming technology but also helps to reduce CO2 emissions and contributes to the preservation of the environment, thereby creating an opportunity for sustained growth.

One of the corporate principles of Mitsubishi Corporation is, "Corporate Responsibility to Society". This ensures the continued commitment by the company to the advancement of worldwide societies by enriching them both materially and spiritually. We have carried out many CSR projects on our own initiative all over the world for more than 35 years. These solar PV projects, carried out at Meki and Cheka Alemtena, are the latest showcase of CSR activities of Mitsubishi Corporation, which has been operating in Ethiopia for over 50 years.

Finally we would like to extend our gratitude to His Excellency, Mr. Kinichi Komano, the Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia, who has made an outstanding contribution to this project

EMBASSY CELEBRATED JAPANESE NATIONAL DAY

The Embassy of Japan held Japanese National Day reception on 9 December, 2009 to celebrate His Majesty Emperor Akihito's 76th birthday. This year the Embassy also celebrated the 20th anniversary of His Majesty Emperor Akihito's accession to the throne and the 50th anniversary of the wedding of Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko's activities were introduced through the specially edited video at the reception.

On the occasion of the National Day reception, several exhibition booths were prepared in order to introduce activities of Japanese various organizations such as JICA and Sasakawa Africa Association, which are committing the development activities in Ethiopia.

