



Embassy of Japan Newsletter

Sakura-Meskel

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'Sakura' is the Japanese name for 'cherry blossom', the most loved flower of Japan, just like the Meskel flower of Ethiopia.

September 2010

Ambassador's Farewell Message (የክቡር አምባሳደር ኮማኖ የመጨረሻ መልዕክት)

Dear Readers,

My three years and ten months in Ethiopia have passed quickly, like the Japanese 'Shinkansen' - bullet train. I feel happy to be able to leave the country with a sense of accomplishment together with so many good memories.

My tenure here coincided with a most dynamic era for Africa in general and Ethiopia in particular regarding their history of development efforts. In the case of Ethiopia, she has recorded seven successive years of double-digit economic growth and gradual progress in democratization and governance. Through my assignment, I also have tried to adjust the Japanese development cooperation programme to the changing circumstances of the country so that we could be part and parcel of the development effort. A series of Policy Dialogues on industrialization between Japanese development economists and Ethiopian leaders is a case in point, together with the 'Kaizen' technical cooperation programme, which is aimed at improving productivity and quality of Ethiopian industrial products, to mention a few of our new initiatives.

Of course, the challenges ahead for Ethiopia are huge, hence the government of Ethiopia plans to undertake another ambitious plan for Growth and Transformation and is imbuing new blood into its leadership.

All this has stimulated me, first to know more about what is actually happening and, second, to expand appropriate cooperation to Ethiopia. It goes without saying that in the months and years to come, Ethiopians should do much more, and international partners too must do the same. Therefore, we also require new leadership in the Embassy.

I am certain my successor, H.E. Mr. Hiroyuki Kishino, will do his best so that we can make our contribution to support the ongoing development efforts in the country more effectively. I sincerely hope that Ethiopians, by grasping the golden chance before them, will finally succeed in achieving their goal to overcome poverty and sustain good governance.

During my tenure here, I enjoyed very good friendships within all walks of life in Ethiopian society, not only with top political leaders but with ordinary people too, including farmers in the remotest villages, while observing to my amazement, the similarity existing between Ethiopians and Japanese. I really found that something fundamental is changing in Ethiopia and people are really seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

I sincerely wish every success for all the Ethiopians who were so kind to me during my stay in this wonderful country.



H.E. Ambassador Kinichi Komano

**H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano left Ethiopia on 25 September after serving as the Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia and the Permanent Representative of Japan to the African Union as well as the Ambassador of Japan to Djibouti for almost 4 years. More on his past achievements can be found on the back cover of this issue.*

H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the AU Visits Japan (የአፍሪካ ህብረት ሊቀመንበሪ ዶክተር ጃንግ ፒንግ ጃፓንን ጎበኙ)

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr Jean Ping, paid a three-day visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Government, from 1 to 3 August 2010. During the visit, H.E. Dr. Ping met with the Japanese Prime Minister, H.E Mr. Naoto Kan, and also had a formal session and a working lunch with the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr Katsuya Okada. They exchanged views on ways and means to further strengthen the cooperative relationship between the AU and Japan and issued a joint communiqué to that effect. *(The Joint Communiqué can be found at http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2010/8/0802_03.html)*

Bilateral Meeting between H.E. Dr. Jean Ping and H.E. Mr. Katsuya Okada



H.E. Mr. Naoto Kan receiving H.E. Dr. Ping in Tokyo



14 Students Awarded Monbukagakusho (MEXT) Scholarship (14 ተማሪዎች የጃፓን ሀገር ትምህርት እድል አገኙ)



(More details on the scholarship can be found at <http://www.et.emb-japan.go.jp>)

The second group of 9 students who have been awarded MEXT scholarships will begin their studies in Japan this October. Already, the first group of 5 students (3 Research students, 1 University student, 1 College of Technology student) has begun their studies in April 2010. The awardees will study in prestigious universities in Japan (GRIPs, Yokohama, Nagoya, Tohoku), in various fields from public health to energy engineering.

One of the awardees, Abreham Gebre is a lecturer of Civil Engineer at Addis Ababa University. He is going to study bridge structures in Japan. Asked about his dream, Abreham said he wants his country to benefit from the management and optimization of bridge construction that the Japanese are known for.

Every year, the Embassy of Japan and individual Japanese Universities recommend several outstanding scholars to the Ministry of Education in Japan to fund their studies in Japan.

Ato Tesfaye Gelaye receives the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays (አቶ ተስፋዩ ገላዩ ከጃፓን ንጉሥ የሚሰጠውን የከብር ኒሻን ተሸለሙ)

The renowned Ethiopian ceramic artist, Ato Tesfaye Gelaye, who has been residing in Japan for 35 years, received the very prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays from the Emperor of Japan. The Emperor bestows the award on foreigners who have made notable contributions to enhance bilateral relations.

Ato Tesfaye expressed his joy and thanked the Government of Japan. "The South African World cup was a success. Finally, the captain of the Spanish team, Casillas, accepted the golden trophy. That is exactly how I feel about my award of the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold and Silver Rays from the Japanese Government", Tesfaye said.

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, is a Japanese order established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji. The medal features rays of sunlight from the rising sun. The design of the Rising Sun symbolizes energy as powerful as the rising sun in parallel with the "rising sun" concept of Japan, "Land of the Rising Sun".

(Ato Tesfaye's website is <http://www.etchild.com/gelaye>)

More details on these stories at the Embassy website: <http://www.et.emb-japan.go.jp>



Ato Tesfaye Gelaye



Ato Gelaye's Art Work



The Order

Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects for July, August, September

Inauguration ceremonies for projects funded through the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) took place in all over the country in July, August and September.

① The Project to Improve Agricultural Production and the Marketing System in Gambella was inaugurated on 2 September, Dr. Kumiko Ito, Counselor of the Embassy of Japan, inaugurated the project together with the President of the Gambella National Regional State, H.E. Ato Umed Ubong. The project provides agricultural training and equipment for the four newly established agricultural cooperative groups and the two dairy cooperative groups in those woredas.

② Nurseries in Tokke Kutayu and Tikur Inchini Woredas of the Guder Zone/Oromiya were completed on 6 July, and these were celebrated together with representatives of the West Shoa Zone, as well as members of the community. The project had the dual purpose of environmental preservation and improving food shortages.

③ An inauguration for the completion of the Sagome Learning Centre (SLC) was held in Wolkite (SNNPRS) on 6 July 2010 together with H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano. SLC had already received grant assistance from the Embassy of Japan to construct one additional school block and purchase school furniture in 2005. The Center received a second grant from the Embassy to complete the school block.

④ The completion of three ManaBU type school blocks for Wonco Primary School in Durame, SNNPRS, was celebrated on 2 September 2010. ManaBU is an Oromo expression which means Community-based Basic Education Improvement Project nicknamed after Mana Barnoota Ummataa. Manabu is also a Japanese word meaning "to learn".

⑤ In Gonder (Amhara), on 09 July, H.E. Mr. Komano, celebrated the installation of a gas kiln to improve pottery making at the Ploughshare Women's Crafts Training Centre. From the 1990s, the government of Japan has funded this Training Center through projects to provide different equipment, training and experts for better pottery production.

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Photo/AFLO



Japan in a flash

Bend in the middle, and you can use as a decoration for your desk

The Ambassador's 4 Years in a Flash (የአምባሳደር ኮሚቴ የ4 ዓመት ቆይታ በክፍል)



H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano taking leave from H.E. President Girma on 15 September 2010.



H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano with the Embassy staff.
We will miss him very much!!!

- The 'Hedasi Bridge' (Renaissance Bridge) over the Blue Nile, built with Japanese cooperation was inaugurated at the time of the Ethiopian Millennium.
- The Kaizen project has been introduced to Ethiopia as a new initiative and presently 30 Ethiopian companies are experiencing kaizen - continuous improvement.
- Almost 100 grassroots projects were granted by the Japanese Government and many schools, clinics, water facilities, to name a few, were built all over the country.
- A variety of Japanese cultural events, including Tea Ceremony and 'Judo' (Japanese martial arts) demonstration, has been hosted by the Ambassador over the years, promoting Japanese culture in Ethiopia.
- In terms of Japan-AU relations, on the occasion of the visit of H.E. Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the AU to Japan this August, a joint communiqué was signed, which further strengthens cooperation.
- In terms of Djibouti, the embassy office was established in Djibouti last year.

H.E. Mr. Kinichi Komano will be serving as the new Ambassador of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Iran for his next assignment.