

Welcome reception for finalists of Solve It 2019

U.S. Ambassador Michael Raynor and Ambassador Matsunaga held a welcome reception for the finalists of “Solve It 2019” on 15 August 2019. “Solve It 2019” is a nationwide innovation competition, and also an education program for young Ethiopian entrepreneurs conducted and carried out by JICA, the US Embassy and iCog. More than 2000 young participants across fifteen cities in Ethiopia took part in “Solve It 2019”. After regional competitions, 63 teams competed in the Grand Finals in Addis Ababa.

At the reception, Ambassador Matsunaga emphasized the important role of entrepreneurs in PM Abiy’s economic reform agenda and the interest in African startups by Japanese companies. U.S. Ambassador Mr. Raynor stated that young entrepreneurs are the country’s future, and that experience gained through this competition will help them strengthen their ideas, to come to fruition and prepare them to contribute to building the future.

Japanese companies were also invited to the reception, and they held discussions with Ethiopian startups and US companies.



Ambassador H. E. Mr. Matsunaga



US Ambassador H. E. Mr. Raynor



Representative of iCog



Exchange with finalists