

## Launching Ceremony for the Jimma-Chida Road Upgrading Project

On 23 February 2021, a launching ceremony was held for Japanese ODA Loan of up to 9.655 billion yen (approximately USD 89 Million or 2.6 Billion Birr) for the Ethiopia Integrated Transport Program Phase 1: Jimma-Chida and Sodo-Sawla Road Upgrading Project (Jimma-Chida Section), in the presence of H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and H.E. Mr. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as other Ministers.

This project will improve the road between Jimma City and Chida Town (which is about a distance of 80 km) and turn it into an asphalt and concrete road not only vehicles can travel on the road, even in the rainy season, but also by shortening the travel time and increasing the traffic volume, will revitalize the distribution of agricultural production in the area and improve the access of local residents to social and economic services.

In her congratulatory remarks, H.E. Ambassador ITO stated, “The implementation of this project was pledged by Japan during the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) and is supporting economic reforms in Ethiopia”.

H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and representatives from the community, expressed their appreciation for Japan’s support.



Ambassador’s Speech



Ambassador ITO and Prime Minister Dr. Abiy



Placement of Memorial Board



Memorial Board