

## Ambassador Ito's Visit to the Somali Regional State

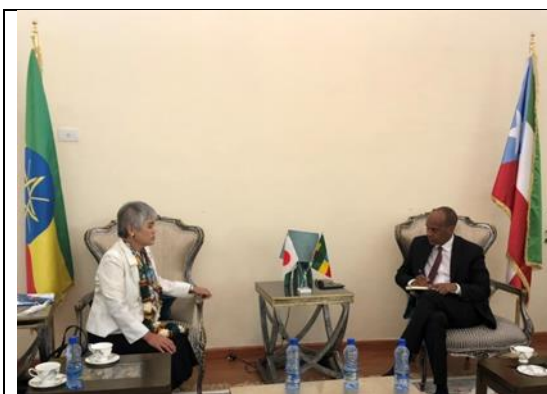
On 17 March 2021, Ambassador Ito Takako visited the Somali Regional State and had an exchange of views with the Somali Regional President Mr. Mustafa. She also participated in the launching ceremony for the project “Humanitarian Assistance in Water Supply and sanitation for IDPs in Qoloji camp in Somali Regional State” was held jointly by the Embassy of Japan, UNOPS and the Somali President Bureau in the Somali President Office in Jijiga.

In the meeting with the Regional President Mustafa, they exchanged views on the future cooperation between Japan and the Somali Region, as well as political, economic and security situation in the Somali Region.

This project with UNOPS amounts to over USD 1 million provided to UNOPS to improve access to water and sanitation facilities for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Qoloji camp in Ethiopian Somali Regional State, which will contribute to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

The project directly addresses the acute water access needs of 24,000 IDPs in the Qoloji camp through the construction of a new water supply system and communal latrines as well as hygiene education to improve awareness concerning WASH practices. In addition, since fetching water is culturally a duty of a woman, providing WASH facilities will help women by giving them time to engage in other social activities and contribute to enhance their own health, safety and security. This assistance is a follow up to the commitment made at TICAD 7 in Yokohama in 2019.

At the launching ceremony, Ambassador Ito said that she hopes that this project will contribute to the alleviation of the IDPs' acute needs and pave the way for them to achieve self-reliance. Ms. Worknesh, UNOPS Ethiopia Operational Hub Director and Representative to the AU and Mr. Mustafa expressed their appreciation for Japan's support.



Meeting between Ambassador Ito and President Mustafa



Ambassador Ito's Speech



Ms. Worknesh's (UNOPS) Speech



Mr. Mustafa, Somali Regional President's Speech