

Ambassador ITO's Meeting with the Government Officials and Visit to the Japanese ODA Project Site in Bahir Dar City

On 15 July 2021, Ambassador ITO met with Dr. Mamaru Ayalew Moges, Director of the Amhara National Regional State Water, Irrigation & Energy Developmental Bureau; Dr. Firew Tegegne, President of Bahir Dar University; and visited the National Rice Research and Training Center (NRRTC) during her visit to Bahir Dar.

During the meeting with Dr. Mamaru, he expressed his profound appreciation for *The Project for Improvement of Water Supply in Bahir Dar City*, which is under construction. Ambassador ITO expressed her profound appreciation for the Amhara side's understanding of the evacuation of Japanese staff for this project to Japan due to the COVID-19 pandemic and her hope that this project will increase the quality of life of citizens.

During the meeting with Dr. Firew, the President expressed his profound appreciation for *The Project for Eco-engineering for Agricultural Revitalization Towards improvement of Human nutrition (EARTH): Water Hyacinth to Energy and Agricultural Crops*, the kickoff meeting for which was held on 1 July. Ambassador ITO stated that the development of science and technology was essential for sustainable economic development, and that it was important to cooperate with universities and that Japan would continue its support for science and technology sector in Ethiopia. Dr. Firew explained about some ongoing projects in collaboration with Japan, and Ambassador ITO and the President discussed about how Japan will support science and technology sector in Ethiopia.

At the NRRTC, Ms. Shewaye Abera, Director of the NRRTC, explained about the high need for rice production in Ethiopia and provided an overview of the center. In addition, Ambassador ITO made a site-visit of the center. Ambassador ITO went to the fields near the NRRTC and encouraged local farmers to improve the quality of rice through a solar-pump irrigational system, and wished them to produce rice which can be used for Sushi.



Ambassador ITO and Dr. Mamaru



Group Photo with Dr. Firew



Group Photo with NRRTC staff



Greeting for local farmers