

## Signing Ceremony for “Food Assistance Programme”

On 27 July 2021, Japan signed an Exchange of Notes for “Food Assistance Programme”. The signing ceremony was held in the presence of Ambassador ITO Takako and H.E. Ms. Yasmin Wohabrebbi, State Minister of Finance, on the premise of the Ministry of Finance. The agreement of Food Assistance Programme is a grant aid worth approximately USD 2.7 million, equivalent to Birr 120 million. The grant aid of approximately 3,300 tons of Japanese rice will be provided through this program, with a view to combat food insecurity due to various factors such as COVID-19 pandemic.

During the signing ceremony, Ambassador Ito stated “Ensuring access to food is a human security issue,” and “this project will help Ethiopia not only combat food insecurity, but also reduce import and contribute to the overall health of economy by saving foreign currency.”

In addition, both countries also signed an Exchange of Notes for a debt relief measure in the deferral on the basis of the implementation of Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) endorsed by G20 Finance Ministers in April 2020.

