

# Ambassadors' congratulatory messages

*Ito Takako*

*Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia*

Let me express our ardent hope for the new Federal Government of Ethiopia, which will be formed following the most democratic, transparent and peaceful elections in the history of Ethiopia, to serve its people with strong determination and a clear vision to create a peaceful and prosperous country. I wish the government and people of Ethiopia, with their joint effort and dialogue, will overcome various challenges they are now facing: natural disasters, pandemics such as COVID-19, conflicts and humanitarian emergencies, and economic development. Ethiopia should become a model African country where everyone lives with human dignity and where universal values such as democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law are observed. One of the strengths of democracy is not to exclude different views but to listen to them and to discuss them, for such views might contribute to finding new solutions to various challenges. It requires maturity and courage from members of the society, but I believe Ethiopia is capable of doing these things.

In order to overcome the current crisis and to build resilient and vibrant societies and economies in Africa, Japan looks forward to working with the new Government of Ethiopia for the success of the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) to be held next year, and also for future economic and social development in this country and in the region, as well as towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

