

## **Ambassador Ito attended the third lecture under the JICA Chair Program**

On 11 November 2022, Ambassador ITO Takako attended the third lecture under the JICA Chair Program organized by the Addis Ababa University (AAU) and JICA Ethiopia Office. The theme of the lecture was “Japanese Diplomacy in A Turbulent World”.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Ito pointed the similarities between Japan and Ethiopia that both countries had fought off colonization by foreign powers: Ethiopia defeated Italy in 1896 and Japan defeated Russia in 1905. Additionally, Japan and Ethiopia are the countries of few non-Western members of the League of Nations at the time. On the other hand, after Japan's defeat in World War II in 1945, the country quickly returned to the international community after the disastrous postwar period and rapidly developed to become the world's third largest GDP country. Ambassador also mentioned a book in Amharic titled "Japan's Way" by Mr. Assefa Mamecha, explaining Ethiopia can learn from how Japan has modernized and industrialized while maintaining its traditions and culture. Ambassador also expressed her hope that Ambassador Tsuruoka's lecture would contribute to the future development of Ethiopia too.

As the main lecturer, Ambassador TSURUOKA Koji, former Ambassador of Japan to the UK, gave a talk about (1) Japan's path to modernization after the abolition of its isolation policy under pressure from Western countries, (2) its return to the international community after its defeat in World War II, (3) its position in the new postwar international order, and its foreign policy toward peacebuilding learned from the war, (4) Japan's relations with its neighbors in terms of security and the importance of international peace, international order based on the rule of law, and international trade for Japan with limited resources, and (5) Japan's human security policy of "leaving no one behind." (5) Japan's human security policy of "leaving no one behind," and the importance of ODA, while sharing his own experiences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Many AAU scholars and students attended the lecture, and actively exchanged their views on how to apply the Japanese experience and lessons from the post-war economic development and diplomacy to Ethiopia.

Taking this occasion, Ambassador Ito and AAU Vice President Emebet carried out a book donation ceremony, in which Ambassador presented AAU Vice President Emebet with seventy-five Japan-related books donated to AAU by the Nippon Foundation.



Lecture by Ambassador Tsuruoka



Speech by Dr. Morihara, Chief Representative of JICA



Group Photo



Speech by Ambassador Ito



Book Donation Ceremony  
(AAU Vice President and Ambassador Ito)



Audience