

## Farewell Reception for Ambassador ITO Takako

On 23 November 2023, a farewell reception was held at the Ambassador ITO's residence for the departure of H.E. Ms. ITO Takako, Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia. The reception was attended by H.E. Mr. Mustafe Omer, President of Somali Regional State, H.E. Mr. Birhanu Nega, Minister of Education, H.E. Ms. Marta Luwigi, State Minister of Defence, H.E. Ms. Worknesh Birru, State Minister of Culture and Sports, Ambassadors posted in Ethiopia, and in total about 170 guests who have been a great friend to the Ambassador.

At the opening ceremony, Ambassador ITO reflected on her three years in Ethiopia, noting that she had visited various places across Ethiopia and witnessed the damages caused by the conflicts in the north and natural disasters such as droughts in the South and the East, and that the Japanese Government had done all it could to provide assistance, and she also expressed her hope that those who remain in Ethiopia will continue to provide necessary assistance to Ethiopia even after she leaves the country. She also called for an improved investment environment to promote Japanese and foreign investment in Ethiopia, and expressed her hope that Ethiopia-Japan relations will be strengthened through cultural and sports activities as well, such as the public opening of the Japanese Garden at the Presidential Palace in the near future.

At the reception, Japanese food such as sushi, tempura and green tea bavarois were served, and a sushi demonstration was conducted by Chef Amano of the Ambassador's residence. A PR booth for Japanese sake and other beverages was also set up, where the Embassy staff provided information on sake, shochu, plum liquor, Japanese whisky and green tea, giving many guests the opportunity to learn more about Japanese food and beverages.



Ambassador ITO's Speech



Deputy IDA's Farewell Speech



Ambassador ITO and Mr. ITO Claude



Ambassador ITO with Female Fellows



Sushi Demonstration



Sake PR Booth



Guests