

## Reception for ABE Initiative Alumni

On 16 May 2024, a reception was held at the official residence of Ambassador Shibata for the Master's Degree and Internship Program of African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) Alumni.

The objective of the ABE Initiative Master's Degree and Internship Program is to support young people who can be a "Navigator" for contributing to the development of Africa, offering opportunities for them to undertake master's courses at Japanese universities as international students and experience internships at Japanese companies. The program was announced by the Japanese government at the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in 2013, and the first group of students was accepted in 2014. A total of 87 students from Ethiopia have participated in this program since 2014.

For the first time, the Embassy hosted a reception as a follow-up to provide an opportunity for the ABE Initiative Alumni to interact with each other after their return to their home countries. During the opening remarks, Ambassador Shibata hoped ABE initiative and JICA's alumni would contribute to the development of Ethiopia by making use of their experiences in Japan through continuing to network, bridging the bilateral ties between Japan and Ethiopia. After the remarks, three participants gave presentations about their own experiences in Japan on behalf of the alumni.

Through the ABE Initiative, several Ethiopian students study in Japan each year. The Embassy will continue to support student and academic exchanges between Japan and Ethiopia, which will serve as a bridge between Ethiopia and Japan.



**Ambassador Shibata making remarks**



**Presentation by Mr. Biya Girma, 5<sup>th</sup> batch  
ABE Initiative student**



**Group Photo**



**Participants at the reception**