

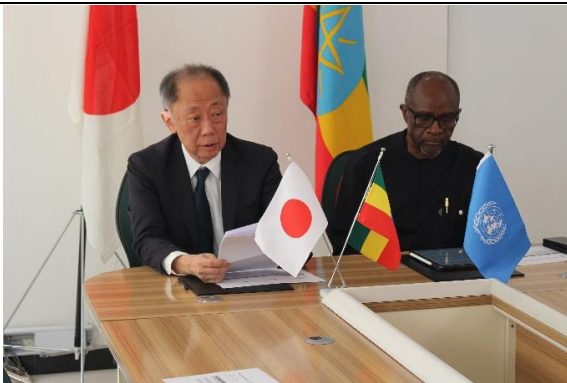
Signing Ceremony of the Japan's Grant Assistance for "The Project for Electoral Assistance" (UNDP Partnership)

On Friday, 6 February 2025, at the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) office in Addis Ababa, Ambassador SHIBATA Hironori, together with Dr Samuel Doe, Resident Representative, UNDP Country Office in Ethiopia, engaged in the signing ceremony for the exchange of notes concerning the Project for Electoral Assistance in partnership with UNDP.

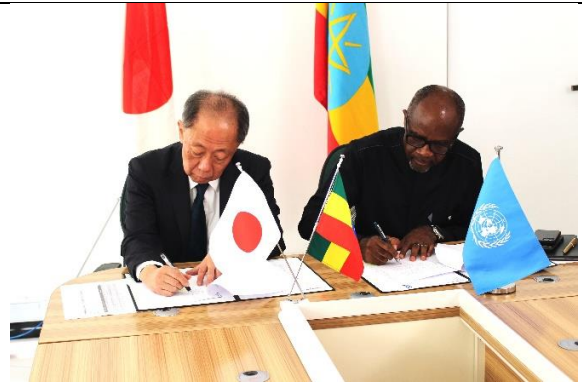
Under this project the Government of Japan provides approximately USD 3 million to NEBE through UNDP. It aims to support the strengthening of NEBE's election implementation capacity and the promotion of inclusive voter participation in the electoral process, in preparation for the 7th General Election scheduled for June 2026 across Ethiopia. The project will also contribute to the digitalization of the electoral process, which the Ethiopian government is actively advancing for these elections. Those support are expected to facilitate the conduct of transparent and credible elections, thereby contributing to the promotion of democracy and the peace and stability of Ethiopia.

At the ceremony, Ambassador SHIBATA stated: "Japan places great importance on values such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. We decided on this support to help Ethiopia conduct democratic elections. The Japanese government will work in tandem with UNDP, during the remaining 120 days period of preparation, to support NEBE in achieving transparent and inclusive elections. We look forward to maintaining close communication with all relevant parties."

NEBE welcomed the support, noting its importance as the country advances preparations for the 2026 General Elections.



Ambassador SHIBATA making his remarks



Signing the exchange notes



Exchanging the signed notes



Shaking hands with Dr Doe, Resident Representative of
UNDP Ethiopia