Signing Ceremony for Japan's Grant Aid for the "Economic and Social Development Programme" to Support Rice Production Mechanization

On Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at the Ministry of Finance in Addis Ababa, the Governments of Japan and Ethiopia signed an Exchange of Notes for grant assistance under the "Economic and Social Development Programme," amounting to approximately USD 2.3 million (JPY 360 million), to provide agricultural machinery and equipment for rice production. The signing ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. SHIBATA Hironori, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Shide, Minister of Finance, Mr. Abera Lemma, Advisor to Agricultural Investment & Input State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, and Mr. YAKUSHI Hiroyuki, Chief Representative of JICA Ethiopia Office.

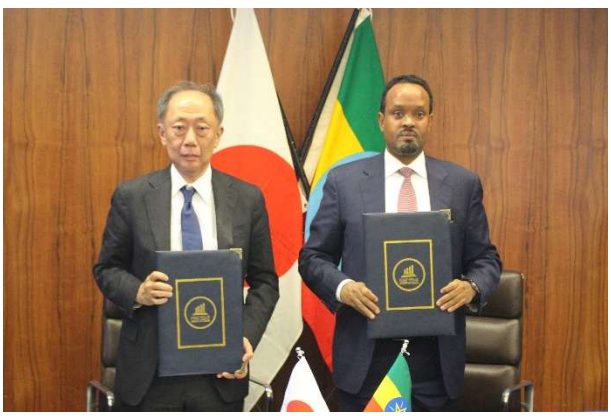
Under this grant, Japan will provide agricultural machinery and equipment for rice production, including products of Japanese companies. These items, including tractors, combine harvesters, and rice post-harvest equipment, will be used for field preparation, harvesting, and post-harvest operations. This will enhance mechanization, boost rice output and productivity, and strengthen food security.

This initiative underscores Japan's continued commitment to supporting Ethiopia's agricultural sector and economic development. For more than ten years, Japan has cooperated with Ethiopia's rice sector through JICA's projects—dispatching experts for policy formulation/implementation and cultivation technology transfer—and through financial cooperation for the establishment of the National Rice Research and Training Centre in Fogera, Amhara Region. Japan has also continued to support Ethiopia's agricultural sector in collaboration with United Nations agencies such as FAO and WFP. This grant builds on these efforts by providing high-quality Japanese machinery to further advance agricultural mechanization.

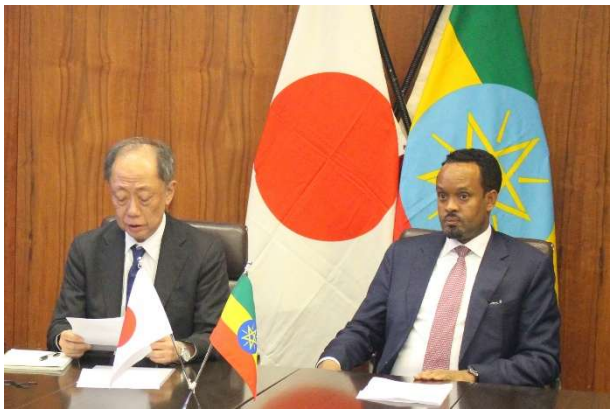
In his remarks, Ambassador SHIBATA emphasized the critical importance of the agricultural sector to Ethiopia's economic growth and stressed that this new grant is part of Japan's broader support for Ethiopia's Macro-economic Reform Programme. He also expressed hope that the grant aid would not only improve rice production and productivity but also help stakeholders in Ethiopia become more familiar with the high quality and reliability of Japanese agricultural machinery. He further noted the strong interest of Japanese agricultural machinery manufacturers in the Ethiopian market and expressed expectations for increased trade and new investments by Japanese private companies.



Signing the Notes



Exchange of Notes



Remarks by Ambassador SHIBATA



From left: Mr. Abera from MOA, Ambassador SHIBATA, H.E. Mr. Ahmed, Mr. YAKUSHI from JICA Ethiopia Office, Mr. Shimelis from MOA