

**Remarks made by H.E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) International Symposium for the Promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Africa and Japan July 13, 2016:**

Honorable participants  
Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Ensuring food security is one of the top priorities and a cornerstone for an inclusive sustainable economic growth and poverty eradication in our continent. The objective of this Agenda is: the growing population of Africa must have sufficient quantity of acceptable quality of food at an affordable price at any time and place. To achieve this objective, according to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which is an economic development program of the African Union, the continent needs to produce food in the next 30 years equal to what it has produced in the last 3000 years. This is indeed a daunting demand and challenge for the African countries and their development partners. This is one of the main reasons why Africa and Japan have to work together in Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation in the TICAD process.

Subsistence based agricultural economy, which is currently the reality in the continent, must rapidly give way to various means of expanded farming areas which are compatible with the different agro-ecological conditions of the various climatic zones of our continent. These can be achieved only through effective activities of community centered national self-efforts and active participation of development partners.

Improved rangeland management system and infrastructure must be rolled out on the ground to offset and improve the traditional pastoral system of the continent.

Special attention must be given to increase food/cash crop, vegetables, fruits, bee, chicken, livestock and dairy products.

Industrial and artisanal fisheries must continue to improve their input to the national food security program. The fisheries sector offers great prospects and opportunities for meeting the food security objectives and earning of foreign exchange for many of our countries.

Major development campaigns are needed on the protection of forestry and wildlife. Irrigation improvements, modernization of farming techniques and related measures need to be undertaken both at local, national and regional level.

African countries need to enhance water security. The construction of reservoirs, small dams, water catchments, improvement of irrigation systems must be intensified. Farmers and livestock who depend solely on the seasonal rains for their livelihood will greatly benefit from such efforts.

African countries have special needs regarding adaptation to climate change. The overriding need for developed country like Japan who are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other co-organizers of the TICAD process, is to take full account of these circumstances in order to facilitate the transfer of needed technology and resources. Immediate effective steps to support the implementation of our National Climate Adaptation Plan, through the available means or conduit of cooperation, must be undertaken.

As we all know, present day science and medicine have made tremendous progress and accomplishments in protecting humanity from threats of continued epidemics caused by the migration of unknown virus, bacteria, fungi and protozoan microorganisms to human beings from wild plants and animals and their habitats. The need to monitor the tropical forests of Africa closely from known and unknown kind of health threats, which are security threats to mankind, is important. Mutual tie-ups of research cooperation between our higher studies institutions are imperative on this.

Hence, with these few comments, let me applaud and express strong support and solidarity, on behalf of the African Diplomatic Corps and myself to all the distinguished scientists and organizers of today's International Symposium for the Promotion of Science and Technology Cooperation between Africa and Japan.

I am confident that this important event and deliberations by some of the best minds of Japan will help to make our African countries one of the many economic, social, scientific, technological and cultural destinations of Japan. Japan has many success stories of cooperation in the Asian continent. It is time to repeat these success stories in our counties in Africa.

The expectation is, TICAD VI which is going to be held in Nairobi Kenya - for the first time in Africa - is going to be an opening towards this paradigm shift. Africa must not export gold to import food.

Thank you,