

**Remarks Made by H. E. Mr. ESTIFANOS Afeworki, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) in the Ashikaga Institute of Technology Celebration - Tochigi Prefecture December 16, 2017**

President of AFRECO Senator Testuro Yano  
President of Ashikaga Institute of Technology Kazuo Shoji  
Deputy Governor of Tochigi Prefecture Mr. Toshihiko Akamatsu  
President of the Prefectural Assembly of Tochigi Prefecture Mr. Mikio Kobayashi  
Mayor of Ashikaga City Mr. Satoshi Izumi  
Staff and students of Ashikaga Institute of Technology  
Ladies and gentlemen

My name is Estifanos Afeworki, I am the Ambassador of the State of Eritrea and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in Japan.

First of all, allow me to express my gratitude for the invitation extended to me to participate in today's celebration organized by Ashikaga Institute of Technology. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity of my presence with you here this afternoon to extend my congratulations to the President, staff and students of this prestigious learning institution on this happy day of celebration which is being held to honor the Japan Ryugaku Grand Prize Awards recognizing Ashikaga Institute of Technology as number one foreign-friendly universities and schools for learning Japanese language received for the last four years consecutively.

Your school is among the active participants in the Africa Business Education (ABE) program and is hosting and providing education to many scholars from the African continent including my country Eritrea. Despite the technological developments of communications it is only through human medium - that the transfer of technology, know - how, and capital (the main three pillars) of trade and investment exchanges are made possible between countries. Therefore, I believe these carriers being educated here in your esteemed school shall definitely contribute in globalizing the economies of the African countries.

African countries look forward to enhance and expand their work with your esteemed institution. Eritrea looks forward to work with you too. Mainefhi Institute of Technology in Eritrea is ready to work with Ashikaga Institute of Technology to improve its education system through your experience. Senator Yano visited Asmara the capital city of Eritrea last week (December 7 - 9, 2017). One of the objectives of the Senator's visit was to look for ways-and-means of creating a tie-up with learning institutions in Eritrea. I was informed that the Senator had a constructive exchange with Dr. Haile Mehtsun Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education of Eritrea. Senator Yano and myself are also trying and working very hard to bring together Tochigi prefecture's UNESCO world heritage sites with UNESCO world heritage of Asmara Modernistic City to build friendship. Senator Yano and Commissioner of Culture and Sports Ambassador Zemedede Tecele have also conducted a constructive discussion on this important matter together on his visit to Asmara. Sky is the limit in these areas

of cooperation I just mentioned, lets-walk-the-walk together and thank you so much for your cooperation once again.

Thank you,

## Ashikaga Institute of Technology Celebration Schedule

Date: December 16th, Saturday, 2017, 14:00~18:15

14:00	Part I : Ceremony Reception starts (Auditorium)
14:10	Ceremonial address by Ashikaga Institute of Technology President, Kazuo Shoji
14:15	Congratulatory address by Guests Deputy governor of Tochigi Pref., Mr. Toshihiko Akamatsu President of the prefectural assembly of Tochigi Pref., Mr. Mikio Kobayashi Ambassador of Embassy of the State of Eritrea, H.E. Mr. Estifanos Afeworki Mayor of Ashikaga City, Mr. Satoshi Izumi President of AFRECO, Mr. Testuro Yano
14:40	Introduction of guests
14:55	International student speech by Mr. Sane Cheikh Tidiane (student from Senegal)
15:10	Memorial Lecture: Ms. Noriko Suzuki Senior Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
15:40	Break
15:50	Performance by Ashikaga High School brass band
16:10	End
16:25	Part II: Celebration Reception starts (Multi-purpose Hall)
16:27	Speech by the chair of the board, Mr. Izumi Ushiyama
16:30	Toast by the president of Afreco, Mr. Tetsuro Yano
16:40	①Songs by international students, A.I.T African Voices ②Nepalian dance by BHANDARI ANUPA ③Dance by Nursing students Team
17:05	Yagibushi music performance
17:20	①Indonesian dance by international students Bird of Paradise ②African dance by international students A.I.T African All Stars
17:40	Lottery
18:00	Dance by A.I.T. African All Stars
18:15	End

16:25 Bus departure time for Ashikaga City Station at Bus Stop

18:30 Bus departure time for Ashikaga City Station at Bus Stop

※If you use a taxi, please ask the reception counter.