

# Ethiopia national day

## Vibrantly transforming nation shows stability, growth

Markos Tekle Rike  
AMBASSADOR OF ETHIOPIA

It is my profound privilege on the 22nd anniversary of our national day to express my heartfelt, warm, respectful greetings and best wishes to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of Imperial family, and the friendly government and people of Japan.



Since the establishment of our first diplomatic relations in 1933, Ethiopia and Japan have maintained cordial relations. Currently, our relations scaled up with more commercial and economic ties. Besides, Japan is one of the most reliable development partners of Ethiopia in supporting our development endeavor in line with our policy priorities.

The Ethiopian Association of Japan, ex-JOCV (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) members, the Mocha Ethiopia Dance Group, the Nilo-Ethiopian Association and numerous

friends of Ethiopia have been instrumental in promoting people to people relations between the two countries and building Ethiopia's image in Japan. The Ethiopian Night, which has become an annual event in which cultural exchanges between the two countries take center stage, was held at the beginning of November last year. The celebration marked the long-standing friendship between Ethiopia and Japan. The Nilo-Ethiopian Association's annual event was also successfully held at Ishinomaki Senshu University in Miyagi Prefecture on April 20 and 21, 2013, in which various research findings on multiple areas of studies on Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa were presented.

May 28 marks the demise of the dictatorial military regime and the dawn for democratic governance and overall development. Since then, Ethiopia has made considerable progress in economic growth and social development. Dramatic progress in economic development and the aforementioned business environment is attracting a large number of foreign investors from around the globe. The peace-



**Booming: Agriculture and agri-business are among the fast expanding economic sectors in Ethiopia.** EMBASSY OF ETHIOPIA

ful transition of power after the tragic loss of our Great Leader, Meles Zenawi, testifies to Ethiopia's political stability. Moreover, Ethiopia is playing a leading role in pacifying and stabilizing the region, which once was considered as the hotbed of conflict. Ethiopia is spearheading multiple regional projects that foster economic cooperation and integration of the region. Such proj-

ects are sought to sustain peace and stability of the region.

Ethiopia, which had been little known with its appalling image in the past, is vibrantly changing and transforming. This is due to its political and social stability, macroeconomic stability and rapidly growing economy, excellent climate and fertile soils, pro-investment government, abundant and trainable labor

force, strategic location at the crossroads between Africa, the Middle East and Asia, simple and transparent investment approval procedures, competitive incentive packages, access to a wide market, its richest histories and traditions on the African continent and nine UNESCO World Heritage sites. Ethiopia is now becoming an ideal place for trade, investment and tourism. Today, Ethiopia is open for business and investment opportunities.

Much of Ethiopia's potential remains untapped and has attracted a growing number of foreign direct investments in recent years. However, business and investment cooperation with Japan is thus far below its potential. In this connection the Ethiopian government, in close collaboration with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) have organized a business and investment seminar on Ethiopia to be held on June 3. The seminar is sought to offer more opportunities to understand the current economic and social transformation in Ethiopia and enable the Japanese business community to explore opportunities available in business and investment. Top government officials from Ethiopia will attend and make speeches on the seminar. Moreover, networking sessions and business to business consultation arrangements will be organized between Japanese and Ethiopian business leaders.

Climate change has become the greatest challenge in which African countries are more prone to its adverse consequences. Ethiopia plays a key role in adopting common positions for



**Stable transition: Hailemariam Desalegn is sworn in as prime minister of Ethiopia after the tragic loss of late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in September.** EMBASSY OF ETHIOPIA

Africa in international climate change negotiations. Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy is the indicator of Ethiopia's commitment to contribute toward sustainable development and a stable global environment. Harnessing more reliable and clean energy is one of the CRGE targets. Launching of the construction of the Renaissance Dam on the Nile River, which would generate 6,000 megawatts, will play a key role in transforming the Ethiopian industrialization process in generating clean energy.

Currently, we are witnessing the impact of Japanese support in our priority areas to alleviate poverty and enhance productivity. After successful implementation of a pilot project on "kaizen" philosophy, Ethiopia is implementing "kaizen" in all its industries in order to improve

quality and productivity of industries. Now "kaizen" is becoming an integral part of Ethiopian industries and institutions. High-level industrial policy dialogue between Japanese professors and the Ethiopian government is yielding positive outcomes for the improvement of the policy environment.

Ethiopia is committed to enhancing its cooperation with Japan beyond the bilateral level, specifically within the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) framework, which will hold its fifth summit in Yokohama in June. Japan is a pioneer in initiating the most organized ways of partnerships with Africa through TICAD, which encourages mutual engagement and true partnerships. The TICAD V Preparatory Ministerial Conference was successfully held in Addis Ababa in

March 2013. TICAD V is set to be launched this week and preparations have been finalized. We hope that TICAD will yield more successful and fruitful partnerships between Africa and Japan. Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, who is also the current chairperson of the African Union, will attend the TICAD V Summit in representing the country and the continent. There are high expectations from the TICAD V Summit in terms of enhancing economic cooperation between Africa and Japan. The summit also marks the 50th anniversary of African Union and 20th anniversary of the TICAD process. The African Union golden jubilee was celebrated in Addis Ababa on May 25 with the attendance of heads of government and state of all African countries, and dignitaries from all over the world.

### Congratulations

to the People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
on the 22nd Anniversary of Their National Day



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