

The Mission of Japan to the AU co-organized a Pre-Tana Forum with IPSS-AAU

On 14 September, the Mission of Japan to the AU co-organized with the Institute of Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University (AAU) the online Pre-Tana Forum, whose theme was “Emerging Technologies and their Impact on Peace and Security in Africa.”

In the beginning of the Forum, Ambassador Horiuchi together with Dr. Yonas Adaye Adeto, Director of IPSS, made introductory remarks. The Ambassador expressed Japan’s intension to continue our dialogue with various stakeholders, including through this Pre-Tana forum, toward the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) that is scheduled to be held in 2022.



(Introductory remarks made by Amb. Horiuchi)



(Roll-up of this Pre-Tana Forum)

Many distinguished speakers pointed out the emerging technologies (such as information and communication technologies, or ICT, and artificial intelligence, or AI) are a “double-edged sword” by nature; new technologies and innovations have been conducive to the well-being for the humankind and economic development, while such technologies could be a destructive factor in our peace and security, once mishandled.

It was explained that African leaders tend to focus only on the goodness of emerging technologies, and many prominent panelists advocated the importance to raise awareness of various implications on the peace and security among African nations.

In addition, it was pointed out that the emerging technologies should be utilized for the benefits of the whole humankind including Africans, and that the international collaborations are necessary for ensuring it.

This dialogue was a good opportunity to prepare the Tana Forum that will be held by IPSS on later dates.