

## **Japanese Embassy in Ethiopia and Japanese Mission to the AU Celebrates His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's 62nd Birthday**

The Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia and the Mission of Japan to the AU celebrated Japan's National Day on the occasion of the 62nd Birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito on 17 and 24 February 2022 (the actual birthday of the Emperor is 23 February). The reception was arranged on two separate days, observing all COVID-19 protocols in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 infections.

At her welcoming remarks, Ambassador Ito Takako mentioned that she was pleased to welcome all the guests to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty. Concerning the Japan-Ethiopia relations, Ambassador Ito reaffirmed Japan's commitment to work with the Government and people of Ethiopia as a trusted partner and to support Ethiopia's endeavour towards a better future for its people - where peace, development, respect for human rights and the rule of law will prevail. Ambassador Ito also expressed her firm belief that this year's the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) will be another steppingstone for strengthening multi-faceted ties between Japan and Ethiopia.

Referring to the recent announcement by the Japanese government that TICAD8 will be held on 27-28 August 2022, the Japanese Ambassador to the AU Horiuchi Toshihiko emphasized that TICAD is a platform where various policies and projects can be discussed and tried in order to work together in overcoming the challenges in Africa. Ambassador Horiuchi asked for support to TICAD and encouraged to take advantage of the great opportunities that TICAD presents.

Several State Ministers, high level government officials, AU commissioner, members of the diplomatic corps and friends of Japan from different walks of life, took part in the celebration.



Welcoming remarks by Ambassador Ito



Toast by Ambassador Horiuchi



Conversations at the venue



Lunch boxes picked up upon guest's departure