## **Reception of Emperor's Birthday Celebration**

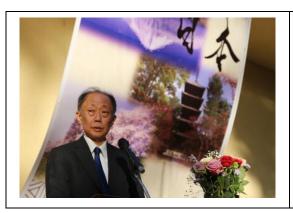
On March 7, 2024, His Excellency Mr. NAKAGAWA Tsutomu, Ambassador of Japan to the African Union and His Excellency Mr. SHIBATA Hironori, Ambassador of Japan to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, co-hosted a reception to celebrate the Emperor's 64th birthday.

The reception was attended by more than 200 people, including Ethiopian government officials, AU officials, and the members of the diplomatic corps, who celebrated the His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's 64<sup>th</sup> birthday and enjoyed Japanese cuisine such as sushi, sake, and green tea.

The event also provided a good opportunity to deepen visitors' understanding on Japanese products and activities of Japanese companies and several Japanese NGOs in Ehtiopia, at many exhibition booths set up in collaboration with them.

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador NAKAGAWA mentioned the TICAD Ministerial Meetings and TICAD 9 to be held this year and next year respectively, and stated that Japan intends to be more actively involved and cooperate with African countries as a "partner that grows together" with Africa.

Ambassador SHIBATA, in his welcoming remarks, appreciated Ethiopian people and others for their sympathy and support for the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake, and stressed that Japan would continue to provide development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding support Ethiopian people facing the various challenges, and that he would work to expand and deepen bilateral relations as the mission of newly appointed Ambassador to Ethiopia.





H.E. Ambassador Shibata to Ethiopia

H.E. Ambassador Nakagawa to the AU



At the Venue



Guests enjoying sushi



Japanese Company and NGO Exhibition Booths



Exhibition of Japanese brand vehicles