

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Minoru Kiuchi
State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
At Africa Day Reception

Venue: Angola Embassy

May 25, 2015

- H. E. Mr. Estifanos, Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to Japan,
Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps,
- H.E. Mr. Vahekeni, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to
Japan,
- H.E. Mr. Ramoeletsi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to
Japan,
- Ambassadors of African countries to Japan,
- Distinguished guests,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my thanks for inviting me to this year's Africa Day Reception. It is my great pleasure and honor to celebrate this important event with African friends as State Minister for Foreign Affairs responsible for African affairs. On this occasion, let me once again express my greatest admiration for the history of the OAU and AU which has contributed to the development and peace in Africa for more than half a century.

For the past two and a half years, I have had chances to visit several African countries as State Minister as well as Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and I witnessed the powerful

growth of these countries at first hand. I would like to pay a visit to Africa again in the near future and discuss with African leaders the way ahead of how we can further advance our cooperation.

As you are aware, in 2016, the next TICAD will be held in Africa for the first time. We would like to further strengthen our partnership with African countries and bring success to the next TICAD.

To conclude my short congratulatory remarks, I would like to reiterate Japan's determination to continue to walk hand in hand with our African friends to build a better, brighter future together.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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