



Letter No.1/F2018
23rd October 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have the honour to present my compliments and wish to introduce myself to you. I am Yutaka KIKUTA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I arrived in Nigeria on 24th May to assume my duty as Ambassador, and since then, I have been sincerely engaging myself to strengthen Japan-Nigeria relationship.

As a part of my efforts to keep you informed about Japan's activities in Nigeria, I have a pleasure to send you a newsletter. This is the very first one to be followed by many in the near future.

Today, I am delighted to deliver information on two important events which took place quite recently. One is TICAD Ministerial Meeting and the other is the presentation of my credentials to His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I hope you enjoy the contents.

【TICAD Ministerial Meeting】

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, on October 6th and 7th. TICAD is a summit level international conference on Africa's development initiated by Japan in 1993 and co-hosted with UN, UNDP, World Bank and African Union Commission. Past participants from Nigeria to TICAD summit meetings include the former President Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo at TICAD 3, the then Vice President Mr. Goodluck Jonathan at TICAD 4, the former Vice President Mr. Namadi Sambo at TICAD 5, and , most recently, the President Mr. Muhammadu Buhari at TICAD 6.

TICAD is a pioneer forum on the African Development with about 25 years of history and is the forerunner in the international arena. It is an inclusive and open forum so that the participants include not only African countries but also international

organizations, partner countries, private sector and civil society. Japan attaches utmost importance to the realization of the philosophy of African ownership and international partnership. The implementation of the outcome of the TICAD is continuously followed and reviewed at Ministerial Meetings. This is why this whole exercise is called “TICAD Process.”

Let me go through and review this year’s Ministerial Meeting. Participants reviewed positive macroeconomic trends and commended recent achievements. However, it was also recognized that challenges remain in every field, including the



issue of debt sustainability. Japan is committed to enhancing public and private partnership with Africa. Participants reaffirmed that economic diversification and value addition are necessary for sustainable development and recognized the need to address some bottlenecks urgently, as unsustainable debts and

insufficient business environments hinder public-private investment.

It was also affirmed that the promotion of universal health coverage (UHC) would remain key to enhancing the resilience and productivity of societies. Issues of rapid urbanization and demographic change were other important topics as well. Furthermore, participants reaffirmed their determination to build a peaceful and stable region, placing importance on good governance, rule of law, and human rights. Participants developed their thoughts on how to enhance connectivity in terms of physical connectivity through quality infrastructure, connectivity through digital infrastructure and institutional harmonization, and people-to-people connectivity through exchange of people including in tourism, culture, sport and academia, to which Japan attaches a great importance and I have committed myself to promoting this in Nigeria.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Ambassador Mohammed Lawal GANA, Undersecretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Madame Finda Koroma, Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, who participated in the Ministerial Meeting this year.

Next year at the end of August, Heads of State of African countries will be expected to gather in Yokohama, Japan for TICAD 7 with increased momentum toward materializing our aspirations for development in Africa.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to mention that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nippon Foundation co-hosted the Core Group Meeting of the Eminent Persons Group on Peace and Stability in Africa on 31st August and 1st September, with the attendance of H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Former Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Shinzo ABE, Prime Minister of Japan. Five former Heads of State including H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, were invited to the Meeting with the aim of suggesting proposals in the field of peace, security and stability in Africa. Prime Minister Abe mentioned that, listening to the frank views from each Eminent Person on the challenges and measures toward realization of peace and stability in Africa, he would like to make use of the discussion in preparing for TICAD 7.

We are fully committed to working together towards the success of TICAD 7.

【Presentation of Credentials】

I am very pleased to announce that, on 16 October, I was invited to the State House by His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari to formally present my credentials. Credentials, also known as “letters of credence”, refer to the formal documentation accrediting an Ambassador as head of a diplomatic mission. In case of the Japanese Ambassador, these letters are signed by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and presented to the Head of State of his/her receiving country. Traditionally, an Ambassador would be considered as



Ambassador designate until this ceremony takes place.

I had the privilege to discuss with President Buhari after the presentation of credentials and we shared views to further strengthen and deepen the bilateral relations between Japan and Nigeria as well as cooperation in the international arena. Having completed the presentation, I have now a renewed feeling of determination to devote myself to my duty as Ambassador for further development of a cooperative tie between two countries. In this regard, I would really appreciate if I may count on your generous support and understanding.

【Information about Embassy of Japan】

For further information of our Embassy's activities in Nigeria, please visit our Website and Facebook page.

Website: https://www.ng.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EmbassyofJapaninNigeria/>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yutaka Kikuta', with a small square mark at the end.

Yutaka KIKUTA
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to the Federal Republic of Nigeria