

**OPENING REMARKS BY MR. TOMIO SAKAMOTO,
COUNSELLOR AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN ON THE
OCCASION OF THE JAPANESE CULTURAL EVENT AT
BYIMANA SCHOOL OF SCIENCES ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2015.**

Brother Malisaba Straton, Headmaster,

Dear Students,

Distinguished Guests,

Good afternoon, Muraho,

Thank you all for coming to attend today's Japanese cultural event organized by the Embassy of Japan. This is the first time to organize such a cultural event here, and it is my pleasure to have it at your school which Ms. Candide who is our colleague graduated from.

The objective of this event is to explain to you about the Japanese culture and university life in Japan. Today, we will have two presentations, one is given by Mr. SHYAKA who is the former Japanese government scholar from 2011 to 2015, he is going to share his experience in Japan. He finished master and PhD degree during those 4years. So far, 3 Rwandans

have been to Japan through scholarship program, and every year we accept applications for undergraduate, master and PhD courses. Next application will begin from April. If you are interested in our scholarship program after you listening to this presentation, we will welcome your application.

Next presentation will be given by a Japanese Volunteers, Mr. Sonoda, who is working as a marketing advisor in Huye. So far, about 40 volunteers have been deployed and are doing different activities here in Rwanda. Today, he is going to explain about the Japanese culture and differences between the two countries the way he perceives it. After the presentations, there will also be a Japanese culture video shown and a Karate demonstration by Rwandan players.

For many of you who are attending today's event, Japan might be an unfamiliar country somewhere far in Asia continent. However, we hope that you will get acquainted with Japan and discover something new. Since the opening of the Embassy in 2010, we are here to strengthen our existing good friendship and to create more opportunities of cultural exchange.

We hope you enjoy these programs and get some understanding about our culture.

Thank you so much. Murakoze cyane.