

**SPEECH BY MR. TOMIO SAKAMOTO, CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES
AT THE EMBASSY OF JAPAN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
SEND-OFF CEREMONY FOR THE SECOND BATCH OF ABE
INITIATIVE PARTICIPANTS AT LEMIGO HOTEL ON 20TH
AUGUST 2015**

- Ms. Rosemary MBABAZI, Permanent Secretary of MYICT
- Ambassador Charles MURIGANDE
- Mr. Anicet Rwama, President of JAAR
- Mr. Ryutaro MUROTANI, Senior Representative of JICA
Rwanda

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mwaramutse, Ohayou Gozaimasu, Good morning,

It is my pleasure to attend this second send-off ceremony for the ABE Initiative participants. I thank JICA Rwanda office to have kindly invited me to today’s ceremony.

First of all, I would like to congratulate all participants who have passed a high competition among other African countries. I’m glad to hear that six Rwandans and two Burundians have got the

opportunity this year, and last year we sent ten Rwandan to Japan. This number is quite outstanding compare with other countries, thus it is a good symbol of positive relationship between our two countries.

“African Business Education Initiative for Youth” started last year as stated by Prime Minister ABE at TICAD V in 2013, and the Japanese government will receive a total of one thousand African youth in five years through this program. It offers opportunities for young and eligible African men and women to study at Master’s course level in Japanese Universities as international students and to experience internships at Japanese enterprises in order to develop effective skills and knowledge in various fields for contributing to the development of industries in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This program aims at human resource development in both private and public sectors in order to cultivate a strong human network between Japan and African States. The expected outcome of the program is a network of potential contributors to the development of Rwanda and Burundi industries who will also lead Japanese private sector to engage further in economic

activities in Rwanda and Burundi. I entirely believe that you have the potential to contribute to the development of Rwanda and Burundi in collaboration with Japanese private sector through internship experiences. In addition, you can strengthen the relationship between our two countries to promote further friendly relationship for the future.

I would like to encourage the participants to work hard and have many fruitful experiences through living in Japan, not only in academic fields but also in several cultural aspects as well. I hope you will enjoy great achievement in Japan, and good luck.

Thank you.