

SPEECH BY H.E. Mr. KAZUYA OGAWA, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEND-OFF CEREMONY FOR THE FIRST BATCH OF ABE INITIATIVE PARTICIPANT AT Hotel des Mille Collins ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 2014

-Honorable Jean Philbert Nsengimana, Minister for MYICT
-Honorable Stella Hord Mugabo, Minister for Cabinet Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. Anicet Rwama, President of JAAR

Mr. Takahiro Moriya, Chief Representative of Rwanda JICA

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mwaramutse, Ohayou Gozaimasu, Good morning,

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

First of all, I would like to congratulate all participants who are going to study in Japan from this month. This ABE initiative

started this year as stated by Prime Minister Abe at TICAD V last year. It offers opportunities for young and eligible African men and women to study at Master's courses 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 Gentleman,

The Japanese government will receive a total of one thousand African youth in five years to postgraduate courses at Japanese universities. I'm so glad to hear that Rwanda was chosen as one of countries for the first batch, and 10 Rwandan people have got this opportunity. I would like you to have many fruitful experiences through living in Japan, not only in academic fields but also in several Japanese cultural aspects as well.

I look forward to hearing your awareness and experiences through this initiative, when you return to Rwanda. 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, particularly Rwanda. And, I absolutely believe that you can strengthen the relationship between our two countries in order to promote further friendly relationship for the future. I hope you will enjoy great success in Japan, and good luck.

Murakoze cyane, Doumo Arigatou gozaimasu, Thank you so much.