

**Speech by Mr. Tomio SAKAMOTO,  
Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan, during the TCT  
3<sup>rd</sup> Graduation Ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Graduates who have successfully completed courses here at TCT,

**Muraho mwese,**

I am very honoured to be at this 3<sup>rd</sup> graduation ceremony of TCT today. Standing here in front of these young and ambitious graduates who have completed their courses in Electronics and Telecommunication, Information Technology and Alternative Energy, I am certain that their contribution to the development of Rwanda through all these disciplines will be very valuable.

The Government of Japan has a quite long historical relationship with this College. In 1992, ETO Tumba building was constructed under the scheme of Japanese Grant Aid, and after the war, it was used as a secondary school. Due to the Government of Rwanda's aspiration to build a state of the art A1 level institution in order to meet the strategic Vision 2020, which aims at a knowledge-based and technology-led economy, and since the government of Rwanda gives high priority on human resource development in the field of science and technology, Japan has been supporting Tumba College of Technology since 2007, both in hardware and human resource development.

Through JICA, Japan has been supporting TCT under the technical cooperation scheme. During the implementation of Phase 1 which was implemented from 2007 to 2012, we supported TCT in establishing its school operation and training service provision through capacity building of teaching, administrative staff as well as officials at the College and the school facility was

also equipped with necessary gears. After the completion of Phase 1, the second phase was designed and embarked on in February 2013.

The purpose is for TCT to become a model TVET institution that provides the Rwandan Government with effective approaches for improving TVET sub-sector. Phase II has three main components; namely, continuous strengthening technical education, school management, and dissemination of good practices within TVET.

After the Second World War, Japan rapidly recovered and grew as a world leading economic power owing to its education and innovations. Based on our own experiences, I would like to tell you, the graduates of TCT, that the successful development of Rwanda has been a result of hard work of many Rwandans, including all the distinguished guests here, your parents, and the staff at TCT. Now that you have grown to be responsible citizens, please bear in mind that the future of this country depends on your continuous dedication and aspirations. In your future jobs, strive to advance this country in teaching and showing others what you have learned here at TCT.

**Ubumenyi n'ikintu cya ngombwa cyane mw'iterambere ry'igihugu. Niyo mpamvu Ubuyapani bushishikarira gufasha Urwanda mu byerekeye uburezi dutanga inkunga mu kubaka amashuri n'ibindi.**

I am very pleased to see our support to TCT bearing fruits today. So, let me convey my sincere congratulations to the graduates, and wholeheartedly wish you much success in your future.

**Murakoze cyane.**