

REMARKS BY H.E. BARAKA LUVANDA, AMBASSADOR OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO JAPAN AT THE
CMC ANNUAL PARTY, TOKYO, 20TH AUGUST 2022

Ms. Tamaki Okada,

*Chief Director and Secretary General of N.P.O. Children Meet
Countries (CMC) and organiser of this event.*

My Colleagues Diplomats here present.

The Partners and Supporters of the Encounter Project.

Invited Guests.

Dear Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Konnichi wa! Jambo! Good evening!

In the communication that was sent to me it was clearly stated that I should make a speech of about two minutes! And so, it has been quite a tempting indulgence on my part in choosing what to say in those two minutes allotted to me.

It usually carries the risk of abusing the moment especially, when there is food prepared for the occasion like this. Once you speak for too long before people have eaten you are accused of keeping them away from their food. But if you speak for too long when they have eaten, you are again accused of giving them indigestion; both ways you lose.

So, friends, I have decided to cut down my losses by speaking **770** words in those two minutes allotted to me:

Number one,

To say that I am delighted to be here today and to thank you for the kind invitation extended to us.

I greatly appreciate the long association of my Embassy with you since 2015 and I felt it was quite appropriate for me to be here personally to express our profound appreciations. Thank you very much.

Number Two,

A word of commendation to the CMC for the great work and the achievements gained in the past nine years that you have carried out this noble work for our children.

So, as you mark the 9th anniversary of this wonderful project, you have every reason to celebrate this noble cause with us. My appeal is that you shouldn't be complacent but continue to do this fantastic job in many years to come.

And it reminds me of an idiom given to the world by the famous poet William Wordsworth in *"My Heart Leaps Up"* which came out in 1802 - *"The child is the Father of a Man."*

Whatever you are doing to these young people has a great meaning in their future life. And therefore, today's event is not simply to mark the 9th anniversary of CMC, but also to recognize the enduring value of your work.

Number Three,

It is never redundant in a ceremony such as this, to appreciate the value of the purpose for which the project was founded. Although the time is too short to list down the whole alphabet of the success of the project, but it is evident that the project has given opportunity to students to acquire a global perspective of their thinking through

lessons and through their interaction with the Embassies based Tokyo.

In other words, the project has had an inspirational value, in instilling in the young minds a better understanding of other nations; understanding of their cultures, *camaraderie* as well as creating awareness and respect for one another.

Beyond that, it has helped to create a sense of diversity and peaceful co-existence among the children which is highly commendable.

Before I conclude, permit me to reassure you that Tanzania will continue to associate with you in the noble work that you are doing, and that you can count on unwavering support all the time.

In the many interactions that we have had with the children about 400 of them, so far, they have deepened and expanded their knowledge about Tanzania in so many ways.

We hope that they are satisfied with the knowledge they acquired and that they are carrying forward the good work of branding the country.

As a final word, it would be an error in protocol if I did not recognize the role played by the "*Supporters*" or rather "*Partners*" of this successful project.

In your collective way, you have supported a great cause and

therefore we salute you and we do hope that you will continue doing so.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have been polite and listened to me attentively. So, I will leave you with a joke.

“Two friends were talking about another guy. “I will never invite him to my parties again”, one said. “Last time he did something I did not like.” “What was that?” “He came.”

You invited us. We hope you meant it. And we hope we will not do anything to deny us an invitation to another occasion in future.

I Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Arigato Gozaimashita.