

**OPENING REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. BARAKA LUVANDA,  
AMBASSADOR OF TANZANIA TO THE 155<sup>TH</sup> TALK SALON,  
KANAGAWA, 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

*Mr. Kengo Mise,*

*President of Ryokuen-Toshi Community Association (RCA),*

*Mr. Fuminobu Negishi,*

*Coordinator and Member of RCA,*

*Mr. Shinichi Goto,*

*Former Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania,*

*Distinguished Members of RCA,*

*Dear Friends,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen.*

*Jambo!*

*A Very Good Afternoon to all!*

*Mina-san Kon'nchiwa!*

It is indeed an honour for me to have been invited to speak on this auspicious occasion of 155<sup>th</sup> Talk Salon, the event that brings together the esteemed members of the Association (RCA) to share a joyous moment together and, more importantly, to exchange a great deal of ideas and information about a participating Country.

I have been hinted that this is the 155<sup>th</sup> Talk Salon. What a remarkable record!

Let me, in a special way, thank you, Negishi-san for having conceived the idea of this event today when you visited with us at the Embassy in October last year. That you went on implementing the idea almost immediately is for us no small thing and we do not take for granted. There are a hundred and thirty-two Embassies based in Tokyo. It means, therefore, that you gave us what I would call a preferential treatment for which we are grateful.

It would be a remiss on my part if I did not thank you for the warm reception and hospitality. The lunch treat before this forum was such a wonderful proposal. Thank you so much.

The next time you plan to invite us do not hesitate, because we will come for sure.

**Dear Friends,**

We know and have seen the value of this platform in instilling an understanding through a frank and transparent discussion of issues of mutual concern and in grasping together the ever-changing global situations.

In a world that is overwhelmed with global challenges from political, socio-economic, environmental crises, natural disasters, to global pandemics, man-made disasters and I could go on and forth, a platform such as this *Talk Salon* becomes necessary in finding answers to various questions that may come to mind.

**Dear Friends,**

As it has intimated to you, today's event provides us with the opportunity to learn about Tanzania, in general (geography, history, population, culture, the food, tourist attractions, sports, *etc.*).

Certainly, there could any better way to make this forum more interesting than bringing in our midst the former Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania, my friend Shinichi Goto. Thank you very much, Ambassador, for sparing your precious time to be with us today.

We know for sure that your narrative which is based on the experience and knowledge you have had during your time in Tanzania will stay on participants for much longer time.

I am quite sure even for those of you who have visited Tanzania before you, may certainly be inspired to visit again in future.

But friends, there is another interesting part of our event today. You will be introduced to a famous and most liked Tanzania tourism documentary filmed by the President of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan coined as "*Tanzania - The Royal Tour*" which is also available in *Nihongo*.

Through this documentary, which is also and easily accessible on social media, you will be able to see Tanzania's unique attractions in much more details. It is only unfortunate that today we do not have much time to watch in its entirety.

*Friends,*

Let me also inform you that you will be taken through a rather detailed presentation about the Country by Kazuma Shirai from the Embassy.

This will give you a broader understanding of the country (Tanzania) and we will be more than happy to answer your questions thereafter, if any.

It is important to underscore at this juncture that the relations between Japan and Africa, generally, and between Japan and Tanzania have lived up to the spiritual exhortations of Buddha that, (quote):

*"You should respect each other, follow my teachings, and refrain from disputes; you should not, like water and oil, repel each other, but you should, like milk and water, mingle together."* (end of quote)

Japan and Tanzania continue to see eye to eye in a variety of ways at both bilateral and multilateral level.

And there is great hope that our bilateral cooperation will thrive for innumerable period, as it is evident from the perspective of the present interactions through Government to Government; Government to Business and, also through people-to-people connections.

You may wish to learn that throughout all these years, our historical, cultural, and emotional ties with Japan have continued to bind us together so firmly.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to welcome you all to visit Tanzania, the land of natural wonders and unforgettable six experiences such as the climbing of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free-standing mountain in the world (its height is 5,895 meters above sea level); touring in the largest Serengeti National Park and in the volcanic crater at Ngorongoro, as well as relaxing on Zanzibar's finest beaches.

By and large, Tanzania is a destination that can be visited by anybody, at any time of the year and, at any budget with full range of leisure options. Believe me, you will certainly see value for your money!

Moreover, Tanzania boasts of being a stunning country with welcoming, friendly people and an ideal environment, making it appropriate for your travel-related adventures and for your subsequent investment, if you will.

I therefore invite everyone here present today to visit Tanzania to experience the warmth, the kindness, the camaraderie, and the unmatched hospitality of the Tanzanian people.

We, at the Embassy, are ready and willing to work together with you for mutual benefit.

*Thank you for your kind attention;*

*Asante sana;*

*Hontoni Domo Arigato Gozaimashita.*