

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. BARAKA H. LUVANDA,  
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TO JAPAN AT THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF THE NODAI INTERNATIONAL CENTER,  
TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

*Dr. Kanju OSAWA,  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
Tokyo University of Agriculture Educational Corporation*

*Prof. Dr. Fumio EGUCHI,  
President of Tokyo University of Agriculture,*

*Invited Guests,*

*Faculty Members,*

*Dear Students,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen.*

***Ohayō gozaimasu! A very good morning! Jambo!***

It is an honour and privilege for me to have been invited to this momentous occasion of the opening of the *NODAI International Center*. Thank you very much for the kind invitation.

This invitation has been long overdue. I remember it was your desire that I visit the Campus during my early days in Tokyo last year. Unfortunately, time and the circumstances brought about by COVID-19 could not permit me to do so.

So, when I received this invitation, I did not hesitate to confirm my participation. After all, today's ceremony is not simply to celebrate the opening of the Center but also to recognize the enduring value of the great service of the Tokyo University of Agriculture in Japan and in the world over.

And speaking for my own country, Tanzania, I should like to place on record the appreciations of the Government of Tanzania to the Government of Japan for the long partnership and support in various forms including through the educational and scientific exchanges between this University and the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

The academic exchanges through seminars and scientific conferences, joint research, and human resource development, have, over many years benefitted quite many Tanzanians who have as a result made significant contribution to the development agenda of our country.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is never redundant in today's ceremony to acknowledge the remarkable or rather a milestone since the establishment of this University for inaugurating this Center of Excellence. This center represents a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and progress, and it is a testament to the unwavering commitment to education and intellectual growth.

I am delighted to learn that the construction of this International Center, a new symbol of *Tokyo NODAI*, was launched when the Commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University in 2015; and was completed in April this year 2023, marking the 132<sup>nd</sup> founding Anniversary.

This center will serve as a hub for disseminating university's intellectual property to the rest of the world, as it symbolizes the

university's role as a Global Center of Excellence in the field of agricultural sciences.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As we all know, education has always been a cornerstone of societal development and progress. It empowers individuals, transforms communities, and shapes the future. It is through education that we unlock the full potential of our youth, equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and values to become the leaders and agents of change for a better tomorrow.

This center, with its state-of-the-art facilities and resources, will undoubtedly serve as a catalyst for academic excellence and intellectual exploration.

It is therefore quite appropriate on my part to appreciate the visionary leadership of this prestigious University by creating an environment that fosters a love for learning and promotes critical thinking.

By establishing this Center, you have provided students with the necessary and reliable space that encourages collaboration, creativity, and innovation. It is within these walls that the next generation of thinkers, scientists, and entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture sciences will develop their talents and contribute to the advancement of our society.

I also wish to commend the University for its commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

A learning environment that embraces people from all walks of life, regardless of their backgrounds, cultures, or beliefs, is essential for nurturing global citizens. I think it would be correct to suggest that this Center will serve as a melting pot of ideas, where individuals from different disciplines in the agriculture field will come to learn, share ideas and experiences, and grow together.

I must also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the *University* and staff in shaping the educational experiences of the students who pass through these doors. Your dedication,

expertise, and passion for teaching continue to play a pivotal role in shaping the minds of the future generation.

And your tireless efforts in imparting knowledge and guiding students have always had a lasting impact on their lives and the broader society.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As a final word, as we celebrate this milestone, let us not take for granted the importance of education in addressing the challenges that lie ahead.

In an ever-changing world, where technological advancements and global issues are reshaping our societies, education becomes even more critical. It is through education that we can tackle climate change, promote peace, eradicate poverty, and build a sustainable and equitable future.

It is my respectful view that this Center stands a great chance of making all the difference. And I have no doubt in my mind that *NODAI* will prevail in its quest to advance agricultural innovation, excellence, and intellectual exchange through this Center.

As part of my role here in Japan, I will continue to encourage Tanzanians to seize the opportunities that this Center offers to come and pursue their dreams and become pioneers of change in their respective fields.

May *NODAI International Center* be a source of inspiration and enlightenment for generations to come.

*¡Domo Arigato Gozaimasu, Thank you very much for your attention!*