

**OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. BARAKA LUVANDA,
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO JAPAN AT THE OCCASION OF THE TANZANIA-JAPAN
INVESTMENT SEMINAR, 18TH MAY 2023**

*Ms. Fumio Adachi,
Head, UNIDO ITPO Tokyo*

*H.E. Mr. Yasushi Misawa,
Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania*

Invited Guests,

Distinguished Participants,

Dear Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jambo! Konni chiwa! A very good afternoon!

I would like at the outset thank you, **Adachi-san** for the kind introduction and for the kind words.

It really gives me immense pleasure for me to be speaking at this very important forum. This forum today on Tanzania-Japan Investments is the outcome of the great efforts that UNIDO and JICA have put together in planning and mobilizing ideas and participants to this seminar with such impressive numbers!

Our modest contribution (*at the Embassy*) to the realization of this seminar does not match at all to the many hours and energy dedicated by you in organising this seminar.

I want to thank all participants for availing their precious time to this seminar. This is a clear testimony of the importance you attach to the thriving trade and business relations between Japan and Tanzania.

Dear Participants,

This seminar could not have come at a right time than this time around. We have just had the *First General Business Dialogue* between Japan and Tanzania last week on Thursday 11th May 2023.

Thanks, in large measure to great efforts by His Excellency Ambassador YASUSHI Misawa, Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania and his team for having conceived the idea and worked hard to prepare it in collaboration with the Ministry of Industries and Trade.

Those of you who participated in that dialogue will bear witness that it was such a great success. And generally, it can be said that the dialogue achieved what it sought to achieve.

It was especially, of particular interest to hear the experiences and impressions from the Japanese Companies (JPCs) which have already established businesses in Tanzania. I am quite sure that we will hear similar sentiments through this platform today.

The views such as the peaceful and stability of Tanzania favourable for investment; the abundant natural resources for prospective investors; abundant labour force; expansive market and the strategic geographical location were cited to be in favour of any Japanese looking for investment in Tanzania.

You will certainly be hearing again such sentiments in our discussion today and, that is why I opt not to delve much into the details.

But, let me also express my appreciation to the speakers of that day led by the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce and Industry of the Japanese Society of Tanzania (CCIJT) Mister Takashi Araki for being frank and uncompromising in expressing their concerns about the challenges that remain to be addressed.

Delays in issuance of work permits, resident permits and business licences, difficulty in understanding the requirements for obtaining business licences were cited to be challenges at present and needed to be addressed.

In addition, frequent changes in legislation and regulations including the need to have dialogue between the government and stakeholders were pointed out. It was also said that despite the improvements in online procedures, there was still a challenge of frequent system errors which needed to be addressed.

Furthermore, tax issues, delays in judicial and police processes and red tape concerns were presented to be hampering investments in Tanzania.

Following responses from representatives of the Government of Tanzania to the issues raised as challenges, there was a great consensus that a lot of improvement has happened in the recent past. However, it became clear that there is room for further improvement.

I am quite sure that at the end of this seminar today, you will have heard similar sentiments to be able to make your own decision to invest in Tanzania.

It therefore remains for me to thank UNIDO and JICA once again for this great initiative which will inspire more trade and investments between our two countries.

But, let me add, in closing, one more factor which I believe is very important, that is the political will of the current administration in Tanzania in attracting more investments to Tanzania.

Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania is dedicated in making business environment in Tanzania free from corruption and other malpractices.

You can therefore be assured of not only a safest, reliable, secure, and conducive investment environment, but also an environment without unnecessary bottlenecks.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Asanteni sana

Domo arigato gozai mashita