

## Message from H.E. Mr. Satoshi Iwakiri



Welcome and thank you for visiting the Official Website of the Embassy of Japan in Malawi.

The novel coronavirus pandemic has had an unprecedented effect at all levels from daily lives to national politics and economy in the world. Japan and Malawi are not an exception. First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to all the families and loved ones who have lost someone to the coronavirus, as well as my sincere sympathies to all those who have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

In addition to the pandemic, the year of 2020 witnessed many impactful changes. Malawi became the second country in Africa to annul a presidential election and the very first African country in which the opposition has won the re-run election. The relationship between Malawi and Japan has a long history; the two countries have enjoyed a fruitful and cordial relationship since 1964, when Malawi gained its independence. It is important to note that Malawi is the largest recipient of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) under Japan

International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the world. This year is the 50th anniversary since the first JOCV batch arrived in Malawi, symbolizing the ever-close friendship between the two countries.

With the multi-faceted impacts of the coronavirus, it is crucial to ask what cooperation is the most effective for the sustainable development in Malawi in the post-pandemic future. With our eyes on the 8<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) in Tunisia next year, the Embassy will actively work for the cooperation from which every single Malawian citizen can benefit. Such cooperation includes the active promotion of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, Kansai. The Expo in Japan will surely provide Malawi a significant opportunity to show case its attraction and beauty as “The Warm Heart of Africa” to the people of Japan and the world.

Satoshi Iwakiri  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Republic of Malawi