



This year marks 15 years since the Embassy of Japan in Malawi opened in 2008. The global situation has changed dramatically over the past 15 years, but the warm hearts of the Malawian people have not changed and they continue to radiate warmth and show great hospitality. It has been almost 12 years since I last stationed in Malawi when the Embassy opened its doors and it is a great honour for me to be back in Malawi as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. The weather upon my arrival at the Kamuzu International Airport on Christmas Eve, was clear and sunny right after the heavy rain, which was a welcome development considering the rainy season. This is to me, signified a warm welcome from the Warm Heart of Africa.

The Japan-Malawi friendship boasts of more than 50 years of development cooperation. Suffice to say, many Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) have been dispatched to Malawi and there are traces of the activities of the Japanese people throughout the country. It is actually quite common to hear community members say they know a Japanese person or are friends with a Japanese person. There are also many high-ranking Malawi Government officials who are former students of the JOCV. The deep relationship between Malawi and Japan can be seen everywhere. I therefore look forward to working with the Government and people of Malawi in the various sectors to maintain the good bilateral relations between Japan and Malawi, with a view to consolidating mutual development. I also wish to engage in diplomatic activities that will help to build a peaceful world.

It is also my earnest desire to support the Japanese resident in Malawi to ensure their peace and security as they strive to promote the Japan-Malawi friendship in various capacities. Furthermore, it is my desire that the Embassy will do the best of its knowledge and capacity to further enhancement development cooperation for the prosperity of Malawi and that through such efforts, trade and investment will be promoted to consequently benefit our two countries.

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Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Malawi

Yoichi OYA