

Remarks by Mrs. Harumi Naito at the Graduation Ceremony of Gardening Course of the Four Seasons (on 24th April)

Mwaswela bwanji nonse? Good afternoon.

My name is Harumi Naito, and I am a fan of gardening from Japan. My husband is Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, and the Embassy greatly appreciates the excellent services provided by Four Seasons over the years. Since I arrived in Malawi three months ago, we have been assisted by Lesley and her team so many times including flower arrangement for the Emperor's Birthday celebration. Four Season has become my favourite place to spend time in Lilongwe.

Thank you for inviting me to for this important day.

I wish to congratulate you all on the successful completion of your gardening-course. I think gardening is a career of pride that gives comfort and encouragement to people. Beautiful landscapes add colour and richness to our lives. Because gardens are living nature, your care and love to the garden will be reflected in their beauty. Gardening also represents a harmonious co-existence with nature.

Japan has a traditional flower arrangement called “Ikebana”. The word Ikebana means “giving life to flowers”. We welcome guests with Ikebana flower arrangement with “Omotenashi” - the spirit of hospitality, with your artistic sense, respect to the guests and with subtle reflection of the season. Another Japanese tradition is Bonsai, which is connecting human beings with nature and loved by many practitioners in the world.

As you have learned in the training, gardening is also a science. I admire gardeners for their profound knowledge of a variety of plants and skills. It is both an exciting and fulfilling profession – one that deserves pride.

Once again, congratulations on your achievement, and all the best in your further endeavours.

Zikomo Kwambiri.

Thank you for your attention.

End