

**Remarks by Mr. NAITO Yasushi, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi
at the Nerd Axis Con (18th July, 2026)**

Thank you very much for inviting me and my wife to the Nerd Axis Con and for allowing me to say a few words.

I am NAITO Yasushi, Ambassador of Japan to Malawi, and I was posted to Malawi six months ago. Today, we are very pleased to see so many young people here in Lilongwe enjoying Japanese anime, cosplay, manga, and gaming.

These Japanese sub-cultural contents are enjoyed by people around the world, and we are excited to know that they are also popular in Malawi. Mr. Yuki Isaacs, President of the Japanese Language and Cultural Exchange (JLCE), has just explained to me that *otaku* culture is becoming popular among high school and university students in Malawi, and that JLCE and Nerd Axis organise these events every month in different cities. It is a wonderful initiative. I see great potential for collaboration with the Embassy, which regularly organises cultural exchange activities. As we plan cultural activities to showcase the fun aspects of Japanese culture later this year, you are all welcome to join us.

I see that you are about to commence the cosplay competition. Let us enjoy it together. All the best to all the competitors!

Zikomo kwambiri.

Thank you for your attention.

End