

Business Networking Reception

(24 August, 2026 at Japanese Ambassador's Residence)

On 24 August, Ambassador NAITO Yasushi hosted a Business Networking Reception ahead of the Malawi Food Processing Supply Chain Business Study Tour 2026. The study tour brought together six Japanese companies, as well as Mr. MATOBA Shintaro, Executive Director for the African Region at the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and JETRO Johannesburg. The study tour was hosted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Malawi Office.



The event was attended by Guest of Honour Hon. Simon Itaye, Minister of Industrialisation, Business, Trade and Tourism; Hon. George Chaponda, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Hon. Roza Mbilizi, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development; as well as other government officials, representatives from development agencies, and representatives from various Japanese and Malawian companies.

In his remarks, Ambassador Naito shared that when he presented his Letters of Credence to His Excellency President Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, the President expressed his deep appreciation for the Japanese Government's longstanding development cooperation with Malawi, while also conveying his view that the time had come to make a serious effort to further strengthen business, investment, and trade relations between the two countries. He also explained that Malawi, which has received the largest number of JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in the world and has sent many students to Japan, has a strong network of "bridge-building human resources" active across various sectors. He emphasized that this is an important factor for Japanese companies considering expanding their business into Malawi.

Guest of Honour Hon. Simon Itaye, Minister of Industrialisation, Business, Trade and Tourism, spoke about the Japan–Malawi bilateral relationship, noting that it has developed from traditional development cooperation into a strong strategic partnership grounded in mutual respect, shared values and common economic goals. He further expressed appreciation for Japan’s longstanding contribution to Malawi’s development across various important sectors.

In a special moment of appreciation for Japan’s contribution to Malawi, Hon. Roza Mbilizi, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, led the guests in singing Kyō no Hi wa Sayōnara (“Let us be friends always, forever”), a song famously performed by Japanese singer Ryoko Moriyama. The song was particularly meaningful to the Minister as a gesture of appreciation to the JICA volunteer who taught her mathematics during her secondary school years.

The evening concluded with all 58 guests, led by Hon. George Chaponda, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, raising a toast to the reception before joining the networking session. The session provided an opportunity for Japanese and Malawian participants to connect, exchange ideas and explore potential opportunities for business partnerships and collaboration.

Ambassador’s speech: https://www.mw.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00146.html



Remarks by Ambassador Naito



Speech by Hon. Minister Itaye



Presentation on JETRO’s Activities
by Executive Director Mr. Matoba



Presentations by Japanese
companies