

PRESS RELEASE**Japanese High Level Delegation pays a courtesy visit to HE Dr Martial De Paul Ikounga, Commissioner of HRST**

Addis Ababa, 30 August 2016: On the 30th August, H.E Dr Martial De Paul Ikounga received a high level Japanese Delegation at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The meeting was a courtesy call by the Japan – AU Parliamentary Friendship Association led by H.E Ichiro Aisawa, the Chairman of the Association. The main objective of the meeting was to follow up on the recently concluded TICAD IV outcomes.

In his Remarks H.E Ichiro Aisawa underscored the TICAD IV commitments on investments in Africa, strengthening human resource and Infrastructure development for the continent. The support of the Japanese government towards the Pan African University was also accentuated. Further discussions centred around the need to maximise gains on the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for Youth. This program offers opportunities for young and eligible African men and women to study at Master's courses in Japanese universities as international students and to experience internships at Japanese enterprises in order to develop effective skills and knowledge in various fields for contributing the development of industries in Africa.

The discussions focused on how ABE alumni should be viewed as the bridge towards addressing the African brain drain and a way to cultivate a strong network between Japan and Africa in both academia and business.

As a response to the call by Agenda 2063 on Skills Revolution, the meeting emphasised the significance of increasing Japan – Africa exchanges as well as

increasing awareness among Africans regarding the efficiency of Japanese technologies and systems of enterprises.



H.E Dr Martial DePaul Ikounga, the Commissioner of HRST, in his response, started by thanking the Japanese government for AUYVC Alumni programme implemented in 2013 and 2014, a youth exchange programme that allowed young Africans to spend 3 months in Japan. He emphasized on the vision for Africa to build the capacity of young

Africans to be job creators as opposed to job seekers. The Commissioner further called for the Japanese government to channel support for Africa through the Africa Union Commission, for effective follow up and coordination.

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