

Speech presented by the Coordinator of the CCAN during the Tea party organized by the Ambassador of Japan in Cameroon at his Residence in Yaoundé on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**His Excellency, The Ambassador of Japan in Yaoundé,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Diplomats and staff of the Embassy of Japan in Cameroon**

**Dear Fellow CCAN Members,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen who are Guests of His Excellency, The Ambassador of Japan in Yaounde,**

*I take the floor before you on behalf of the CCAN and as the Coordinator.*

*I am Dr Samuel TETSOPGANG, Graduated from Graduate School of Science of the Nagoya University in March 2003.*

The Cercle Camerounais des Anciens du Nippon, abbreviated as CCAN was created in 2005 under the law of Cameroon related to the freedom of association. CCAN is an alumni of ex-students of Cameroon nationals who studied in Japan. The launching ceremony of our association took place in June 2005 by the Japanese Embassy in Yaounde at that time. At this launching ceremony in 2005, we were able to gather 11 members from the beginning of the creation of the association. All our members at that time lived or worked in Africa and none came from Japan,

America or Europe where there are a good number of Cameroonians with degrees obtained from Japanese universities and who are potential members of our association. The objective of our association is:

- to identify Cameroonians who have obtained at least a degree in a Japanese university, residing in Cameroon or not;
- facilitate contact and get to know each other;
- to seek the factors which contribute for a better blooming of members;
- and also promote the brand image of the relationship between Cameroon and Japan.

For close to 18 years of the existence of our association, the greatest achievement has been the establishment of links between the members and a permanent contact with the Embassy of Japan in Cameroon. This was not possible before the creation of this association. The permanent contacts between the different members of the CCAN is very important to get to know each other better and to flourish better. In fact the

reinsertion into the society of Cameroon is often not easy after returning home. This can, at times, explain the non-return of some Cameroonians after their studies in Japan or in other developed countries.

The members of our association have resided for at least 02 years in Japan and hold Master's or Doctorate degrees obtained in Japanese universities.

Cameroonians who benefited from this opportunity to study in Japan worked much more as researchers for research institutions in Cameroon or as professors in Cameroon's state universities. Some are civil servants. Others work for Japanese companies in Cameroon or work as a businessman. Those who reside abroad work as international NGOs or universities. The number of Cameroonians trained in Japan is still low, however, they have a very positive impact in their area of expertise, despite difficulties encountered on a daily basis in their contribution to the development of our country Cameroon.

Once again, we thank the Government of Japan and The Japanese People for the opportunities offered each year to young people of Cameroon national to benefit valuable scholarships that allow them to have great opportunities to study in world best ranked universities in Japan. We appreciate it once more and recognize this great contribution of the Government of Japan for the human development of people of Cameroon.

CCAN also thanks the government of Japan for the various projects undertaking for the development of Cameroon and the improvement of the living conditions of the Cameroonian populations such as the construction of primary schools, the construction of boreholes, the construction and the asphaltting of roads and the development of NERICA rice cultivation. We also appreciate the projects in the conservation of forests and the environment in Cameroon as well as the establishment of JICA in Cameroon. JICA volunteers have an important contribution in local strengthening the capacities of Cameroonian citizens.

**His Excellency**, Japan is a great partner for the development of Cameroon. I would like to stress here some plagues in our society such as corruption and favoritism that undermine our society and hope for youth and have a very negative impact on these development efforts in Cameroon.

**His Excellency**, although most CCAN members are researchers, some are businessmen or have a good understanding of the businessman environment in Cameroon and may assist Japanese companies during their business trip in Cameroon.

I regret here some of our members who passes away, such as the disappearance of Mr Njoya Mouchili Jean Claude in April 2021 during the second wave of COVID-19 in Cameroon. He had been a very active member of the CCAN since its creation. He was an exceptional Cameroonian in regard to the Japanese language ability. He could speak and write Japanese language fluently and could read and write Kanji very well. He was the Director of Japan House where He used to teach

Japanese language to young Cameroonians. He has also taught Japanese to some private universities mostly in the city of Douala. He had worked hard after his retirement as a civil servant to facilitate friendship between the people of Cameroon and Japan. Before his sudden death in 2021, he was lobbying hard to make possible the teaching of Japanese language in state universities in Cameroon. He is alive with his wife and children. RIP Njoya san. Before leaving this regret page, I would like to pay tribute also to late TCHIENGOUA Francois. He was a member of CCAN and passed away in 2014 in Yaoundé. He was a prominent businessman in Yaoundé. He is now alive with his family and the company called AURA which provides potable and cheap water to major cities in Cameroon. RIP Francois.

**His Excellency**, the number of Cameroonians who studied in Japan through the MEXT program goes increasing every year. This is good for us. This program is very selective. And many young students from Cameroon who wish to study in Japan will never have the chance to be

selected through this program. Then, the challenge today is to make some families in Cameroon understand the possibility to privately enroll their children into universities in Japan as they are doing for universities in other developed countries in Europe and North America.

Finally, On behalf of all the members of the CCAN, we thank The Ambassador of Japan in Yaoundé, **His Excellency, TAKAOKA Nozomu** for this Tea party which gives us another excellent opportunity to achieve the objectives of the CCAN.

We wish a Long Life to Japanese-Cameroonian Relationship

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION**

**TETSOPGANG Samuel,**

**CCAN Coordinator**

**Yaoundé March 29, 2023.**