

【Africa】 April 27,2018

South Africa's Freedom Day Reception

Toast speech made by Mr. Hisao Nomoto, secretary general of Japan AALA at the National Day Reception at Hotel New Otani, Tokyo on the occasion of celebrating South Africa's Freedom Day,

Good afternoon everyone

I am Nomoto Hisao , secretary general of Japan Asia, Africa, Latin America Solidarity Committee(Japan AALA).

Thank you very much for invitation. I am honored to make a toast (kumpai) speech.

We are proud of our long history of relationship with the people of South Africa and ANC which started in 1957 when delegates of both countries participated in the first Asia Africa People's Conference in Cairo.

The struggle against apartheid in Japan was spurred in 1987 when the chairman of Africa National Congress, Oliver Tambo came to Japan and had friendly talks with representatives of progressive organizations. Since then Japan AALA pushed Japanese companies which had trade relations with South Africa to break off business. I remember the opening of the ANC Tokyo Office in 1988 and a great success of Amandla performances in 1990. More than 70 thousand people took part in the stages and enjoyed them. This is unforgettable event for me.

In 1991, apartheid was at long last abolished and 3 years later Mr. Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa. Japanese people were really encouraged by this glorious achievements.

Well, let's have a toast (kumpai) for strengthening the solidarity both South African people and Japanese people. Thank you very much.(end)