

**H.E.'s SPEECH FOR THE GHANA MEETS JAPAN**  
**MUSICAL CONCERT**  
**- 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2015**

***Deputy Mayor of Minato Ward,***

***Excellencies,***

***Distinguished Invited guests,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen.***

Please allow me to begin by thanking the Mayor and Officials of the Minato Ward for their generous support and assistance in the organization of this event. My warm sentiments are further extended to other personalities and institutions, whose welcome contributions have facilitated the realization of today's objective of injecting a strong cultural content into our excellent bilateral relations.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The significance of today's program within the ambit of Japan/Ghana relations, cannot be overemphasized as we continue to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and

Ghana. More than half a century of friendly and fruitful interactions have inured to the mutual benefit of the peoples of our two countries. Indeed our bonds of friendship are deepening and being diversified with the passage of time.

An irrefutable fact in the history of our relations, is that social contacts predated the reciprocal establishment of formal diplomatic representations. The pivot in this endeavour was Dr. Noguchi. His pioneering work on the yellow fever virus brought us together and I am elated that his Memorial Museum, which was destroyed in the great East Japan earthquake, has been restored and was re-commissioned only last week Saturday in Fukushima.

It has been generally acknowledged that cultural and social activities play a paramount role in enhancing political and diplomatic relations between countries. Indeed, this very gathering affirms the convergence of views on this matter. Despite the exponential growth in social contacts between Ghana and Japan since the 1960s, a lacuna continues to exist in our relations. The missing gap

is the full understanding and appreciation of the cultures of our two peoples.

It is on the basis of this reality and to remedy the situation that the Embassy decided to co-sponsor this concert. Cultural relations in the current global paradigm, reinforce inter-connectivity and interdependence of states and these clearly portray our dynamism, common humanity and shared values as citizens of a global village. Recent history has shown that even when politicians decide to isolate a group of people, that policy never works. We need more countries to be friends, not enemies.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The promotion of friendly relations between states will remain a mirage unless peoples of the world make a deliberate effort to embrace the virtues of inter-cultural dialogue and full appreciation of the richness of the diverse traditions and ways of living of different nations. Indeed, this is the only durable option for the promotion of a peaceful, united secure world.

I therefore wish to use this unique opportunity to encourage the expansion of cultural activities between our two countries in the coming years. This path, invariably, will constitute one of the core objectives of our Embassy in Japan during my tenure.

Before I resume my seat, May I again thank the organizers and sponsors for their immense support and all of you distinguished patrons, who graciously honored our invitation for today.

I thank you for your attention.