

Q: Please tell us about yourself and your country.

A: My name is MREMA Emmanuel Godwin. I am from Tanzania. Tanzania is located in East Africa where Mount Kilimanjaro is. I am an Engineer by professional, majored in civil and structural engineering. I work with Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) as a Projects Engineer (Civil). My responsibilities being to supervise and manage civil engineering related activities for new power generation and transmission projects. My aspiration at TANESCO has been centered in insuring value for money is realized in projects and proper utilization of ODAs from development partners. Tanzania is at its peak in investing and harnessing energy form all its potential resources owing to urgent demand to revitalize and grow its industrial sector. Political stability, good governance and transparency of Tanzania's government have made this possible. Tanzania is one of few African countries with successful story in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This has made the country an important investment destination for investors. I am very optimistic and motivated by the ongoing development successful stories in country. Since I am working in the energy sector which is the fastest growing sector in Tanzania, I have a responsibility to stir-up this move. However, I need to advance my intellect and skills to stir-up this move.

Q: You are one of the first participants of the ABE Initiative master's degree and internship program. Could you briefly explain your field of study and tell us about your experiences in university?

A: I was among the first batch of few Tanzanian who got an opportunity to study in Japan under ABE Initiative master's degree and internship program scholarship. This was a golden chance to advance my career and intellectual skills. I studied a master's degree in Civil Engineering at Nagoya University. Nagoya University is among the top five best universities in Japan. It is famous for its excellence in academics and Nobel Price – winning researches. At Nagoya University, my academic life was smooth because the professors were corporative and determined to nurture the students to the best of their knowledge. Not only that but also the university provides all required facilities for researches and learning. I was also impressed with fellow Japanese students by their wiliness to assist me whenever I was faced with difficulties due to language barrier. The good learning atmosphere and comprehensive curriculum of Nagoya University enabled my good academic performance. The university also gives the student an opportunity to interact with different experts in the field through excursion and conference. Through this opportunity I got a chance to present my research paper at Japan Structural Material Society (JSMS) conference and awarded with excellent paper presentation award.

Q: How do you put your knowledge and experience which you acquired in Japan to use in the future?

A: The knowledge I acquired from Nagoya University has really stretched my thinking horizon

especially in the field of Civil Engineering. Since the economy of my country is growing rapidly in conjunction with the high demand for modern infrastructures, the knowledge I got from the university will help me to confidently participate in modern infrastructure development. Apart from university's knowledge, I have also learnt useful aspects of Japanese way of life. One of them is time management. I have learnt that to foster determination, one has to be committed in time keeping. I also learnt the importance of obeying the law and regulations. In Japan there a negligible number of traffic accident, because traffic regulation are obeyed by everyone. The surroundings are clean, because everyone obeys environmental regulations and observes hygiene in their households. These are among few lessons I will apply and argue others to apply in my country.

Q: Please tell us about your impressions of participating in ABE initiative program?

A: I am very impressed that I participated in ABE initiative program. Since ABE initiative program is geared at mutual growth of Africa's economy and Japan's investment in Africa through scholarships for African youth, I am happy that I took part in this great development initiative, and I know I have a role to play to accomplish the objectives of this program. This program has also built a trustworthy network between me and companies which are willing to invest in Africa. This will not only bring about national economic advantages but also individual wellbeing.

Q: Something you would like to say to the people of Japan? (if any)

A: What I can say to Japanese community is that, Africa is not a country; Africa is a continent with many countries, countries with wide range of cultural differences, environmental diversities and investment potentials. I would specifically welcome Japanese people to Tanzania; to invest because Tanzania has attractive and conducive investment policies for foreigners, to visit because Tanzania is politically safe and is the most attractive country in Africa.