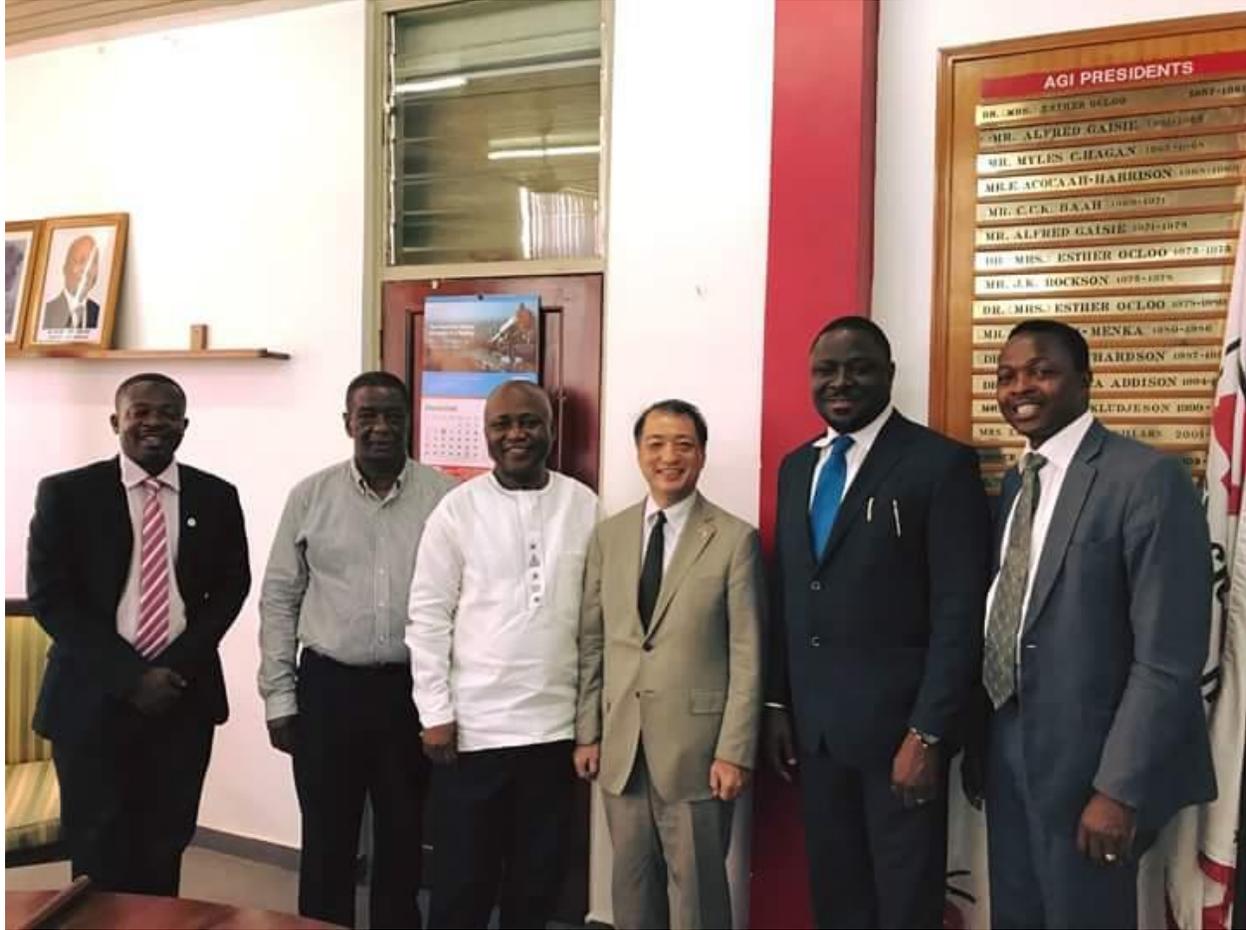


PRESS RELEASE

Japanese Ambassador to Ghana Visits the Association of Ghana Industries



Dr. Yaw Adu Gyamfi, the President of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) (third from left), His Excellency Tsutomu Himeno, (third right), His Excellency, Frank Okyere, Ghana Ambassador to Japan, (second left), Mr. Humphrey Ayim-Darke, Vice President, SMEs (second right).

Dr. Yaw Adu-Gyamfi, the President of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) has hosted the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, His Excellency Tsutomu Himeno at the AGI National Head Office in Accra.

The Ambassador was accompanied by the newly appointed Ghana Ambassador to Japan His Excellency, Mr. Frank Okyere and the First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Ghana, Masamichi Ymashita.

The Japanese Ambassador has been in office for barely three months. He indicated that he paid the courtesy call at AGI in order to get to know the President and to express his desire of establishing a collaborative relationship between the embassy and Ghana's leading industry advocate. He was particular about the creation of a platform to promote private sector activities in Ghana to enable

Ghanaian business entities to develop mutually beneficial relationships with their Japanese counterparts.

Mr. Himeno noted that Japan and Ghana enjoyed good relations for several years which resulted in activities like the cocoa trade involving the export of cocoa beans from Ghana to Japan, economic support from Japan to Ghana in multiple areas including Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers scheme operating across the nation, cultural and people-to-people exchange spanning several decades.

Dr. Adu-Gyamfi whilst responding to the remarks made by Mr. Himeno, used the opportunity to welcome him to AGI and also congratulated Mr. Okyere on his appointment as Ghana's Ambassador designate to Japan. Until his appointment he served the AGI as an executive member of the Tema Branch and also as the Chairman of the Chemical Sector.

The AGI president stated that he expects the Ambassador to Japan to place the promotion of Ghanaian businesses at the core of his ambassadorial functions. He stressed that "As we tout the 'Ghana Beyond Aid initiative' as a means to encourage productivity and wealth creation, it is important to draw experiences from Japan because of her advancement in the fields of technology and industrialization". He also made known the tremendous benefit he as an entrepreneur derived from the Japanese continuous improvement concept called Kaizen. He was also of the opinion that industrialization is the economic drawbridge that will keep Ghana afloat from unemployment and economic hardship, therefore it is imperative that the Association is given the needed support to help the nation realize its dream of industrialization.

Mr. Okyere, the Ghana Ambassador designate also indicated that the current government's orientation is drifted towards industrialization and other business enhancing packages like the Stimulus Fund, One District One Factory concept and establishment of industrial parks among others.

Other AGI executives present at the meeting include Mr. Humphrey Ayim-Darke, Vice President of the Association of Ghana Industries (SMEs), Mr. Seth Twum-Akwaboah, the CEO of AGI and Mr. Stephen Djaba, Treasurer for the Accra Regional branch of AGI.

Jojo Quayson.