

# REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY TO OBSERVE THE PASSING OF ONE YEAR SINCE THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

TUESDAY MARCH 13, 2012

On Tuesday, March 13 2012, the Embassy of Japan in Pretoria hosted a remembrance ceremony to observe the passing of one year since the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent Tsunami of March 11, 2011.

The ceremony attended by approximately 360 guests was commenced with the observing of a moment of silence for the more than 20,000 victims who lost their lives. In his opening address, Ambassador-Designate of Japan to South Africa, Mr. Yutaka Yoshizawa thanked the people of South Africa and the international community for the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and goodwill after the disaster. Special mention was made of the Rescue South Africa team who conducted a search and recovery mission in the affected areas immediately after the earthquake. Mr. Ian Scher, CEO of Rescue South Africa, presented Ambassador-Designate Yoshizawa with a plaque of appreciation commemorating the rescue mission.



Mr. Ian Scher, CEO of Rescue South Africa and Ambassador-Designate Yoshizawa



Guest speaker Deputy Minister of the Department of International Relations and Co- Operation Mr. Ebrahim

Guest speaker Deputy Minister of the Department of International Relations and Co-Operation Mr. Ebrahim Ebrahim said that “South Africa and indeed the world, had learnt a lot from the Japanese people in terms of grace and perseverance in the face of grave destruction and massive loss of lives”. He further commended Japan by pointing out that “In spite of the triple disaster, Japan went ahead to host the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in Dakar, Senegal in May 2011, a clear reflection of Japan’s commitment to the development of the African continent and further strengthening of relations.”

A photo exhibition of the rescue operation by Rescue South Africa, the recovery of the affected areas and of the colorful festivals and tourist attractions of North East Japan were on display and guests were offered Sake and Japanese food made from rice grown in the affected areas.