

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PARKER-ALLOTEY
AMBASSADOR OF GHANA TO JAPAN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
RE-OPENING DR. NOGUCHI MUSEUM AT FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE,
4TH APRIL 2015

Salutation

It is a great honour for me to participate in this auspicious event, aimed at immortalizing an illustrious son of this land. May I, on behalf of the government and people of Ghana, where Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, lived and paid the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of a valuable, selfless and exemplary service to humanity, congratulate members of the team that undertook the onerous duty of renovating this museum.

I remain steadfast in the conviction that this magnificent edifice and its contents will remain a veritable beacon of inspiration for scientists, for generations to come. I also hope that others will also find it worthy of a pilgrimage to Fukushima prefecture.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the purpose of this day, although a festive occasion, also requires us to individually and severally, undertake a deep introspection on the fundamental considerations that informed Dr. Noguchi's sojourn in Ghana, far away from his native Japan, as humanity

continues to be plagued by diseases with increased fatalities. The recent Ebola outbreak clearly shows that Dr. Noguchi's avowed goal remains unmet. That is why the deeds of this noble personality and trailblazer in the scientific fight against diseases must not be rendered in vain. We must recognize that the humanitarian and determined spirit of Dr. Noguchi also dwells in each one of us. Therefore, let us not only search, but find and pursue it particularly for the benefit of the less privileged in our societies.

It is against this backdrop that I pay deserving tribute to the government and people of Japan as well as doctors, members of the Self Defense Force and other medical professionals who responded to the Ebola humanitarian crisis that plagued some countries in West Africa.

Again, the Noguchi Medical Research Center played a yeoman's role in the fight to roll back Ebola which had a horrendous impact on the sub-region.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, please permit me to conclude by asserting that Dr. Noguchi soars above all of us and occupies a place of pride among all the heroes of the human race. He will live eternally in our

hearts, as we continue the crusade to eliminate the menace of diseases which bring about human fatalities. The task may be daunting, but we can surely surmount the challenges.

May I also remind you of six (6) things that will perpetually unite Japan and Ghana. The first may be obvious because the man whom we are honouring today, brought our two peoples together, long before the formal establishment of diplomatic relations some 55 years ago.

The Second is the fact that Ghana's current President, H.E. Mr. John Mahama began his public life by working at the Japanese Embassy in Accra for some time.

Thirdly, every Japanese knows Ghana through the finest Japanese Chocolates which are made from premium Ghanaian Cocoa beans; it's the finest quality in the world.

Fourthly, Japan is known as the land of the rising Sun. The sun rises in the East and sets in the West; and Ghana is on the West coast of Africa. Nature has connected our two peoples and we must engage vigorously.

Fifthly, there are hundreds of Japanese volunteers serving in Ghanaian communities through JICA. Additionally, there are 19 Japanese

companies linking our business communities and promoting trade between us. There are also students' exchanges and interactions between Academia of our two countries which are laying solid foundations for progress in society.

The sixth and final connection, is a Japanese Author called Kaoru Horigome who was born here in Fukushima. She went to University in Iwate and lives on a family farm. She has hosted JICA trainees, including some from Ghana, and is also a member of the Japan Juvenile Writers' Association. She is the author of the book entitled "Chocolate and the Blue Sky". Through that book, she has linked the people of Fukushima forever with Ghana. That is why today, I will eat your food, drink your water, your wine and "sake" to show that there is no danger in this prefecture. Only healthy people live here. The world must not refuse products from this prefecture which is a symbol of recovery and resilience.

I am proud to say from today that I am a resident of Fukushima and request the Mayor to give me a key to this city that will allow me to come and go as I wish.

These indelible linkages between Japan and Ghana will remain the solid bridges that our peoples shall cross, hand in hand, while on the trajectory of progress.

I thank you. Arigatou Gozaimasu!