

# The GLOCEPS

## GLOCEPS HOSTS H.E MATSUURA HIROSHI, THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO KENYA



H.E. Ambassador Matsuura Hiroshi, the Ambassador of Japan to Kenya paid a courtesy visit to the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS) on 6th March, 2025. He was warmly welcomed by the Executive Director, Dr Ken Asembo, the Council of Advisors, Senior Associates and the entire GLOCEPS Staff.

Amb Hiroshi then proceeded to plant the Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heteropylla*) at the GLOCEPS garden flanked by Council Members Brig (Rtd) Wilson Boinnet, Prof Mohamoud Jama, Eng Mahboub Maalim, DG (Rtd) Alexander Muteshi and Dr Carolyne Sambayi; Senior Associates, Prof Noah Midamba and Amb Dr. Josephine Ojiambo and Research Fellow, Amb Solomon Maina, among others.

In his opening remarks, the Executive Director outlined Eastern Africa's evolving geopolitical landscape, pressing security concerns, economic shifts, and regional political landscape. While thanking the Embassy of Japan for coordinating GLOCEPS visit to Japan in November 2024, Dr Asembo emphasised the potential areas of research collaboration between GLOCEPS and Japan's Think Tanks: Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO); Sasakawa Peace



Foundation; National Institute for Defence Studies (NIDS) and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. He emphasised the role of policy research and strategic partnerships in fostering regional stability and economic development.

In his address, Amb Hiroshi shared his insights on bilateralism, multilateralism, and liberalism. He emphasized Kenya's role in championing global trade through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), envisioning a future where seamless movement of goods and people fosters economic prosperity. He urged Kenya to continue pushing for United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reforms, reiterating the need for fair and equitable global governance. While reflecting on the changing world order under the US President Donald Trump administration, Amb Hiroshi urged the global community to keep talking to the United States. He promised to keep thinking with GLOCEPS.



While concluding, the Council Chair, Brig (Rtd) Boinnet thanked the Embassy of Japan for the support rendered to GLOCEPS over the last three years, including the co-hosting of the Symposium on Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) for Peace and Development in Eastern Africa in February 2023. He underscored Japan's FOIP Strategy as a robust framework for deepening partnerships between Japan and the Eastern Africa region based on shared values of freedom, rule of law, and a free-market economy. He reiterated GLOCEPS call for collaboration in the development of an Annual Eastern Africa Strategic Appraisal Report.

The visit by the Amb Hiroshi to GLOCEPS was a testament of the strong diplomatic ties between Japan and Kenyan institutions. It provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on trade, governance, and strategic cooperation while laying the groundwork for future collaborations.

