

**MADAM'S SPEECH DURING THE KENYA TEA CEREMONY AT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MIFA FESTIVAL- 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.**

***Distinguished guests***

***Ladies and gentlemen***

I wish to take this opportunity to gracefully convey warm greetings to you all. We are greatly honoured with your presence at this tea ceremony event. It is our pleasure to share with you our rich heritage.

Kenya is a beautiful country and one of the world's great tourism destinations. Kenya is famed for her remarkable diversity of landscapes, wildlife and cultures. Kenya has 42 cultures, countless languages and dialects and one of the most richly diverse social tapestries on earth. Yet we remain a peaceful nation united by a common Kenyan culture, a strong, proud people who warmly welcome the world to our beautiful country.

Kenya is a great sporting Nation. All over Kenya, sport is a popular part of everyday social life. Our athletes have become world renowned Olympic and Commonwealth champions, with Kenyan runners crossing the line in first, second and third place has become a common occurrence in recent years.

Kenya prides herself as one of the world's leading black Tea producers. Kenyan tea has a distinct aroma, unrivalled flavour, refreshing taste and rich colour. Tea is a natural source of fluoride and drinking four cups makes a significant contribution to your daily intake improving oral health. Tea has antioxidants that boost the immune system.

Tea is a beverage of choice for many people in Kenya. "Chai" is served at breakfast, morning break, after lunch, afternoon tea and after dinner. It is a custom to serve "Chai" to guests as Kenyans are highly hospitable people. Hot milk tea is preferred in Kenya. This can be flavoured with ginger or cardamom. For those who love it spicy "masala" is used. Chai can be served on its own or enjoyed with accompaniments like mandazi, cake or sweet potato.

You can now enjoy Kenyan "chai" here in Japan as several tea shops sell Kenya tea.

Zensho Company now serves Kenya tea at their drink bars and also sells tea bags. Tea houses in Tokyo such as Lupicia and Lipton are selling 100% Kenyan tea. Finally I wish to invite all of you to visit Kenya and sample the warmth and heritage of the Kenyan people.

**THANK YOU**