

Chatham House Africa Programme

“TICAD and Africa: Lessons for Coordination and Impact”

Closing Remarks

by H.E. Koji Tsuruoka, Ambassador of Japan to the UK,

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at Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SQ1Y 5AG

Ladies and Gentlemen, honourable speakers,

(Introduction)

It has given me great pleasure to listen to today's open and honest discussions, from a variety of perspectives, on the topic of TICAD VI. I would like to thank you all, speakers and guests, for your wonderful contribution to today's event.

The purpose of today's symposium was to look at the TICAD process, to address the three main themes of TICAD VI – namely, Economic Diversification and Industrialisation, Promoting Resilient Health Systems for quality of life, and Promoting Social Stability for Shared Prosperity – and to look at the relationship between Japan and Africa from a political, diplomatic and business perspective. I have enjoyed listening to all of your observations on this topic, and would now like to add my own thoughts looking back on the outcomes of TICAD VI.

(The Relationship between Japan and Africa)

As many people in Africa, but perhaps not as many in the UK will know, Japan's first contributory activities in Africa date back as far as 1927. That was when Dr Hideyo Noguchi, born in Fukushima in 1876 – the year that Queen Victoria was given the title of Empress of India – moved to Accra, Ghana and began his work to find a cure for yellow fever, following years of research in the Americas. Dr Noguchi would himself eventually succumb to yellow fever in Accra, but this motif - "For the people of Africa" - remains the guiding principle for Japan's engagement with Africa to this day.

It is Japan's belief that "Africa's growth not only benefits Africa, but the world as a whole", and with this in mind Japanese government and businesses, as well as individual citizens, have all contributed to African development. Our approach has been to cultivate industry, to focus on each individual in Africa, and to promote the concept of "human security". We have promoted self-sufficient growth by supporting the formation of "home-grown industries" in Africa. The technology transfer support provided by more than 15,000 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in 31 African countries since 1966, and the human resource development as a result of the introduction of Japanese KAIZEN initiatives, are good examples of this.

(TICAD Process)

It has now been 23 years since the inaugural TICAD conference. The first TICAD Conference held in 1993 was set up to serve as a pioneering multicultural forum for international cooperation on African development. From the very beginning, the TICAD process has been held under the principles of African 'ownership' and international 'partnership'.

Based on these two principles, TICAD is an open and inclusive forum which has mobilised global support for Africa's development by promoting continuous dialogue, cooperation and voluntary

initiatives not only between Japan and Africa, but among a wide range of actors.

Ownership: the recent TICAD VI was the first time for the conference to be held on the African continent, brought about by an idea proposed by Africa itself, and we were treated to a wonderful display of hospitality from the Kenyan government. This was a real manifestation of Africa's 'ownership' of this process.

Partnership: more than 11,000 people attended TICAD VI, including the Heads of State and Government and delegations of Japan and 54 African countries, together with representatives of 52 other partner countries, and 74 international and regional organisations.

To give an example of such partnership in Africa, Japan and the UK have worked closely together on projects to improve border security in Tunisia and to clear landmines in Angola, and also co-hosted a TICAD VI side event for discussion on peace building and gender issues. This was the first time Japan and the UK have held such an event and is part of a growing series of Japan-UK collaboration with a focus on Africa. Furthermore, a large number of donor countries and international organisations, including the IPPF and Private Infrastructure Development Group, as well as the World Bank, African Union and UN Agencies, also hosted a number of events in collaboration with African countries and Japanese businesses. This is testament to how TICAD has engaged multiple stakeholders and the efforts of a variety of agencies/organisations, each with its own comparative advantages.

I believe that TICAD can continue to play a unique role in the development dialogues on Africa through its innovative, open, multi-stakeholder approach, which provides ample potential for its further evolution and transformation.

(Outcomes of TICAD VI)

Back in 2013 at TICAD V in Yokohama, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a promise that three years later, TICAD would be held in Africa for the first time. And at the end of August this year TICAD set foot on African soil for the first time, declaring a new dawn in Japan-African relations. The promise was fulfilled.

Prime Minister Abe's key message at TICAD VI was of a "**quality, resilient and stable Africa**", and that is precisely what Japan will aim for, working together with Africa. With this objective in mind, Prime Minister Abe announced investment into Africa's future totalling \$30 billion in private- and public-sector funds, including human resource development for 10 million people, and utilising Japan's excellent science, technology and innovation. This is the very first step for Japan to translate the outcomes of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit – quality infrastructure, health, and women – into actions.

First of all, a **“quality Africa”**, that aims for economic diversification and industrialisation, and will be built through the three elements of infrastructure, human resources and “kaizen”. To build quality infrastructure, Japan will appropriate approximately 10 billion US dollars to Africa over the next three years, including through cooperation with the African Development Bank. This infrastructure investment will consist of region-wide development including the three priority areas of the Mombasa/Northern Corridor, the Nacala Corridor and the Growth Area in West Africa, as well as resources and energy development, such as geothermal and high-efficiency power generation, and urban development. Regarding human resource development, under the African Business Education Initiative for Youth, the ABE initiative, committed to at TICAD V, the number of future executives from Africa that have studied in Japan will soon reach 1,000, and under the new ABE initiative 2.0, by 2018 we will nurture a total of 30,000 people, through research, practical learning and business experience, to become the workforce at the core of Africa’s economic development. This includes the Japanese higher education system known as “KOUSSEN” which specialises in fostering engineers. In addition to this, Japan will also promote training for human resources in intellectual property, in the IT industry, and for automobile mechanics, and will provide training for 20,000 mathematics and science teachers.

Secondly, a **‘resilient Africa’**, that is an Africa that does not capitulate to diseases, and that promotes a resilient health system. Having experienced the public health emergency posed by the outbreak of Ebola, the importance of preparedness and the need for efforts from the entire international community became ever clearer. Promoting ‘Universal Health Coverage’, UHC, is essential. For this reason, we have carried out major support activities prioritised in Kenya, Senegal and Ghana, aiming at increasing the number of people benefitting from basic health services by 2 million over the next three years. Also, in order to strengthen the capacity for response, as well as prevention and preparedness against public health emergencies, Japan will provide training to around 20,000 experts working on measures to combat infectious diseases. We are also working to improve nutrition as the very foundation of health, by launching an Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa, IFNA, and through public-private collaboration by establishing the Nutrition Japan Public-Private Platform (NJPPP).

Thirdly, a **“stable Africa”**, that is an Africa which strives to promote growing social stability for shared prosperity, and that does all it can to bring about peace and build the foundations for security. To this end, Japan will lay the foundations for peace and stability by strengthening capacity for sharing and analysing information and border control, as well as providing education and vocational training. Japan will also promote improved food security in Africa, as well as contributing to helping African countries overcome their vulnerabilities to climate change and natural disasters. Towards a peaceful and stable Africa, Japan will, for example, provide human resource development for 9.6million people, including vocational training to 50,000 people.

As part of these commitments, the contribution of Japan businesses is also invaluable. Joining Prime Minister Abe at TICAD VI were 70 leading Japanese companies and the Chairman of the Keidanren. The strengths of Japanese companies include their high degree of product quality and their ability to develop highly-skilled human resources through vocational training. They are committed to quality, and have a philosophy that looks after each individual. The advanced technical capacities of Japanese companies can contribute to solving African development issues. In order to deliver ‘quality’ to Africa, we have established **the “Japan and Africa Public and Private Economic Forum”**, where members of the Japanese Cabinet, and top executives from Japan’s major business associations and corporations, will visit Africa once every three years to highlight issues from a business perspective and bring together the power of public and private sectors to find solutions to these issues. During TICAD there were also 73 MOUs concluded between a total of 22 Japanese companies and universities with African nations and organisations.

The UK is home to a large number of companies with a wealth of African business experience. I believe that by combining this experience with the techniques of Japanese companies, we can work together to further promote business development in Africa.

(Closing)

In the 23 years since TICAD began, Japan’s ODA to Africa has reached 47 billion US dollars. With the contribution of Japan’s private sector, we are now aiming for the leap towards an even greater relationship between Africa and Japan, and we hope that Japan can act as the main artery for growth and prosperity between Asia and Africa. **Japan is a country that keeps its promises.** We are determined to steadily implement the commitments that we made three years ago in Yokohama, and at TICAD this year. To achieve this, cooperation from our partner countries, including the UK, and from international organisations is vital. I would like to continue our cooperation with everyone towards a ‘quality, resilient and stable’ Africa as we look ahead to TICAD VII in Japan in 2019.

I would like to finish by expressing my sincere gratitude to Chatham House for organising this timely event, just one month after TICAD VI, and to everyone here for attending.

Thank you.

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