

Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017

II. Accelerating Infrastructure and Capacity Development

1. Overview of Pillar II.

The TICAD process aims to support acceleration of infrastructure and capacity development on the continent. Outcome targets under this pillar are a) increase amount of investment to infrastructure development; b) promote scientific research and technology transfer; and c) increase the number of university graduates and trainees in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). At present, Africa's infrastructure is by far the most deficient and costly in the developing world, and closing the continent's infrastructure gap is essential for its continued growth and development. Nearly 600 million people on the continent lack access to modern sources of electricity. Although the importance of science and technology is increasing recognized by governments and education institutions, the proportion of higher education students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines on the continent averages only about 25 percent. Women are especially under-represented. In addition, research-based linkages with the business sector are sparse in almost every country.

2. State of Implementation by Africa and partners

(1) Africa's efforts

- (a) African countries and institutions are implementing regional and continental initiatives to accelerate infrastructure and capacity development, including the PIDA (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa) priority action plan and the IAIDA (Institutional Architecture for Industrial Development in Africa) governance structures.
- (b) African countries and institutions are supporting the development of physical infrastructure, the involvement of the private sector and expanded use of PPPs by addressing missing links in ICT, transport and energy infrastructure; promoting and adopting common transport policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks, including for maritime transport; adopting and implementing policies and strategic frameworks to expand modern energy access and services; and accelerating development and use of renewable energy and clean power sources.

(2) Activities/Initiatives by partners

- (a) Development of physical infrastructure, the involvement of the private sector and expanded use of PPPs are priorities for a number of partners, who are financing power generation and transmission, ICT connectivity, and ports and transport corridors. Investments in physical infrastructure are complemented by formulation of strategic masterplans and support for technology and skills transfer; knowledge sharing; harmonization of policies and processes; and capacity development to design and manage PPPs.
- (b) Partners are also supporting sustainable urban development through assistance to cities; long- term asset management; urban governance; provision of services to underserved communities; and support to South-South knowledge exchange.
- (c) Several partners are also providing assistance to higher education, with a focus on science and engineering, to promote innovation and competitiveness. Direct support is provided to universities, higher education institutions, and regional centers of excellence.

- (d) Enhanced investments in TVET to promote skills for market-based employment; involvement of the private sector in provision of technical skills training; and increased training for SMEs are among initiatives supported by partners to expand the skills base for employment.
- (e) Public sector capacity development is promoted through training programs in specialized fields for government officials; provision and financing of internships and scholarships; and South-South and triangular cooperation and information exchange.
- (f) Partners are also helping to strengthen institutions and systems to promote science and technology on the continent.
- (g) Assistance to strengthen teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is provided through scholarships; support to specialized institutions; curriculum development; and facilitation of cooperation among higher education institutions.
- (h) Several partners are supporting youth employment and entrepreneurship through capacity development programs focused on youth; dissemination of information; technical and lifeskills training; assistance to policy development; and support for volunteer programs.

3. Key Findings, Gaps and Follow-up Actions

- (1) Partner initiatives support Africa's efforts.
- (2) All of the areas of focus listed under the pillar of accelerating infrastructure and capacity development are supported by partners, and initiatives in several areas of focus are mutually reinforcing.
- (3) There are opportunities for expanded partnerships to maximize results, and for additional support to South-South cooperation.
- (4) The TICAD follow-up mechanism will be utilized in most instances to report on implementation.