

**Keynote Address by Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan  
at the Third Japan-African Regional Economic Communities (RECs)  
Summit Roundtable**

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United Nations Headquarters, New York City  
[Provisional Translation]

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to thank all of you for coming together today at this Roundtable, which is the kick-off meeting leading up to next year's TICAD VI summit. It is a true pleasure for me to have had the opportunity to meet with African leaders in this way in New York for three consecutive years.

At last year's Roundtable, I said that Japan intends to hold the next TICAD summit in Africa, and that we hope TICAD will henceforth be held on a rotating basis in Japan and Africa. Just as I promised, the upcoming TICAD VI summit will indeed be held on the African continent next year, for the very first time. I wish to thank President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya for taking the task of being the host of the summit meeting.

I wish to make today's Roundtable an opportunity to listen to your frank views about, among other topics, how we should be engaged going forward to make the next TICAD summit a success, how we should utilize TICAD in order to realize RECs' agendas and regional-level agendas, and the role you expect Japan to play.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The outbreak of Ebola; the expansion of the violent extremism of Boko Haram and Al Shabab and the frequent occurrence of terrorism; the downturn in the international prices of resources. In the two years since TICAD V was convened in 2013, situations have arisen in Africa that threaten its economic foundations or threaten the peace and stability that are preconditions for development.

However, the people of Africa have the strong will to overcome these difficulties. Japan, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted yesterday, will work together with Africa and assist in realizing to overcome such difficulties.

At next year's TICAD VI, we will present the contributions we make in response to the situations that have become particularly apparent since TICAD V, including health systems strengthening and responses to extremism. We are already providing comprehensive health sector support to Kenya, including an ODA loan of 4 billion yen towards achieving universal health coverage (UHC).

Japan is making efforts to become a non-permanent member of the Security Council from 2016. The majority of discussions at the Security Council are related to Africa's peace and stability. Japan is determined to contribute actively to those discussions, and I would like to seek for the support of African countries for Japan. I would also like to closely cooperate with the countries of Africa regarding United Nations reform, including the reform of the Security Council.

At the UN, Japan is also working for the adoption of a resolution to establish World Tsunami Day. I ask for your support on this.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The next TICAD summit will be the first one held in Africa.

Within Japan, we are moving forward steadily in our preparations for TICAD VI under an "all Japan" approach. We have convened public-private roundtables and are strengthening public-private partnerships to promote the engagement of Japanese companies in Africa. In addition, the government has been working in concert, holding a number of discussions regarding efforts towards regional infrastructure development that will contribute to Africa's regional integration.

Taking the opportunity of the upcoming TICAD meeting that will be the first on African soil, I very much wish to introduce to the African people the quintessential essence of Japan and efforts that are truly unique to Japan.

What Japan excels at more than anything is superior technologies.

I understand that in each of the RECs, notably SADC, ECOWAS, and EAC, the development of intraregional infrastructure is among the foremost agenda items. Japan has cooperated in developing regional infrastructure, including by steadily implementing the EPSA (Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa) initiative being undertaken together with the African Development Bank through an ODA loan of 2 billion US dollars.

Going forward, in Mombasa and the Northern Corridor, the Nacala Corridor, the Western African region, and other locations, making use of Japan's sophisticated technologies in agriculture, urban development, energy development, harbor improvements, and other fields, we will undertake quality infrastructure investments to contribute further on an "all-Japan" basis to Africa's region wide development, which will also benefit inland areas.

This year, through cooperation from Japan, construction was completed on the Rusumo International Bridge that spans the border between Rwanda and Tanzania, and Rwandan coffee is now being exported to Japan in greater quantities than ever before, transported along the Central Corridor. This is a good example of the efforts of region wide cooperation leading to the development of agriculture while also promoting trade.

Moreover, as part of the recent Ebola outbreak response, high-performance thermal imaging cameras made by a Japanese company contributed to mitigating the spread of the outbreak. These cameras have already been installed in Liberia and six other countries, and more are scheduled to be installed in airports and elsewhere in a number of other countries. I very much wish to introduce to a wide range of African people that these Japanese high technologies and products are contributing to stability and development of Africa.

Japan's diplomacy towards Africa valuing each and every individual places importance on human resources development.

In order to bring about economic and social development, fostering the human resources that will form the foundation for nation building is the most critical task. Approximately 500 young people are already learning in Japan and undergoing training in Japanese companies under the "ABE Initiative" I set forth at TICAD V. Our wish is for them to take back to Africa all that they learned in Japan and contribute to the development of their home countries.

Moreover, in Ethiopia, thus far approximately 44,000 technicians and engineers have already received training in "kaizen," and this has resulted in a halving of the rate of defective goods at related factories.

As we work towards TICAD VI, I intend to enhance further the ABE Initiative, which provides young people with the opportunity to acquire technical skills. We are now examining the measures that will make this possible.

Japan respects African ownership.

The transformation of social and industrial structures for which Africa Agenda 2063 aims includes not only fostering industries not dependent on resources but also the improvement of agricultural productivity, inclusive education, and the advancement of women in society, among other goals. Japan has already launched efforts towards attaining these targets through partnerships between the public and private sectors.

Japan will engage in all possible cooperation so that "Made in Africa" becomes an international brand.

TICAD VI will be a summit that turns a new page within the TICAD process that

spans over 20 years. Through cooperation with the countries of Africa and the TICAD Co-organizers, Japan is determined to make the upcoming TICAD summit a success for the good of Africa and Japan and also the international community as a whole.

Thank you very much.