It is my pleasure that TICAD VI will be held for the first time in the African continent. Japan attaches importance to values as democracy, human rights, women’s rights, tolerance of religion and civilization for the sake of African development and better life for African people. From this perspective, Japan has been extending assistance in the areas of health, water and sanitation, infrastructure, vocational training, agriculture/fishery, and most of all, peace, security and education which are the basis of economic and social development.

From TICAD V in 2013 To TICAD VI in 2016
On the occasion of TICAD V in 2013, Yokohama Declaration 2013 and Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017 were adopted. Since then, Japan’s assistance to Africa has extended into various areas: reinforcement of economic growth, development of infrastructures and human resources, empowerment of farmers as mainstream economic actors, sustainable and resilient growth, inclusive society which benefits all its citizens from its growth, consolidation of peace, stability and good governance.

This year, TICAD VI will be held on 27 and 28 August, in Nairobi, Kenya, for the first time in the African Continent to meet growing awareness of the meaning of “Ownership” among African countries. This is a good opportunity to reinforce the development of human resources and the investment of high quality infrastructures responding to the requests from many African leaders in partnership with the private sector, and also to support African initiatives such as the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the Agenda 2030 for the sustainable development and the Paris Agreement for the climate change. Furthermore, security issues will be addressed during the Conference taking into account the growing concern for threat of terrorism and extremism in order to propose solutions to ensure peace and security which are the basis of the sustainable development.

*What is TICAD?

TICAD is an acronym of Tokyo International Conference on African Development. This is a political dialogue, initiated by the Japanese Government in 1993, among African leaders and the development partners for dealing with problems which Africa faces such as economic development, poverty and conflict. Japan is the lead organizer and co-hosts the event with the United Nations, the World Bank, and the African Union Commission. The event took place in Japan once every five years up to TICAD V and will be held once every three years between Africa and Japan alternately from 2016 onward.
Principes of TICAD

Pioneer of the African Development Forum
Developed countries’ interest in assistance for Africa weakened after the end of the Cold War. Under such circumstance, Japan continued stressing the importance of Africa, and TICAD was the proof of Japan taking action. While various fora concerning Africa currently take place in many countries, TICAD launched by Japan holds a pioneering presence. Since TICAD I in 1993, Japan has contributed to the Africa’s economic and social development, in the areas of education and health in particular.

Inclusive and Open Forum
TICAD is a multilateral forum which brings together not only African countries but also international organizations, donor countries, private sectors and civil society. TICAD provides fruitful discussions that truly benefit the development of the Continent, beyond interests of donor countries, offers an open innovative discussion among various stakeholders involved in the development of Africa.

Ownership and Partnership
Japan has addressed the importance of Africa’s ownership and international partnership on African development. This development philosophy, shared among international community, inspired African countries and became the philosophical foundation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the first comprehensive development plan created by African themselves.

Effective implementation of commitment
In the TICAD process, follow-up mechanism works at the Ministerial Meeting to verify the implementation of the commitments made at the Summit Meeting. African countries have highly acclaimed the steady assistance extended by Japan, a country that keeps its promises.

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