

TICAD VI Official Side Event
「Japan-France Partnership for Africa」
Opening Remarks by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for
Foreign Affairs Shunsuke Takei

August 26, 2016

Your Excellency, Mr. Abdallah Albert Toikeusse Mabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,
Your Excellency, Mr. André Vallini, Minister of State for Development and Francophonie of the French Republic,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to warmly welcome you to the TICAD VI Official Side Event “Japan-France Partnership for Africa” co-hosted by Japan and France.

This is the first TICAD taking place in Africa in TICAD’s 23-year history, and this event is the first official side event co-hosted by Japan and France in TICAD’s history. I would like to deeply thank everyone from France who made extensive contributions to the realization of this event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Japan and France are extremely important partners sharing such values as freedom, democracy, human rights, and respect for the rule of law. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and Mr. Francois Hollande, President of the French Republic, have announced an “exceptional partnership” for promoting security, growth, innovation, and culture in 2013.

Japan and France are global leaders through innovation in the fields of energy, automobiles, medical treatment, and sustainable development, and have built a close and ambitious partnership.

The partnership between Japan and France we should celebrate today as most important is the partnership for Africa. Last year, the leaders of Japan and France announced the “Japan-France Plan for Sustainable Development, Health and Security in Africa” and promised to cooperate in promoting further development of Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Japan and France selected Abidjan of Côte d'Ivoire as a pilot city for sustainable development, which is one of the three pillars of Japan-France cooperation in Africa. Both Japan and France are jointly pursuing sustainable urban development.

In Abidjan, Toyota Tsusho Corporation and CFAO are cooperating in the launch of a next-generation shopping center and the field of Internet shopping. This cooperation is also showing signs of spreading from Abidjan to other African cities. Additionally, I heard that there will be announcements of new cooperation by private-sector parties from Japan and France in Abidjan, including the signing of Memorandums of Understanding by Mitsubishi Corporation.

In the area of health which is the second pillar of cooperation, the G7 Ise-Shima Summit held in Japan and attended by the leaders of Japan and France in May 2016 extensively discussed health, including health issues facing Africa, and for the first time, the G7 highlighted Universal Health Coverage (UHC) which is strongly promoted by Japan and France. Japan announced

contributions totaling about 1.1 billion dollars to the health area prior to the Summit and led the discussion of global health, including Africa, at the G7 Summit.

Fujifilm Group and the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) are conducting a joint research on treatments for Ebola virus disease. Japan expects further advances in this type of meaningful cooperation between Japan and France in the health area.

Regarding security, Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, chaired an open debate at the UN Security Council on “Peacebuilding in Africa” last month. Minister Vallini attended the open debate from France.

At this time TICAD VI, Japan will announce measures tomorrow to realize peace and stability in Africa from Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Corporate leaders from about 200 Japanese companies, the largest ever in the Japan-Africa relationship, and about 20 French companies came to Nairobi for the TICAD VI. Japanese and French governments are working with governmental development agencies as JICA and AFD to support collaboration by the private sectors from both countries in areas of African sustainable development, health, and enhanced security.

Finally, I hope that Japan and France are to make even more contributions to further development of Africa.

Thank you.