

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan,  
at the Second Plenary Session (Dialogue with the Private Sector) of the  
Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development  
(TICAD VI)**

Sunday, August 28, 2016, 09:00 - 11:00

Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi, Kenya

[Provisional translation]

Your Excellencies, distinguished country representatives, leaders of international organizations, representatives of civil society, Distinguished Japanese and African participants from the corporate world, Ladies and gentlemen,

At this TICAD, the first to be held on African soil, some 70 leaders of corporate Japan have come to Africa, including notably Mr. Sadayuki Sakakibara, the Chairman of Keidanren, as representatives of Japan's business community.

Never before have the Chairman of Keidanren and such a large outpouring of the heads and top executives of Japan's representative companies visited Africa. This demonstrates the eagerness among the top executives of Japanese companies to grow together with Africa.

TICAD V provided an opportunity for participants from the Japanese corporate world and participants from African governments to have free exchanges of views. Here at TICAD VI we have made this a part of the official program.

This is because it is now axiomatic that in order for Africa to continue its quality growth, the power of the private sector will be absolutely critical. And, if that is the case, then we considered it only natural that representatives of the public and private sectors

of Japan and Africa come together at TICAD to discuss African development.

The strengths of Japanese companies include their high degree of product quality and their ability to develop highly-skilled human resources through vocational training. Japanese companies are able to cultivate Africa's young people one by one as individuals. I firmly believe that the advanced technical capacities of Japanese companies will contribute to the resolution of African development issues.

At present, business opportunities for Japanese companies in African countries are expanding. A total of 22 Japanese companies and universities have taken advantage of my visit to Africa to conclude 73 MOUs with African nations and organizations.

In addition, Japanese companies have taken the opportunity of this TICAD Summit to express as a "Business Declaration" their determination to continue to commit to African development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In order to develop Africa's investment climate, Japan will promote high-quality investment agreements in Africa more actively than ever before.

In addition to the investment agreement just signed with Kenya, we newly reached agreement with Côte d'Ivoire to launch negotiations on bilateral investment agreements. And from now, Japan will work intensively towards concluding investment-related agreements with African nations.

Moreover, recognizing the importance of concluding tax treaties with individual nations from the perspective of further promoting bilateral investment and economic exchanges with African countries, we will promote the conclusion of tax treaties with African nations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In order for Africa to demonstrate its high potential and maintain economic growth going forward, we are looking forward to Africa meeting the expectations of private sector corporations, with Africa asserting itself as an attractive investment destination and working towards that end.

What Japanese companies desire on the part of Africa is very clear. They seek the establishment of safe business environments and the realization of free and stable corporate activities. I would like to ask all of you gathered here today to ensure peace and stability, which are the top priority for Japanese companies carrying out their activities, and to develop safe business environments.

In addition, I would like you to bring about the smooth inward and outward flow of people and goods while also abolishing excessive regulations and moving forward in developing the necessary legal framework and ensuring its steady use. Japan will not spare any effort in providing the necessary cooperation to make this a reality.

In order to advance all such efforts towards these ends through the public and private sectors of both Japan and Africa working together, we will launch the “Japan-Africa Public and Private Economic Forum” as one of the most important outcomes of this TICAD meeting.

Japanese ministerial representatives and top executives from major business associations and corporations will visit Africa once every three years to meet with their counterparts.

Identifying what needs to be done to enable Japanese and African companies to do more business together going forward, they will pinpoint issues from the vantage point of businesses and solve issues by bringing together the power of the public and private sectors.

Rather than holding discussions with individual African nations as we have done in the past, we will engage in discussions on plans, policies and measures that will contribute to broader regional economic development, leading to increasingly vibrant business activities and investments by Japanese companies.

In closing, here at TICAD VI, participants from the corporate world will be attending all the sessions, notably Chairman Sakakibara of Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), who is representing Japan's private sector. I very much look forward to meaningful exchanges of views taking place among the private sector participants to promote the greater engagement of Japanese companies in Africa.

Thank you very much.