

**Address by H.E. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan,
at the TICAD VI Side Event,
Japan-Africa Business Forum**

Sunday, August 28, 2016

Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi, Kenya

[Provisional Translation]

Distinguished representatives of countries and international organizations, leaders of civil society, representatives of Japanese and African companies,

It is with great pleasure that the Japan-Africa Business Forum is being held today in such a grand scale with participation from the heads of leading Japanese and African companies and organizations, thanks to the sponsorship of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), which serves as an intermediary between Japanese companies and African companies.

On the occasion of this first Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) ever to be held in Africa, I was able to visit Kenya with members of Japan's business community, as I promised President Kenyatta last year. Seeing the confidence of the African people has given me a genuine sense of this continent's steady economic development and further potential. The Government of Japan will cooperate through public- and private-sector efforts to achieve further economic development through African ownership.

The role that private-sector companies play in ensuring that Japan and Africa achieve economic growth together is extremely significant. I am delighted that a total of 22 companies and universities have signed 73 memorandums of understanding here today in a broad range of fields encompassing infrastructure, human resources development, energy and resources, security, finance, healthcare, food and academic exchange.

We have decided to establish the "Japan-Africa Public and Private Economic Forum" in order to further promote cooperation between Japanese and African countries, leading to investment in Africa by Japanese companies.

It is my hope that Japanese and African companies will forge relationships as true business partners in the future by utilizing this new framework.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my hope that partnerships between Japanese and African private-sector companies deepen further through today's forum, and by wishing you all good health.