

Section 7

Africa

Overview

Africa, with a population over 1.2 billion in 54 countries with diversity, attracts the interest of the international community, owing to its high market potential and rich natural resources. This is one of the reasons why the influence of African countries on consensus-building is expanding in the international community.

On the other hand, long-standing challenges such as political unrest, severe disparities and poverty remain unsolved in Sub-Saharan Africa, while recently other challenges have emerged, such as the vulnerability of the health systems and the rise of violent extremism. Furthermore, their economic growth has slowed down compared to the previous years, due to the deceleration of emerging economies and the decline of global commodity prices.

As the impact of these issues transcends national borders, it is crucial for African countries to overcome these challenges and achieve stable growth for the peace and stability of not only Africa, but also the international community as a whole, including Japan.

TICAD is an international forum for

African development, co-organized by the UN, the UNDP, the World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC) under the leadership of Japan. TICAD was launched in 1993, under the basic philosophy of “ownership (self-help efforts)” of Africa and “partnership” with the international community including Japan. While TICAD Summit Meetings were held in Japan once every five years in the past, responding to the recent request from the African side, TICAD Summit Meetings are now set to be held once every three years since the sixth summit, alternately in Africa and Japan.

At the sixth TICAD (TICAD VI), which was held in August 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya, Prime Minister Abe announced that for a



Foreign Minister Kono making a speech at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting (August 25, Maputo, Mozambique)

► Outline of TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development)

[Basic Principle]

Ownership and Partnership

[Theme]

Supporting Africa through broad support from the international community and expansion of development partnership

[Approach]

South-South Cooperation, human security and respect for distinctiveness, diversity and identity

—History of TICAD Process—

1993: The First Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I, Tokyo)

1998: The Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II, Tokyo)

2001: TICAD Ministerial Meeting (Tokyo)

2003: The Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III, Tokyo)

2004: TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference (AATIC) (Tokyo)

2006: TICAD Conference on Consolidation of Peace (Ethiopia)

2007: TICAD Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development (Kenya)

2008: The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV, Yokohama)

2009-2012: TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting was held every year (Botswana, Tanzania, Senegal and Morocco)

2013: TICAD V Ministerial Preparatory Meeting (Ethiopia)

2013: The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V, Yokohama)

2014: The first TICAD V Ministerial Conference (Cameroon)

2016: TICAD VI Preparatory Ministerial Meeting (The Gambia)

2016: The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI, Kenya)

2017: TICAD Ministerial Meeting (Mozambique)

TICAD
NAIROBI 2016



period of three years from 2016 to 2018, Japan will invest in the Future of Africa, through implementing measures including human resource development to 10 million people by making use of quality, Japan's strength, which amounts to approximately 30 billion US dollars under public-private partnership. At the closing session, the Nairobi Declaration was adopted as the TICAD VI outcome document outlining the achievements of TICAD VI based on the discussions in each session, and the "Nairobi Implementation Action Plan" was announced.

In August 2017, a TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Foreign Minister Kono and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii attended the meeting. In the meeting, participants reviewed the progress of the commitments announced at TICAD V and VI. Following the meeting, "TICAD Progress Report 2017" and "Japan's Initiatives 2017" were released and, Co-chairs' Summary was produced,



Summit meeting with leaders of African countries serving as members of the UN Security Council and others (September 18, New York, U.S.; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

compiling the main points of the discussions. The support that Japan provided was highly appreciated from many African countries.

Based on the policies and measures hammered out at TICAD, Japan is working to strengthen relations with African countries in various fields. In the field of peace and stability, while Self Defense Force Engineering Unit personnel in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have returned to Japan, the deployment of personnel to the UNMISS headquarters is still ongoing. Japan has

continued to contribute to the enhancement of the capabilities, etc., of those Africans participating in peacekeeping operations (PKO) through the provision of support for PKO training centers in African countries and training courses organized by the UN. In September, in the margin of the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with African leaders including those of UN Security Council member countries, and Foreign Minister Kono hosted a dinner meeting for African foreign ministers at which he introduced Japan's contributions to the resolution of issues relating to peace and stability in Africa and also discussed issues such as North Korea and reform of the UN Security Council.

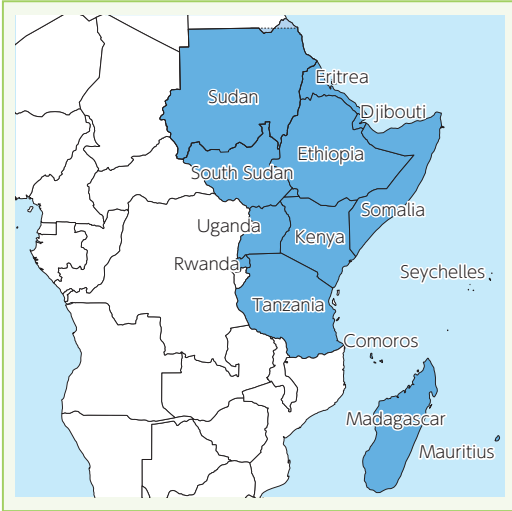
On the economic front, in May, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei led the Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment to Africa and visited Nigeria and Morocco, where trade and investment promotion seminars, social functions with local business figures, and other events, were held. This was one of the initiatives introduced at TICAD VI in response to the high expectations of Japanese companies to expand their activities into Africa. At the "Japan-Africa Private Sector Dialogue" event, which was held as a side-event at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in August, the importance of the roles played by Japanese and African private sector companies' role in African development and economic growth was underscored. At a meeting of the Ministerial Meeting on Economic Strategy for Africa, which was established under the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, it was affirmed that the Government of Japan would gather its expertise to pursue initiatives developed

based on the outcomes of TICAD VI. These initiatives include the promotion of concrete policies and measures such as comprehensive region wide development in the three priority areas of the West Africa Growth Ring, the East African Northern Corridor, and the Nacala Corridor. In addition to the bilateral investment treaties that are already in effect with Kenya and Mozambique, consultations are underway for bilateral investment agreements with Angola, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Zambia, Senegal, Tanzania, Nigeria, Madagascar, and other countries.

Japan continued to strengthen cooperation with the African Union (AU) or other entities. Japan is planning to further strengthen relations with the AU and African countries particularly through the establishment of Mission of Japan to the African Union in the beginning of 2018.

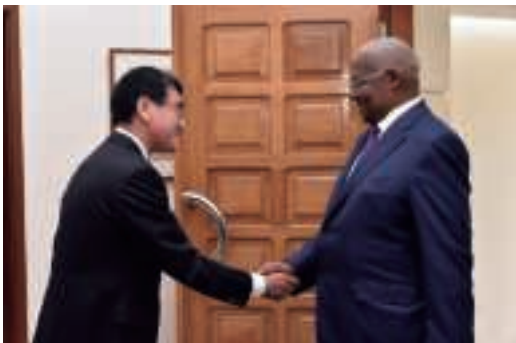
In addition, Japan is also working, through discussions on Africa-related policies, to share information and cooperate on policies with other countries such as the U.S., the UK, France, and India.

1 East Africa Region



(1) Uganda

Under President Museveni's long-serving administration since 1986, Uganda has enjoyed sustained economic growth thanks partly to stable domestic politics, and has contributed to regional stability as an important and influential actor in East Africa. There are more than one million South Sudanese refugees sheltering in the northern part of the country and the burden of this on the Government of Uganda is increasing. In June, the Refugee Solidarity Summit was held in Uganda, cohosted by UN Secretary General Guterres and President Museveni, and



Japan-Uganda Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 25, Maputo, Mozambique)

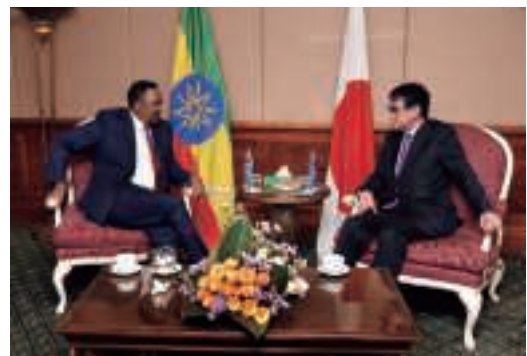
Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kishi participated in this meeting.

During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in Mozambique in August, Foreign Minister Kono had a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Kutesa and affirmed the friendly relations between the two countries.

(2) Ethiopia

With more than 100 million citizens, Ethiopia has the largest population in the East Africa region. Ethiopia plays an important political role in the region and is home to the headquarters of the African Union (AU), and also holds the presidency of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an organization consisting of eight East African countries. Ethiopia is currently serving as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year period beginning in January 2017. On the economic front, Ethiopia has been enjoying sustained robust economic growth, and is aiming to become a middle-income country.

Foreign Minister Kono visited Ethiopia in August and held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Workneh. The two ministers held a telephone conference after North Korea conducted a nuclear test



Japan-Ethiopia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 27, Ethiopia)

in September. Also, in November, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Ethiopia. Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister Demeke visited Japan in June and made a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe and affirmed the strengthening of friendly bilateral ties.

(3) Kenya

Kenya, which is the gateway to East Africa, is an economic leader in the region and is a key country in the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.” In 2017 President Kenyatta was reelected.

In May, Cabinet Secretary of Foreign Affairs Amina paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe and held talks with Foreign Minister Kishida during her visit to Japan. Dr. Amina also held talks with Foreign Minister Kono during the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in August. The entry into force of the Japan-Kenya investment agreement is a leading example which shows the close relations between the two countries.



Japan-Kenya Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 25, Maputo, Mozambique)

(4) Djibouti

Djibouti, situated at one of the great trade arteries that passes through the Indian Ocean and connects Europe and Asia, is aiming to become a distribution hub of East Africa. It is a base for international security



Japan-Djibouti Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 25, Maputo, Mozambique)

and is a key country in the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.”

Since 2011, Djibouti has been hosting the installations of the Japan Self-Defense Forces to carry out antipiracy activities, and the two countries have been developing very good relations. During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in August, Foreign Minister Kono held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Youssouf and affirmed the intention of further strengthening their bilateral ties.

(5) Somalia

International community including Japan is supporting Somalia's nation building efforts to recover from the civil war. A new president was elected in February, and the London Somalia Conference was held in May. Although Al Shahab (AS) remains active and humanitarian crises resulting from the impact of droughts still remain to be solved, the efforts are being made to stabilize the security and to achieve economic growth.

In February, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kishi held talks with Deputy Prime Minister Arte. In May, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei held

talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Yusuf-Garaad. In September, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura also held talks with Minister Yusuf-Garaad.

(6) Sudan

Sudan plays an important role in the stability of the East Africa region, including that of South Sudan. Given the improving security situation in Sudan's Darfur region, the UNAMID, the joint peacekeeping operation by the UN and the African Union, is currently in the process to scale down its forces. In October, the U.S. lifted its economic sanctions against Sudan, and relations with countries in Europe and Northern America are improving.

During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in August, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii held talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Atta El Manan, affirming the intention to strengthen bilateral relations.

(7) Tanzania

Tanzania enjoys stable politics and economic growth. It has the second largest population in the East Africa Region (over 57 million). Over the last ten years it has maintained a high growth rate, and private companies in the country have been garnering attention as vibrant trading partners and investment destinations. The country's domestic affairs has remained stable since its independence and has contributed to peace and stability in the African Great Lakes Region by, for example, hosting a large number of refugees from neighboring countries over a long period of time.

Negotiations toward a Japan-Tanzania

investment treaty are currently underway, and the fourth meeting on the issue was held in September.

(8) Madagascar

Madagascar is an island in the Indian Ocean near southeastern Africa. It is rich resources and is one of the key countries in the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy."

With regard to relations with Japan, the Japan-Madagascar Public-Private Infrastructure Meeting was held in July. In December, President Rajaonarimampianina visited Japan and held a summit meeting in Japan. Minister of Foreign Affairs Rabary-Njaka, who accompanied the President, also held talks with Foreign Minister Kono, affirming the intention to strengthen bilateral ties.

Madagascar is home to one of the world's largest integrated production for nickel and cobalt, and a Japanese company contributes to this project. The Government of Japan is providing yen loans to support the extension project of the Toamasina Port, which is set to become the country's largest resource shipping port.



President Rajaonarimampianina reviewing the salute and attending the guard of honor ceremony during his visit to Japan (December 5, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(9) South Sudan

South Sudan gained independence from the Republic of the Sudan in July 2011. Although armed clashes and violent incidents are continuing in some areas away from the capital Juba, moves to resolve issues through political dialogue have become increasingly active since May. National Dialogue is making progress around the country, and in December, a meeting aimed at revitalizing 2015's Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) was hosted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an organization consisting of eight East African countries.

Having withdrawn its Self Defense Force engineering unit from the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) at the end of May (the dispatch of personnel to the mission's headquarters is still ongoing), Japan is continuing to provide for and support IGAD activities and national dialogue, human resources development, humanitarian aid, etc. During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in August, Foreign Minister Kono held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Alor. In December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited the capital, Juba and made a courtesy call to President Kiir and others.



Japan-South Sudan Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 25, Maputo, Mozambique)

(10) Mauritius

Mauritius is the host country of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) secretariats, and is one of the key countries in the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy." Mauritius is promoting diversification of its industries, with focus on the fields of IT and finance. It has maintained the highest rating amongst African countries in the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" rankings.

Following the opening of the Embassy of Japan in Mauritius in January, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura visited Mauritius in June, followed by State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Suematsu in July. On these occasions, the intention to further strengthen bilateral ties including in the areas of economics and infrastructure was confirmed.

(11) Rwanda

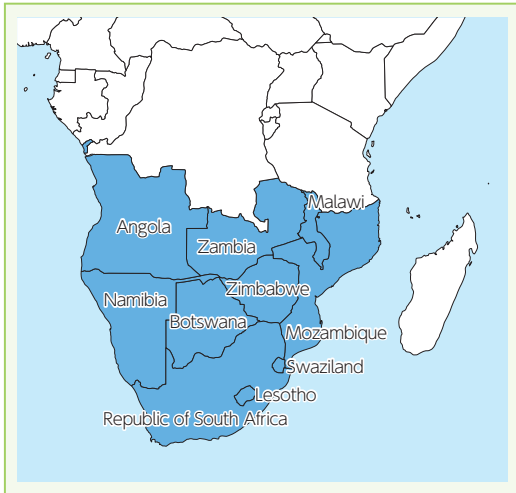
Under the leadership of President Kagame, who took office in 2000, Rwanda has been working toward economic development and national reconciliation with the aim of recovering from the genocide which occurred in 1994. President Kagame, who was reelected in the presidential elections in August, is taking measures aimed at shifting from an agriculture-centered economy. The country is experiencing rapid growth especially in the ICT field.

During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in August, Foreign Minister Kono held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and the East Africa Commission Mushikiwabo.



Japan-Rwanda Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 25, Maputo, Mozambique)

2 Southern Africa



(1) Angola

Angola has rich energy and mineral resources. Since the end of the civil war in 2002 the country has enjoyed a high economic growth rate. The drop in primary commodity prices in recent years has led to economic stagnation, and the Government of Angola is therefore placing emphasis on diversifying the country's industries.

The general election held in August resulted in the first peaceful presidential transition in 38 years. In September, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato attended the inauguration ceremony for President

Lourenço as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, and reaffirmed with the new president the intention to cooperate on further strengthening Japan-Angola relations.

(2) Zambia

Zambia has maintained political stability since its independence in 1964. It has also contributed proactively to regional peace and security, mediating for peace among neighboring countries, accepting refugees, and so on. In June, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei visited Zambia and held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Kalaba, and affirmed their intention to commence negotiations for a bilateral investment treaty. The first Japan-Zambia investment treaty negotiation was held in December.

(3) Zimbabwe

Although Zimbabwe's economy has stagnated due to political and economic turn off since 2000, the country has a great deal of potential thanks to its high level of literacy, wealth of resources, bountiful agriculture, and tourist attractions such as the Victoria Falls. A military intervention in November led to the resignation of President Mugabe, who had held power ever since Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980. In accordance with the constitution, former Vice-President Mnangagwa was subsequently inaugurated as president. It is hoped that, under the new administration, democratic and economic reform will be progressed.

(4) Namibia

Namibia boasts rich maritime and mineral resources. As the distribution hub

for the Atlantic Ocean side of the Southern Africa Region, an expansion is expected in resource development as well as trade and investment in the energy field. In June, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei visited Namibia and held talks with Prime Minister Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Mushelenga, and affirmed the intention to further strengthen bilateral ties including economic cooperation.

(5) Malawi

Malawi's domestic politics have remained stable since gaining independence in 1964. Approximately 80% of the population engages in agriculture, and agricultural production accounts for 80% of total exports. Nurturing value-added industry as a way to earn foreign currency is the priority. There has been a notable level of people-to-people exchange at the grassroots level between Japan and Malawi, with more than 1,780 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) being dispatched to Malawi over the years, which is the highest in the number of JOCVs dispatched to a single country. Malawi was also the first African country elected for the One Village One Product project.

(6) South Africa

South Africa is the sole African country in the G20. It continues to garner attention from overseas companies including Japanese companies as a major economic power in Africa and as a base from which to carry out business expansion. At the National Conference of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) in December, Deputy Party President Ramaphosa, who



Foreign Minister Kono making a courtesy call to President Zuma of the Republic of South Africa (August 25, Maputo, Mozambique)

visited Japan in 2015, was elected as the new party leader, replacing President Zuma, who had served as party leader for ten years.

During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in August, Foreign Minister Kono made a courtesy call to President Zuma and also held talks with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Nkoana-Mashabane.

(7) Mozambique

Mozambique is situated at the Indian Ocean coast and has a natural harbor that serves as a port which connects Southern Africa with Asia, the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere. It is a key country in the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy."



The leaders of Japan and Mozambique attending a signing ceremony following their summit meeting (March 15, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Japanese private companies have a high interest in Mozambique and are eager to invest by virtue of the country's rich natural resources.

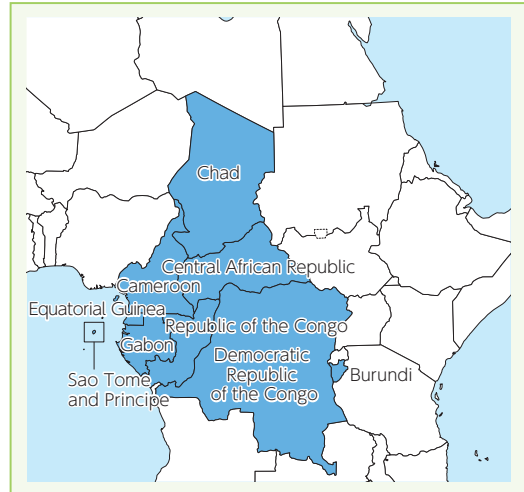
2017 was the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Mozambique, and a number of high-level visits were organized. In March, President Nyusi and his spouse visited Japan and held a Summit Meeting. On this occasion, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Baloi also held talks with Foreign Minister Kishida, affirming the intention to further develop bilateral ties. TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held in Mozambique in August, and Foreign Minister Kono took the opportunity to make a courtesy call to President Nyusi and held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Baloi.

(8) Botswana

Botswana has maintained a stable political situation since gaining independence. Botswana's core industry is diamond mining, with the world's second highest diamond output. It has developed into a medium to high-income country. The Government is aiming to break dependence on diamonds by diversifying the country's industries and eliminating poverty. In 2013, the country became the first country in Africa to adopt Japan's digital terrestrial broadcasting (ISDB-T) system.

In January, Vice President Masisi visited Japan and held talks with Japanese Government officials including Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hagiuda and State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Jiro Akama.

3 Central Africa



(1) Gabon

Gabon has experienced no civil war nor conflict since gaining independence in 1960. Following the death of Former President Omar Bongo, who served as president for 41 years, a peaceful presidential election was held in August 2009 and the son of the former president, Ali Bongo, was elected (he was also reelected in 2016). Reform of the country's economic structure, which is dependent on oil and other natural resources, is a pressing issue. Efforts are being made to diversify the country's industries and increase added value to products through local processing of primary commodities.

(2) Cameroon

Since 1982 Cameroon had a stable administration under President Biya. In 2016 dissatisfaction increased in the Anglophone Northwestern and Southwestern Regions bordered by Nigeria. With ordinary citizens' participation in demonstrations, disagreement sharpened gradually and grew into political movements calling for the restoration of the federal system and

independence for Anglophone territories. President Biya has criticized attacks on security forces as being the work of terrorist groups and has indicated that he will take all necessary measures.

(3) Republic of Congo

The Republic of Congo gained independence from France in 1960. The country is dependent on oil, which accounts for approximately 80% of its exports. The drop in oil prices has therefore caused the economy to stagnate, and economic diversification is now a pressing issue for the country. A presidential election was held in March 2016 under the new constitution promulgated in 2015, and President Sassou-Nguesso was re-elected for three consecutive terms. The country has remained stable since the election. Although armed rebels had been operating in the Department of Pool, the main rebel group headed by Ntumi signed a peace agreement in December. It was announced that the group had agreed to cooperate with the disarming of the “Ninja” militia and that it would not interfere with the reestablishment of state control in the Pool Department. The situation in the Department is being stabilized after the announcement.

(4) Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo gained independence from Belgium in 1960. It is one of the world’s leading producers of cobalt and other natural resources. A UN mission was deployed in 1999 to monitor a ceasefire established following the conflict that broke out in 1998. In 2010 this mission was renamed as the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission

in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and it is now working to help the country recover from the conflict and respond to rebel groups in eastern regions.

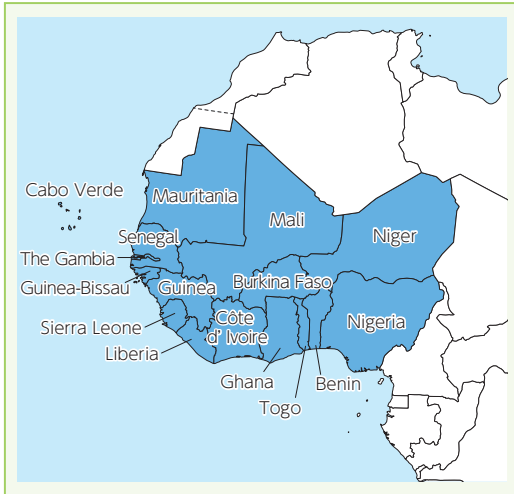
Although President Kabila’s second term in office came to an end in December 2016, no elections were held and President Kabila has remained in office, causing tensions to escalate. The election was not held in 2017 and has been postponed until December 23, 2018.

(5) Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea is the only country in Africa with Spanish as its national language. Until the early 1990s, it was one of the world’s poorest countries and was dependent on agriculture (cacao and timber). During the 39 years under the long-term administration of President Nguema, the country has developed into one of sub-Saharan Africa’s top oil producers, with oil production commencing in 1992. With the rapid economic growth, progress has been made with the creation of economic infrastructure such as road networks, and public buildings. Enhancing social infrastructure in the fields of education, medicine, and healthcare, and addressing disparities between the rich and poor, however, are long-standing issues.

Equatorial Guinea is serving as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year period beginning in January 2018.

4 West Africa



(1) Ghana

Ghana hosts the largest number of Japanese companies in West Africa. President Akufo-Addo, who was inaugurated in January, after a peaceful election is pursuing reforms such as restoring fiscal soundness and industrialization.

2017 was the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Ghana, the 90th anniversary of the arrival of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi in Ghana, and the 40th anniversary of the first deployment of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. A variety of events, such as Japanese drumming performances, fashion shows, symposiums



Event commemorating 60 years of the establishment of Japan-Ghana diplomatic relations (October, Accra, Ghana)

on diplomacy and Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, and judo and karate tournaments were held to mark these anniversaries and promote a bilateral relationship. Minister of Health Agyemang-Manu visited Japan in July and made a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe and acknowledged the contributions of Japan to the healthcare field.

(2) Guinea

Guinea has recovered from the Ebola Virus Disease crisis that occurred in 2014 and 2015. The country is now pursuing economic development centered on its high degree of potential in its agriculture and maritime industries and its rich mineral resources.

In June, President Condé (the 2017 AU chair) became the first Guinean head of state to carry out a bilateral visit in Japan. His talks with Prime Minister Abe included discussion of development assistance and cooperation on the international arena. President Condé expressed gratitude for the establishment of an office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the Guinean capital Conakry and other cooperation by Japan, and promised to contribute to the TICAD process. A Japan-Guinea Business Forum was held



President Condé reviewing a guard of honor during his visit to Japan (June 20, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

during President Condé's visit, to enable public and private sector figures from both countries to meet and talk.

(3) Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire is home to the Africa Development Bank, and the Port of Abidjan, which handles the largest volume of container cargo in West Africa, making it one of the region's distribution hubs. The country has enjoyed stable economic growth since the end of the civil war in 2012. It gives the impression of having regained its place as a core country in West Africa. It was selected to serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from June 2018 until 2019, and the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) has achieved a complete withdrawal. On the other hand, issues relating to internal politics still remain, including frequent disturbances by some members of the national armed forces and ex-combatants.

With regard to relations with Japan, the first post-resumption yen loan agreement (the Abidjan Port Cereal Berth Construction Project) was signed in March, and in November, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Côte d'Ivoire and made a courtesy call to President Ouattara and Minister of Foreign Affairs Amon-Tanoh, affirming the intention to strengthen bilateral ties.

(4) Senegal

As a stabilizing power for West Africa, Senegal achieves economic growth. In recent years, the discovery of offshore oil and natural gas reserves attracts a greater interest from Japanese companies. The country served, concurrently with Japan, as a non-permanent member of the UN



Exchanging football uniforms at the Japan-Senegal summit meeting (December 13, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office) *Senegal is in the same pool as Japan in the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Security Council for a two-year period beginning in January 2016.

In November, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Senegal to attend the 4th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa. In his speech during the opening ceremony he gave an overview of Japan's contributions to peace and security in Africa.

In December, President Sall visited Japan to attend the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum 2017, at which he introduced the initiatives of Senegal as a model country for the implementation of UHC. During his talks with Prime Minister Abe they discussed cooperation on infrastructure development and human resources development, and they exchanged letters concerning grant aid in the fields of electricity, food security, and healthcare.

(5) Nigeria

Nigeria, which has both the largest economy and population in Africa, has a great deal of potential as a resource-rich country. On the other hand, declining oil prices has worsened the country's financial situation, and the radical Islamist organization Boko Haram's terrorist acts in

the northeast of the country and invasions of neighboring countries are issues that need to be addressed. President Buhari is placing emphasis on industrial diversification and enhancing security in order to address the abovementioned issues.

In May, Japan dispatched the Joint Africa Trade and Investment Promotion Mission led by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei and discussions were held with several cabinet ministers and others.

(6) Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country with an economy centered on agriculture. Domestic politics had been in a state of flux since the uprising in 2014 but the political situation has been comparatively stable since the inauguration of President Kaboré in 2015. On the other hand, Islamist radicals entering from Mali has become an issue because of the worsening security situation in neighboring Mali. In August, a terrorist attack occurred at a restaurant in the capital Ouagadougou.

On the occasion of the 72nd UN General Assembly in September, Foreign Minister Kono held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs Barry and they affirmed the intention



Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting (September 20, New York, U.S.)

to cooperate on bilateral ties and in the international arena. Burkina Faso is one of two countries in Africa with diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

(7) Benin

Benin has enjoyed peaceful presidential transitions since the 1990s, and it is referred to as a model for West African democracy. President Talon, a former entrepreneur, has set countering corruption as his administration's top priority. His administration has been operating stably since its inauguration in 2016.

In July Minister of Economy and Finance Wadagni visited Japan and held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aso and State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Matsumura. During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in August, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Agbenonci held talks with Foreign Minister Kono and discussed economic cooperation and cooperation in the international arena.



Japan-Benin Foreign Ministers' Meeting (August 25, Maputo, Mozambique)

(8) Mali

Ever since gaining independence, Mali has had to deal with conflict with the Tuareg group in the north of the country. Implementation of the agreement of peace

and reconciliation signed in 2015 between Mali's Government and the northern Mali's armed groups continues to be a challenge. The entering into the country of Islamist radicals from the north and the spread of terrorism into central and southern parts of Mali as well as into neighboring countries has become serious problems. In February, countries in the Sahel Region, including Mali, made the decision to establish joint forces to respond to the security problem.

To support peace and stability in Mali, Japan provides the Malian police forces and law enforcement authorities with equipment to help them maintain security. Japan has also coordinated with the UN organizations to provide support for Mali's School of Peacekeeping.

(9) Liberia

Liberia developed in the early 19th

century as a place for freed slaves from the U.S. to settle, and it was the first country in Africa to gain independence as a republic. The country has overcome the effects of the civil war that lasted approximately 14 years until 2003 and is now referred to as a model case for the consolidation of peace in Africa. Former President Sirleaf received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 and was Africa's first democratically elected female president. In December, a peaceful presidential election was held to find a successor, and this was won by former professional football player Weah.

Japan provided support through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for strengthening the security enforcement system over the course of the elections and also dispatched election observers.

Column

Japanese Nationals Working for an International Organization in Sudan

Hideko Hadzialic, Deputy Country Director at United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Sudan

Sudan is a strategically important country located between Africa and Arab regions, facing the Red sea, which is called the gateway to Asia, Europe, and the Gulf region. It is the third largest country in Africa and the 16th largest country in the world.

Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Nexus

Darfur in western Sudan faces one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the world. Southern Sudan has been challenged by the issue of the preventing the conflict between refugees and their host communities since South Sudan declared its independence in 2011. Eastern Sudan hosts many immigrants from Eritrea and Ethiopia. Northern Sudan is confronted with the issue of security of water and conflict prevention due to climate change and desertification. Sudan faces these challenges concerning "the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus," and thus receives some of the highest attention in the

headquarters of the UNDP where I worked until recently.

In June 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution to reduce the number of the military and police personnel of the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) by 30%, which translated to reducing military personnel down to about 11,000 and police officers down to less than 3,000. Considering the security situation and the human rights protection on the ground, further reduction is scheduled in 2018. However, there remains a lot of issues, such as the development of the legal system for peace building and the requirement for development based on the human rights situation. There are about 80 staff members in the UNDP Darfur office, including United Nations Volunteers (UNV) (there are about 200 staff members in the UNDP in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan). In order to foster a seamless partnership between the UN peacekeeping mission and the UNDP as a development agency, it is necessary to increase the fund and the support to enhance UNDP's field presence.



Khartoum International Airport

Activities of Japanese Nationals at UNDP Sudan

There are many Japanese working for the United Nations in Sudan. They include the Representative at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sudan and the Deputy Representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). Four Japanese including myself are working at the UNDP. Ms. Yumi Amano and Ms. Chihiro Bise are working for conflict prevention and recovery assistance under the Youth Volunteers Supporting Peace and Recovery project in Darfur, which is supported by the Japanese Government. They have so far worked with about 380 Sudanese youth volunteers to reduce poverty with environmental considerations, by supporting proposals for small and medium-sized businesses and bridging with microfinance institutions. They are working hard, side by side with local youth who wish to contribute to community development and peace building, and sharing joy and sorrow to create a cooperative structure between communities. Their effort for building a relationship of trust with local residents, which sometimes requires great patience, is a true testament of the Japanese spirit.

Mr. Tomokazu Serizawa is working on the frontline of supporting the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. He visits refugee camps near the southern border of South Sudan to grasp the long-term needs of the refugees and the host village residents and to understand their situations firsthand. The local residents appreciate the joint assistance of Japan and the UNDP and hope to expand such assistance to other communities. Currently, Mr. Serizawa is investigating the path way of extremism. The military defeat

of ISIS in Iraq and Syria has led Sudanese ISIS members to return to Sudan, which might risk social instability if not handled delicately. The UNDP intends to enhance its technical assistance including revision of anti-terrorism laws, increased employment opportunities mainly targeted for the youth, and advocacy (policy proposal).

I would like to let the world know about the successful cases of cooperation on the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus in Sudan together with Japanese assistance.



International Volunteer Day
Speech to give encouragement to volunteers (author)



(From left) Minister of International Cooperation, author, a representative of Spanish embassy, visiting the project related to the humanitarian and development nexus, which supports both the refugees and the host community in White Nile.