

**7th Tokyo Conference on African Development**

**" TICAD 7"**

**Plenary meeting**

**Public-Private Business Dialogue**

**A word**

**Mr. / Mohamed Mohamed Abou - Elenein**

**Chairman of Cleopatra Group**

**Vice-President of the Egyptian-Japanese Business Council**

***His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El- Sisi***

***President of the Arab Republic of Egypt***

***President of the African Union***

***His Excellency Prime Minister / Shinzo Abe***

***Prime Minister of Japan***

***Excellencies the kings and heads of state and  
African governments***

***Your Excellencies, Ministers***

***Gentlemen representatives of international and re-  
gional bodies***

***Gentlemen of Industry and Investment***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

- On behalf of myself and on behalf of my fellow businessmen and investors in Africa (Champions Organization ), I am delighted and honored to participate in this important conference " TICAD 7".

### *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- We all look forward with great optimism to the outcome of this conference, and we are keen on the partnership with the most appropriated partner for Africa in terms of science, ethics and efficiency . The Japanese partner .. who presented to the world a role model in building a modern nation .. with advanced technological experience.
- African leaders have resolved to building a modern Africa, in the context of the vision of sustainable development 2063 .. the vision simulates the renaissance that took place in East Asia .. A vision that maximizes the added value of the wealth of Africa 's human and natural resources.

### *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- The world's political and economic forces are racing to invest in Africa, the cooperation with Africa is growing every day, increasingly with the aspirations and hopes of the peoples, and growing with trade and investment opportunities ..the question remains why all this race? Who wins?

– **To answer these questions, let me introduce Africa in the following lines**

- Africa is the second largest continent of the world area; more than 30 million km<sup>2</sup> ..it is larger than China, India, the United States, Western Europe and Japan combined .
- The world's youngest continent; 65% of its population is youth.
- It contains 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves.
- 124 billion barrels of oil produce 12% of the world's production.
- 95% of the world's diamond reserves.
- 90% of the world's reserves are platinum.
- 75% of the world's gold reserves.
- Enormous amounts of uranium.
- 450 million head of the cattle.
- Large areas of unused agricultural land.

It is the major investment opportunities in Africa .. It is the real added value of its raw materials and resources of the fourth industrial revolution .. industries of the future

## *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- There is no doubt that the future vision of the development of 2063 and the start of the continental free trade agreement .. is clear evidence of Africa 's determination to achieve development and regional integration.
- The president Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has carried the responsibility to achieve the hopes and aspirations of more than one billion and two hundred million Africans
- The President ElSisi has put forward a plan to connect Africa and make it a single entity includes several mega - projects are certainly projects of the century.
  - The Development Corridor Cairo / Cape Town to connect 10 African countries in order to facilitate the movement of goods and individuals and supports development in Africa.
  - Maritime Linkage Project between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea.
  - Africa-Europe electrical interconnection project.
  - Construction of the Africa Railway.

These projects will have a significant impact on the development of Africa and I call on our international partners to contribute to their financing.

## *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- The industrial revolution in Africa has begun . In the past two decades, the industry has grown at a rapid rate, the share of industrial goods in intra-regional trade has increased to 14% , and the industry has become Africa's second largest FDI sector , and many expect Africa to become the next major industrial hub in the world
- The African countries investment in infrastructure, transport networks, ports, energy and internet .. and create special economic zones .. and the liberalization of trade, are giving a strong boost to the industry.

## *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- Industry is the future of Africa .. It is the added value of production, employment and export .. It is the main path for growth and development.
- If Africa has suffered in the past from catching up with previous industrial revolutions . The challenge now is how to turn each challenge into a new investment opportunity
  - Lack of infrastructure . . It is an opportunity to invest in it.
  - Lack of energy . . It is an investment opportunity.
  - Unutilized agricultural land . . It is an opportunity.

- The strategic location of the continent . .It is an opportunity.
- Provide food security for the continent . .Opportunity.
- Discovering and exploiting natural resources . .Opportunity.

All opportunities yet untapped .. challenges represent opportunities for real investment with a huge return

### *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

– **The launch of a strong African industrial awakening requires:**

- 1- Bold confrontations with bureaucracy and high costs of investment and production and enter into the system of competition and international quality.
- 2- Spreading the special economic zones system with incentive laws to face bureaucracy, attract investment, localize industry and achieve productive specialization.

This experience has already begun in Egypt and other countries and has been very successful especially in the Suez Canal Zone

- 3- Africa's real wealth is in its human resources . The young people prepare for the future and giving the attention to women is the first way to strong Africa .

Preparing youth requires the development of education and the establishment of training centers and rehabilitation of the needs of future industries .

In your unique Japanese experience, we need to build on the continent's efforts to develop education and training through the deployment of Japanese schools, universities and training centers in Africa to qualify employment, localize industries and discover specialization and creativity skills.

- 4- Encouraging investment in infrastructure, transportation, energy and marine ports with unconventional incentives for local and international companies to reduce investment, production and trade costs .. and integrates Africa into the world economy .

- 5- Africa enters the fourth industrial revolution based on robotics and industrial intelligence and becomes an active partner in it

This revolution is based on the creativity of young people, and we must develop plans and provide training opportunities in cooperation with development partners to prepare African youth for the needs of the new revolution.

6- The development of agriculture in Africa is linked to the shift towards agricultural industrialization.

Africa's vast crops and livestock are great untapped investment opportunities that must be promoted to make Africa truly a store of food for the world.

7- The small industries development and linking them to large industries are the best means to increase competitiveness and create production specialization .

Successful Japanese experience in SMEs can be replicated in Africa, and it is essential to use global expertise to promote exports of African small industries

### *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and respect to the Japanese JETRO and JICA for the concrete activity on the African continent
- We are proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Cleopatra Industrial Group's entry into Japan . We are happy that the Japanese people walk daily on our products in metro stations, trains, hotels, hospitals and more.

- The Story of the struggle and success in the Egyptian desert is the story of more than 25 thousand workers we exported their products to more than 100 countries, and received awards from many countries in the world from Japan, Italy, America and Africa.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

- Africa is moving .. Africa is changing .. Africa is developing .. Africa is calling on you to build a bright future that shines the continent and provides a decent life for its people.

**Long live Africa . Long live Japan**