

His Excellency Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Board Chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, African Leaders, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to host this launch meeting of Gavi's third replenishment on the occasion of TICAD7 today.

Japan has always attached utmost importance to human security and striven to promote Universal Health Coverage in every corner of the world. Gavi has helped immunize more than 760 million children in the world's developing countries, and prevented more than 10 million deaths over 18 years since its inception.

According to Gavi, every dollar invested in immunization leads to 21 dollars return through improving rates of children's school attendance and employment. Investment in immunization brings about economic and social stability and contributes to human security.

Furthermore, increased immunization coverage is an entry point to promote Universal Health Coverage. That's why Japan has supported Gavi's activities.

Today is the final day of TICAD7. We will articulate actions to strengthen international cooperation with Africa for the next three years. There are three points that I expect to be discussed at this launch meeting today.

First, I encourage the meeting to deliberate on concrete measures to mobilize domestic resources. The necessity of strong resource engagement of the beneficiary countries was emphasized in the Leaders' Declaration of the G20 Osaka Summit. During TICAD7, there was a discussion on health systems, particularly the importance of sustainable domestic health finance. I hope that this meeting will see in-depth discussions on domestic resource mobilization based on those previous discussions.

Second, I am looking forward to active conversations on new funding sources. Gavi has diversified funding sources including through vaccine bonds. Last month, the Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company of Japan invested in vaccine bonds issued by the International Finance Facility for Immunization, for which the World Bank is a treasury manager. The company is the first Japanese institutional investor that provided funding for this  
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I hope that there will be more ideas to promote such new innovative finance mechanisms.

Third, I would like to stress the importance of finding new donors. It is essential to reach out to emerging countries. To that end, we can seize the opportunity of this launch meeting, which is being held for the first time in Asia.

I look forward to creating synergy between today's discussion and the messages from TICAD7 to demonstrate international solidarity with Africa.

Thank you very much.

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