

Section 7

Africa

1 Overview

Africa, with a population of over 1.2 billion in 54 countries, has attracted the interest of the international community, owing to the high market potential and rich natural resources. Also, in the political sphere, Africa's influence in the international community is growing and many countries successfully had democratic transitions in 2018. Progress was made toward economic integration, for example, the signing and establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)¹ by 44 countries in March. In addition, Africa's own efforts are being made to resolve disputes, including efforts toward stabilizing the region by the G5 Sahel (Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad), moves to stabilize the Horn of Africa such as the normalization of relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and South Sudan's new peace agreement by the mediation of organizations such as the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

On the other hand, in addition to long-standing challenges such as political unrest, severe disparities, and poverty, other challenges have emerged, including the vulnerable health systems, the rise of violent extremism, the lack of employment mainly affecting youth, and the



Speech by Foreign Minister Kono at the opening session of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting (October 6, Tokyo)

deteriorating financial and investment climate due to increasing public debt in some countries. Overcoming these challenges is crucial for peace and stability of the international community as a whole.

In 1993, Japan started the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), under the principles of respect for African ownership and partnership with the international community. Since then, with other co-organizers such as the UN, the UN Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank (WB) and the African Union Commission (AUC), Japan has supported Africa's efforts.

At TICAD VI held in August 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, Prime Minister Abe announced that for a

¹ 44 countries signed at the extraordinary summit meeting of the African Union (AU) held in Kigali in March. It establishes AfCFTA and could become one of the largest FTAs with a total population of 12 billion and GDP of 2.5 trillion US dollars if it is ratified by the remaining 22 countries. 49 countries have signed as of January 2019.



Speech by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada at the plenary session of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting (October 7, Tokyo)



Remarks from singer MISIA, appointed TICAD 7 Honorary Ambassador (October 6, Tokyo)

period of three years from 2016 to 2018, Japan will invest in the future of Africa through the implementation of measures including human resource development to 10 million people, amounting to approximately 30 billion US dollars under public-private partnership.

Foreign Minister Kono, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji were among those who attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo in October 2018. In addition to confirming the progress of initiatives announced at TICAD V and TICAD VI, they reaffirmed to secure international standards in aid, such as debt sustainability and to promote public-private partnership, and held discussions in preparation for TICAD 7, which will be held in Yokohama in August 2019.

Japan has been strengthening its efforts in the field of peace and stability. It continues to deploy staff officers to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) while supporting to enhance UN peacekeeping operations (PKOs) capabilities in African countries. Japan and the Nippon Foundation co-hosted the Core Group Meeting of Eminent Persons Group on Peace and Stability in Africa in August, where five former African Heads

of State² were invited. It was also attended by Former Prime Minister Mori and Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation. Following remarks from Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono, the participants from both Japan and Africa had discussions on several topics, including challenges which should be tackled by Africa itself in order to ensure peace and stability in Africa, and the participants expressed expectations for Japan's assistance in areas such as institution building.

On the economic front, the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum was held in May in Johannesburg, South Africa, in response to the high expectations of Japanese companies to expand their business activities into Africa. Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Seko, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Okamoto, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Takahashi attended the forum. The business opportunities and challenges were discussed between Governments of Japan and African countries, private companies, and international organizations, and 16 memorandums were introduced on this occasion.

Japan dispatched the Public-Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment

² Former President Chissano of Mozambique, former President Soglo of Benin, former President Mkapa of Tanzania, former President Obasanjo of Nigeria, and former President Mbeki of South Africa participated from Africa.

Special Feature

TICAD7 – Collaboration with host city Yokohama

The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) will be held in the City of Yokohama, Kanagawa on August 28 to 30, 2019. TICAD is an international conference co-organized by Japan with the UN, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC). It brings together representatives from African countries, related countries, and civil society to discuss development in Africa.

Various events will take place in Yokohama ahead of TICAD 7. In 2019, the whole city of Yokohama will be filled with a strong atmosphere of Africa in 2019 as Japan's "Closest City to Africa."

This will be the third time that TICAD will be held in Yokohama. In keeping with the city's theme of "Africa and Yokohama, Sharing Passion for the Future" for TICAD 7, Yokohama is working on activities in three areas: expanding international technical cooperation, boosting business support and promoting participation by women, and enhancing civic exchange activities and fostering the future generations.

In international technical cooperation, delegations from various African countries have been coming to Yokohama to learn about areas such as water supply and ports, amid growing interest in urban issues related to rapid population growth. Yokohama participated in the Africities Summit (Morocco) held in November 2018 and delivered a presentation on its experience with urban development to an audience of over 3,000 participants. Additionally, Yokohama conducts seminars to introduce its experience with and technologies for waste management through the African Clean Cities Platform established jointly with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and various African countries. The Platform is scheduled to hold its second annual meeting in Yokohama at the same timing at TICAD 7.



Waste management seminar (August 16; Photo: City of Yokohama)

In business assistance, Yokohama gives a boost to doing business with Africa, for instance, holding seminars that introduce the business environment in Africa and encouraging local companies in the city to receive African students who are studying in Japan through the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) as interns. Through these efforts, some of the participating companies have newly entered the African market and others have employed African students in Japan supported by the ABE Initiative.

In promoting the active participation of women in society, Yokohama cooperated with JICA to implement the Japan-Africa Business Women Exchange Program from 2014, following discussions at TICAD V, in which female entrepreneurs and government officials from African countries visit Yokohama and exchange views. At the Emerging Women Entrepreneurs Forum, which Yokohama hosted with JICA in August 2018, Mayor Fumiko Hayashi called for action to promote further active participation of women in society.



Seminar for African Women Entrepreneurs (August 23; Photo: City of Yokohama)

With regard to the initiatives to develop the future generation, Yokohama is promoting young people's understanding of and interaction with Africa. The

“One School, One Country” program has been conducted as part of such initiatives, and in this program 74 elementary and junior high schools in Yokohama are holding exchanges with 33 African countries (as of December 2018) through school visits by African Ambassadors and other events. In June 2018, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Benin visited Kasama Elementary School during his visit to Japan. He enjoyed a school meal, received a tour of school cleaning activities, and was also greatly impressed by the students’ presentations on what they learned about Benin and their performance of Benin’s national anthem in French. Yokohama also launched the Student Conference on African Development in Yokohama, a project to discuss issues facing Africa, at which roughly 70 university and graduate students from 17 universities carried out group work on specific issues.

These initiatives by Yokohama are further deepening the connection between Japan and Africa and offer an excellent example of regional collaboration. The Government of Japan will work closely with Yokohama in preparing toward TICAD 7 so as to make the conference even more fruitful, and make efforts for its success.



One School, One Country program on African countries (June 20; Photo: City of Yokohama)



Student Conference on African Development in Yokohama (December 8; Photo: City of Yokohama)

to Rwanda and Zambia in July, headed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii. In addition, at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishimura hosted a breakfast meeting in which Japanese companies and ministers from eight African countries were invited, where they exchanged views on public-private partnerships in preparation for TICAD 7. Discussions are also underway to conclude investment agreements with eight countries.

Japan is planning to further strengthen cooperation with the African Union (AU) and African countries particularly through efforts such as the establishment of the Mission of Japan to the African Union in the beginning of 2018. Japan is also working to share information and conduct policy coordination with third countries including the U.S., the UK, France, and India, through policy consultations on Africa.

2 East Africa

(1) Uganda

Under President Museveni’s long-serving administration since 1986, Uganda has enjoyed sustained economic growth thanks to stable domestic politics and it has contributed to regional stability as one of the important and influential countries in East Africa. Uganda also actively accepts refugees, including South Sudan refugees staying in the northern part of the country.

During the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Okello. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato also visited Uganda in November to meet with President Museveni and to attend a ceremony to commission the Nile Bridge built with the support of Japan.

(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 AU. It is also the Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). On the economic front, Ethiopia has been enjoying continuously robust economic growth, and is aiming to become a middle-income country.

Political and economic reforms have advanced in the country since the inauguration of the new Prime Minister, Abiy, in April. Also, in July, Ethiopia announced the re-establishment of the diplomatic relations with Eritrea for the first time in 20 years following a prolonged border conflict and signed the “Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship.”³

Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Ethiopia in August. State Minister of Foreign Affairs Aklilu visited Japan in February and Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia Seyoum later visited Japan in August. State Minister of Foreign Affairs Afework attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in Japan in October and held talks with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji. In November, Arkebe, Head of Economic Planning, Monitoring and Supporting Sector, Office of the Prime Minister, visited Japan to receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

(3) Eritrea

Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia in 1993, but a border dispute that broke out from 1998 to 2000 left the two countries in a state of conflict. Then, their relationship improved, and the two countries re-established diplomatic relations for the first time in 20 years in July 2018. The relationship with neighboring countries have also improved, such as the establishment of diplomatic

relations with Somalia in that same month, and in November, the resolution to lift sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council since 2009 was unanimously adopted.

Also, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato and State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Okuno visited Eritrea in August.

(4) Kenya

Kenya plays a central role in the regional economy with its port in Mombasa, the largest in East Africa, serving as a gateway to East and Central Africa. Kenya also contributes to the peace and stability of the region as a stabilizing force in East Africa by engaging in efforts to build peace in Somalia, South Sudan, and elsewhere. On the domestic affairs front, President Kenyatta launched the BIG4 five-year economic development plan consisting of the pillars of (1) manufacturing, (2) food security, (3) universal health coverage, and (4) affordable housing, and is engaged in a new nation building effort.

Minister for Economic Revitalization Motegi visited Kenya in August. Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Juma attended a foreign ministers’ meeting during her visit to Japan for the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October. In November, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Kenya to attend the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, which was hosted by the Government of Kenya and co-sponsored by Japan.



Japan-Kenya Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (October 7, Tokyo)

³ Japan welcomed this and issued a statement by the foreign minister that hoped for the development of relations between the two countries and their contribution to the further stability and prosperity of the Horn of Africa.

(5) Union of Comoros

The Union of Comoros is an island country located in the Indian Ocean. Long-standing political unrest and an agricultural-based economy that is susceptible to climate conditions are obstacles to its economic growth and social development. In July, a constitutional amendment was made by a referendum which allowed for the re-election from Grande Comore, the home of incumbent President Azali, while maintaining the rotating system of presidential elections.

With respect to Japan-Comoros relations, at the foreign ministers' meeting held during Foreign Minister Souef's visit to Japan in February, a Japan-Comoros foreign ministers' joint press statement was issued. Japan also gained support for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" which Japan is promoting. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited the Union of Comoros in August and made a courtesy call to President Azali. It was a year in which a number of high-level bilateral visits were organized. During his visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Djoumoi held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato.

(6) Djibouti

Djibouti, situated at one of the great trade arteries that passes through the Indian Ocean and connects Europe and Asia, is aiming to be a distribution hub of East Africa. It is a base for international security and is a key country in achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

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 excellent relationship. In August 2018, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Youssouf visited Japan to hold a foreign ministers' meeting

and issued a Foreign Ministers' Joint Press Statement affirming to further strengthen the two countries' bilateral ties and cooperate in the international arena. During his visit to Japan in October to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ali Hassan held talks with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada.

(7) Seychelles

Although Seychelles has the highest gross national income per capita (GNI) of 14,180 US dollars in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is a small island country with vulnerabilities in fields such as climate change and disaster prevention.

There were a number of high-level visits in 2018. In August, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Seychelles. During his trip to Japan in October to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, Executive Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs Faure held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato. In December, Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs Meriton visited Japan and held a foreign ministers' meeting in which a Japan-Seychelles Foreign Ministers' Joint Press Statement was issued. The Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Seychelles was established in January 2019, and bilateral relations are expected to further develop.



Japan-Seychelles Foreign Ministers' Meeting (December 5, Tokyo)

(8) Somalia

The peace and stability of Somalia is important for regional and global peace and stability, and the international community including Japan supports Somalia's nation building. Although Al Shahab (AS), an extremist faction of the international terror organization Al-Qaeda, remains active and humanitarian crises resulting from the impact of droughts and other causes still remain to be solved, efforts are being made to stabilize the public safety and to achieve economic growth.

During his visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Secretary of State for International Cooperation Abdulkadir held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato. Also, in December, Foreign Minister Kono made a courtesy call to Prime Minister Khaire during his visit to Qatar.



Foreign Minister Kono's courtesy call on Somalia's Prime Minister Khaire (December 15, Qatar)

(9) Sudan

Sudan is the second largest country by area in Sub-Saharan Africa, and is blessed with crude oil, minerals, as well as water resources and fertile arable land from the Nile River. In recent years, the domestic security situation has been improving, with the situations in South Sudan and Darfur improving. Also, since the U.S. lifted economic sanctions on South Sudan in October 2017, it is expected to have a positive impact on the economy. With regards to the domestic

affairs, the Government of Sudan is currently initiating a national dialogue process toward a comprehensive national reconciliation, and aims to hold a presidential election in 2020 with all parties participating.

In October, Foreign Affairs State Minister Osama Faisal attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, and held talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato.

(10) Tanzania

Tanzania, which supports the peace and stability in East-South Africa, has sustained high economic growth for many years. In recent years, the private sector's willingness to conduct business in Tanzania is high, and the bilateral relationship with Japan has become closer, especially in terms of economy and economic cooperation. Also, the fifth meeting toward a Japan-Tanzania investment treaty was held in July in 2018.

In August, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Tanzania and made a courtesy call to President Magufuli and Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Mahiga. Foreign Minister Mahiga attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono.

(11) Madagascar

Japan-Madagascar bilateral relations are developing rapidly following the President's visit to Japan in December 2017. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Madagascar in August. Minister of Foreign Affairs Dovo and Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Randriarimanana attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and a foreign ministers' meeting was held.

On the economic front, in addition to vanilla, its largest export item, Madagascar's integrated production of nickel and cobalt, for which a Japanese company is the largest shareholder, is

expected to be the driving force of the economy. Japan is providing yen loans to support the extension project of the Toamasina Port, the country's largest resource shipping port.

In addition, as a result of the presidential elections held in November and December, candidate Rajoelina was elected President in January 2019. Member of the House of Representatives Kenya Akiba was dispatched to attend the inauguration ceremony as Special Envoy of Prime Minister. Special Envoy Akiba held talks with President Rajoelina where they agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in areas such as investment and economic cooperation. The economic growth of Madagascar is expected to accelerate as a result of democracy over the past five years.

(12) South Sudan

Turmoil has continued in South Sudan since the clashes in the capital, Juba, in December 2013. Mediation efforts by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are ongoing, and some progress were made in the peace process in 2018. The Khartoum Declaration relating to a permanent ceasefire was issued in June, and President Kiir, former first Vice President Machar, and others signed a new conflict resolution agreement in September. Additionally, a peace ceremony commemorating the signing of the agreement was held in October, and former first Vice President Machar returned to Juba for the first time in about two years. The implementation process of the new conflict resolution agreement is scheduled to start under the guidance of IGAD.

During his visit to Japan for the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Nihal Deng held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono.

(13) Mauritius

Mauritius celebrated the 50th anniversary of its independence in 2018. Under stable political situation, Mauritius actively promotes the diversification of industry into IT and the financial sector, in addition to traditional industries such as sugar production, textiles, and tourism. It maintains a top position in Africa in the World Bank's ease of doing business index, has concluded Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with African countries and India, and aims to be an investment hub in Africa.

Mauritius is the host country of the secretariats for the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). It holds meetings on maritime security and plays an active role in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Mauritius in August. Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Canabady attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and held a meeting with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada.

(14) Rwanda

Under the leadership of President Kagame, who took office in 2000 and was re-elected for a third term in 2017, Rwanda continues to work toward economic development and national reconciliation. Recently, the country is experiencing rapid growth especially in the ICT field, and the number of Japanese businesses expanding into Rwanda is on the rise.

There were a number of high-level visits between Japan and Rwanda in 2018. Minister of ICT Rurangirwa visited Japan in March. In July, Japan dispatched the Public- Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa, headed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii, to Rwanda.

Column Japanese UN Officials Working in South Sudan – Challenging and rewarding

Miwako Shiino, Program Officer, Migration Management Unit, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) South Sudan

Reinforcement of border and migration control is an urgent task being actively addressed by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Flows of people into South Sudan through irregular means from neighboring countries and movement of people heading for Libya and Europe through South Sudan continue even now. Implementation of tightened immigration control at airports and borders contributes to protection of public order in the country, promotion of safe and regular movement of people, and prevention of migration related crimes, including human trafficking and smuggling. Enhanced migration management in the country through policy formulation and the capacity building of government officials also supports the protection of vulnerable migrants. My work includes providing assistance to these government initiatives in a variety of ways, including organizing seminars, improving infrastructure, formulating policy, and strengthening collaboration with neighboring countries. South Sudan has established many structures since gaining its independence. The same is true in the area of border and migration management. I feel highly honored to have had the opportunity to contribute to South Sudan's "nation building" process through this work. It is also extremely fulfilling to make progress day by day, while overcoming difficulties together, and to deliver genuine results by working closely with government officials. I would say that one of the unique contributions of international organizations is working in alignment with government initiatives and providing targeted assistance.



Training on humanitarian border management held for government officials from South Sudan and Uganda (Photo: IOM South Sudan Office)

Naoki Ishikawa, UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) Strategic Planning Unit

The real pleasure of working at the UN is to be able to engage in tasks to advance public goods in the international community together with colleagues from various countries. At UNMISS, where I work, we protect civilian populations whose lives are in danger from conflicts and provide assistance to advance the political process for sustainable peace. It is not easy to formulate common goals and strategies, and steadily implement them amid the competing approaches and overwhelming issues related to building peace in South Sudan. Nevertheless, as the staff in charge of strategic planning, it was very satisfying when the strategies were shared, coordination was smoothly advanced across relevant sections of UNMISS and with other UN agencies, and the activities were successfully implemented as planned. I also learned through my work at the UN that it is important to begin with acknowledging differences and respecting each other in a multinational and multicultural environment. While progress is very incremental, I believe that the steady results produced by UNMISS should contribute to giving hope in the future to the people of South Sudan, the world's newest country, and raising the reputation and credibility of UN peacekeeping that contribute to the maintenance of international peace and safety.



At a UN Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Wau (in north-western South Sudan). Author in the center.

Minister for Economic Revitalization Motegi visited Rwanda in August. Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community Nduhungirehe attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a meeting with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji. Furthermore, President Kagame made an Official Working Visit to Japan in January 2019. While President Kagame was in Japan, he had a Japan-Rwanda summit meeting. His visit also included a dinner hosted by Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe, participation in the Rwanda-Japan Business Forum, and other events. The two leaders issued a joint statement between Japan and the Republic of Rwanda. This visit is expected to further deepen the bilateral relationship that has been developed up to now.



Japan-Rwanda Summit Meeting: Announcement at joint press conference (January 8, 2019, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

3 Southern Africa

(1) Angola

Since the inauguration of President Lourenço in 2017, the Government of Angola has been actively promoting economic reforms including recovery of international credibility, strengthening of fiscal discipline, and soundness of the financial system. Angola is also working on diversifying and stabilizing the economy to depart from the existing economic structure that relies on abundant natural resources.

During his visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October 2018, Japan-

Angola foreign ministers' meeting was held between Minister of External Relations Augusto and Foreign Minister Kono.

(2) Zambia

Zambia has abundant mineral resources and has been working to diversify its economy in recent years to break away from its monoculture economy dependent on minerals. In July, Japan dispatched the Public-Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa, headed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Horii, to Zambia. During his visit to Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, Minister of Foreign Affairs Malanji held a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono. The second round of negotiations of a bilateral Investment Treaty were held in December.

Furthermore, the first official bilateral visit in six years was realized in December. President Lungu visited Japan on an official working visit and held a Japan-Zambia summit meeting. During his visit to Japan, the two countries issued a joint statement. His visit also included a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Abe, a courtesy call from Foreign Minister Kono, and participation in the Zambia-Japan Business Forum, among other events. This visit is expected to further deepen the bilateral relationship that has been developed up to now.



Japan-Zambia Summit Meeting (December 19, Tokyo; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(3) Zimbabwe

President Mugabe, who had held power since Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980, resigned in November 2017. Former Vice-President Mnangagwa was subsequently inaugurated as president in Zimbabwe, and the first general election under the new administration was held in July. Although the election itself was conducted in a relatively peaceful manner, security forces clashed with protesting opposition supporters several days after the election, which resulted in casualties.

Taking every occasion including Vice President Mohadi's visit to Japan as a presidential envoy in March and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Kazunori Tanaka's (member of the House of Representatives) attendance at the inauguration ceremony of President Mnangagwa in August, Japan has been continuously emphasizing directly to government officials, including the president, about the importance of promoting democracy and economic development in Zimbabwe. Japan expects that President Mnangagwa and his administration will promote democracy and steadily implement economic reforms. Furthermore, Special Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Comberbach attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and also held a meeting with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Tsuji.

(4) South Africa

South Africa is the only 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. In February, former President Zuma resigned during his term and was succeeded by Vice President Ramaphosa.

President Ramopasa attended the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum held in Johannesburg in May where he delivered a keynote speech. The bilateral economic relationship between the two countries continues to be active, including a visit to Japan by an investment mission in September led by a presidential envoy.

In February, Prime Minister Abe and President Ramaphosa held a telephone talk. During the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in May, Foreign Minister Kono and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Sisulu held a foreign ministers' meeting. The two countries affirmed progress in developing cordial relations through such events.

(5) Mozambique

Mozambique is rich in natural resources especially in the Nacala Corridor region and the private sector continues to show high interest to Mozambique. Several commemorative ceremonies of Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects, including the completion ceremony of the Maputo Gas Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant in August 2018 and the construction ceremony of the Nacala Port Development Project in October, were held, which represent the relationship between the two countries. Japan also continues to receive a number of high-level visits from Mozambique. President of the National Assembly Macamo visited Japan in February and had talks with Prime Minister Abe and the Speakers of Houses of Representatives and Councillors. In October, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Pacheco attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, and also held a foreign ministers' meeting.

(6) Botswana

Vice President Masisi took the presidency in Botswana in April following the expiration of

former President Khama's term of office. Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Yoshitaka Shindo (member of the House of Representatives) attended the inauguration ceremony of President Masi, and reaffirmed the friendly relationship with Botswana, which was the first country in Africa to adopt Japan's digital terrestrial broadcasting (ISDB-T) system in 2013.

The Government of Botswana, an upper-middle income country, emphasizes breaking away from an economy that relies on diamonds and diversifying its industries. Japan supports Botswana's such efforts through technical assistance, human resources exchange, and other activities, and also continues to cooperate with Botswana in the international arena on matters such as the reform of the UN Security Council. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Dow attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and also held a Japan-Botswana foreign ministers' meeting.

4 Central Africa

(1) Gabon

Following the death of Former President Omar Bongo, who served as president for 41 years, a presidential election was peacefully held in August 2009 and the son of the former president, Ali Bongo, was elected (he was reelected in 2016). However, there was an attempted coup d'état by a faction of the military in January 2019.

On the economic front, 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 to increase added value to products.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ogushi visited Gabon in July and held a meeting with Prime Minister Issoze. Minister of Water and Energy Eyogo Edzang attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and also

held a foreign ministers' meeting.

(2) Cameroon

In October, President Biya won his seventh presidential election that determined the continuation of a long-serving government since 1982. In November, he announced the establishment of the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) in order to stabilize in the far north region under the influence of Boko Haram and stabilize English-speaking territories where the residents are seeking independence.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Cameroon in May where he paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Yang and made a visit to the International School of Security Forces (EIFORCES).

(3) Democratic Republic of the Congo

Following President Kabila's remaining in office after the end of his second term in December 2016, a presidential election was held on December 30, 2018, and President Tshisekedi took office on January 24, 2019.

After the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Equateur Province in June 2018, Japan provided Emergency Grant Aid and also dispatched Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Team to counter the epidemic. Japan also provided emergency relief goods through JICA in August in response to the epidemic in North Kivu.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited in October to make a courtesy call to President Kabila and have talks with other officials, and they affirmed to strengthen friendly bilateral ties.

(4) Chad

Chad was one of the poorest countries with an economy primarily based on the cotton and

livestock industries, but it has made progress in exploiting its oil resources in the south in recent years and began exporting oil in 2003. On the political front, a stable government continues under the long-serving administration of President Déby Itno, who has been in office since 1991.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Chad in May 2018 for the first time as a government minister of Japan. In addition to paying a courtesy call to the president, he also made a visit to the headquarters of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), which was created to fight against the Islamic extremist group, Boko Haram.

(5) Central Africa

President Tuadera, who was democratically elected in March 2016, has continued efforts to rebuild the country with the cooperation of the international community. In the AU-led “Africa Initiative” mediation process started in July 2017, the AU signed an agreement with 14 armed groups in August 2018 that included the requirements for each group in order to start negotiations between the government and the armed groups.

Japan is supporting the efforts of Central African government to rebuild their state, and the National Strategy to Prevent Radicalization (2018-2021), formulated through the UNDP, was announced in July.

In May, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Central Africa. Minister of Foreign Affairs Doubane visited Japan in May and also for the TICAD Ministerial Meetings in October, and discussed bilateral relation and cooperation in the international arena with Foreign Minister Kono.

5 West Africa

(1) Ghana

The Akufo-Addo administration is working on restoring fiscal soundness, diversifying industry, and other measures under the banner of the

“Ghana Beyond Aid” concept.

Minister of Energy Agyarko, Chairman of the Ghana-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association Acheampong, and Minister of Finance Ofori-Atta visited Japan between February and April 2018. Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura, and State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare Makihara visited Ghana in April and in September respectively.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Botchwey visited Japan in October to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, and also had lunch with Foreign Minister Kono.

President Akufo-Addo visited Japan in December and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe where they agreed to elevate bilateral relations. The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Embassy of Ghana in Japan held an investment forum to promote investment in Ghana.



Foreign Minister Kono's courtesy call on President Akufo-Addo of Ghana (December 11, Tokyo)

(2) Côte d'Ivoire

At the international seminar held in Abidjan in January, the Corridor Development for West Africa Growth Ring Master Plan, created under Japanese technical cooperation, was announced to strengthen the connectivity of West Africa and approved by Côte d'Ivoire and other countries involved. Abidjan is also a pilot city for Japan-France cooperation.

Minister of Economic Infrastructure Kouakou

Ghana's Host Town "Inawashiro Town" – Birthplace of Hideyo Noguchi

Inawashiro

President Akufo-Addo of the Republic of Ghana visited Inawashiro Town in Fukushima Prefecture on December 13, 2018. This was the third visit to the town as president of the Republic of Ghana and the first in 16 years since 2002. While his stay in the town was only for three hours including lunch and a tour of the Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Museum, the town made all-out efforts to prepare, including a welcome by children from local Okinashima elementary school.

The town office held a welcome ceremony and Mayor Zengo presented the President with a Nakanosawa kokeshi doll, a local traditional craft product, as a gift. Due to the special features of this kokeshi doll – its large eyes and nose – the locals affectionately call it "tako-bozu," meaning an octopus with a monk's shaven head.

President Akufo-Addo explained that the government named the road in front of the Embassy of Japan in Ghana after Dr. Hideyo Noguchi and hopes to apply Japanese technologies in paddy rice production and agricultural product processing.

Inawashiro Town is the birthplace of Dr. Noguchi, and Ghana was where he died due to disease while conducting research on yellow fever. Both countries still recognize Dr. Noguchi's contributions and have continued to engage in exchanges in a variety of ways.

With special cooperation of the "Ghana Yosakoi Support Association," which supports the Japan study tour by Ghanaian high school students, a visit to Inawashiro Town was added to the student's study tour schedule in 2007. Now, lively interaction through homestays between the students from Ghana and Inawashiro high school students takes place, and the Ghanaian students even participated in the sports event for town residents in FY 2018.

Inawashiro is also registered as Ghana's host town for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 and has been selected as the pre-games training camp site.

Mr. Ben Nunoo-Mensah, President of the Ghana Olympic Committee, and Ms. Abigail Kwashi, Minister at the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana, visited the town in December 2018 for a tour of athletic facilities and a signing ceremony for an agreement on a pre-games training camp.

The Government of Japan has also established an award to commemorate Dr. Noguchi's accomplishments – the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize managed by the Cabinet Office. Award reception events were held in Yokohama for the first round of awards in 2008 and the second round of awards in 2013. A researcher from the UK and others received awards in the fields of medical research and medical care activities. The third awards ceremony is scheduled for August 2019, during which awards will be granted for excellent results in Africa and Dr. Noguchi's accomplishments will be commemorated again.

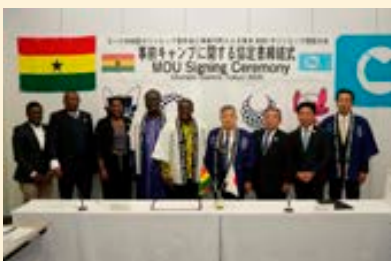
While the words of Dr. Noguchi, "I will never be back without achieving my goals," which are carved on a beam at his house, are well known, there is another message that he has left behind, which is "purpose, honesty, and patience." Town elementary and middle schools use this as their educational slogan. Hopefully, these children will someday further broaden the scope of exchange with Ghana.



Gift of a Nakanosawa kokeshi doll (Photo: Inawashiro Town)



Interaction with Inawashiro high school students (Photo: Inawashiro Town)



Signing of a pre-games training camp agreement (Photo: Inawashiro Town)



At the Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Museum (Photo: Inawashiro Town)

visited Japan in February. Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Sonoura visited Côte d'Ivoire in April, followed by State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare Makihara visiting in August. Minister of Planning and Development Kaba attended the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato where they affirmed to work to further strengthen economic relations.

(3) Sierra Leone

The new Bio administration that began in April after the election is focusing on building a stable, peaceful, open, and pluralistic democracy, and is prioritizing fields such as job creation and high-quality education. Japan dispatched Japan-African Union (AU) Parliamentary Friendship League Chairman Aisawa to the inauguration ceremony of the president in May as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, where he made a courtesy call to President Bio and held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Kabba.

State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare Makihara and House of Representatives member Makishima Karen visited Sierra Leone in August where they paid a courtesy call to Vice President Jalloh. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Kabba visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October where he held a foreign ministers' meeting and expressed Sierra Leone's gratitude for Japan's support.

(4) Senegal

Interest in Senegal from Japanese companies is increasing due to the country's stable domestic situation and position as a gateway to West Africa. The Japan-Senegal Public-Private Conference for Infrastructure was held in Dakar in January with the participation of about 20 Japanese companies. At

the meeting, State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Makino and Minister of the Infrastructure, Land Transport and a Better-Connected Nation Diallo signed a memorandum promoting "quality infrastructure investment" and continuing the cooperative bilateral relationship.

State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Okuno visited Senegal in August, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited in November to attend the fifth Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad Kaba visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting in which Japan and Senegal affirmed to work together to conclude a bilateral investment agreement to support the expansion of Japanese companies into the country.

(5) Togo

In Togo, under the long-serving administration of President Nasashinbe who won a third term in 2015, in advance of the presidential election in 2020, opposition parties are against the existing constitution not having a clause that bans re-election. This has affected the security situation due to clashes between protesters and security forces that has resulted in casualties. On the other hand, Togo held the presidency of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) until July 2018. In addition to improving political tensions in Guinea-Bissau, it also held an ECOWAS-ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States) joint summit meeting and ECOWAS summit meeting in Lomé at the end of July.

State Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare Makihara visited Togo in August, which included a courtesy call to President Gnassingbe.

(6) Nigeria

Nigeria has high economic potential and many Japanese companies have great interest in expanding into the country, but the country is plagued by the problem of terrorist acts by the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, mainly in the northeastern region.

President Buhari became the new president of ECOWAS in July. He offered support for the Guinea-Bissau parliamentary election and dispatched the president of the ECOWAS Commission Brou with the main focus being the peace and stability of the region. Nigeria also promoted efforts toward introducing a single currency in the region and organizational reform of the secretariat.

State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Akimoto visited Nigeria in September, and signed a memorandum of cooperation with Minister of Transportation Amaechi for promoting quality infrastructure investment.

(7) Burkina Faso

Domestic politics in Burkina Faso had been unstable 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. There were several terrorist attacks in March 2018, such as the attack by a terror group on the military headquarters in the capital Ouagadougou.

Burkina Faso had been one of two countries in Africa keeping diplomatic relations with Taiwan. However, in May, it severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan and restored them with China.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad Alpha Barry visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting.

President Kaboré and his spouse visited Japan in November on an official working visit. He held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe and affirmed the strengthening of friendly bilateral ties.



Japan-Burkina Faso Summit Meeting; Photograph of the salute and the guard of honor ceremony (November 19, Tokyo. Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(8) Benin

Benin is said to be a model of democratic country in West Africa and witnessed the peaceful transition of the presidency presidents since the 1990s. President Talon, a former entrepreneur, has set countering corruption as his administration's highest priority. His administration has been operating stably since its inauguration in 2016.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Agbénonci visited Japan in June and during the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October, and held foreign ministers' meetings during each visit. At the meetings, bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena were discussed.



Japan-Benin Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 7, Tokyo)

(9) 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 armed groups continues to be a challenge even after three years has passed.

The entering into the country of Islamist radicals from the north and the spread of terrorism into the central and southern parts of Mali as well as into neighboring countries has become a serious problem. France's Operation Barkhane and the G5 Sahel Joint Force consisted of the G5 Sahel countries (Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad) have been deployed to respond to the security problem.

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

During the presidential election held in August, incumbent President Keita defeated the opposition candidate and was re-elected.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Kamissa Camara visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting in which she discussed security measures in Mali and cooperation in the international arena with Japan.

(10) Liberia

In Liberia, after former President and 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate Sirleaf served two terms in office as the first female head of state ever to be democratically elected in Africa, she was succeeded in the December 2017 election by a former professional soccer player Weah who had also served as a manager of a Japanese soccer team. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato attended the inauguration ceremony of President Weah in January as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, and paid a courtesy call to the new president.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Findley visited Japan to attend the TICAD Ministerial Meeting in October and held a foreign ministers' meeting in which Liberia expressed its gratitude for Japan's support.