

**Message by IMAFUKU Takao,
Ambassador in charge of UN Affairs and
Deputy Director General of Foreign Policy Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
at a TICAD8 Side Event
“Financing for Women’s Employment in the Green Economy”
hosted by UN Women**

Good morning distinguished guests and participants. I am IMAFUKU Takao, Ambassador in charge of UN Affairs and Deputy Director General of Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of JAPAN. I am delighted to join TICAD8 side event organized by the UN Women.

African countries share susceptibility and vulnerability to natural disasters, including droughts and floods. On the other hand, Africa has a large number of youth population, and it is a continent with dynamic growth potential.

As we all know, green economy as a new type of businesses to offer a solution toward decarbonized society and address the issue of climate change, is attracting great attention both in Japan and across the world.

Active participation of women in these fields will lead to the creation of a society in which everyone can enjoy their lives. Analysts have reported that the higher the participation rate of women, the better the performance of climate change initiatives, and that women's active participation is the key to promoting a zero-emission society.

As we meet today, women are already starting to join the green economy business as entrepreneurs. For example, in Japan, a woman entrepreneur started transportation business by low-emission car. In Italy, a female entrepreneur has founded a fashion brand that recycles discarded luxury fabrics. In Ethiopia, a woman who is running a business by recycling of old tires to produce wonderful shoes also takes care of women's employment.

In short, investing in women's employment in green economy is an investment to our better future. To advance such investment, it is essential that government, business, and civil society work together. It is also necessary to promote education and human resources development for women in STEM fields from a young age. Furthermore, comprehensive efforts must be made not only in education, but also to enable promoting women's employment. Household works need to be taken on by the family members and society, and it is also important to support women who start a new start-up business.

As you all know, Japan has been emphasizing partnership with African countries. TICAD meeting, which is held every three years alternately in Japan and Africa is one of these efforts.

At the TICAD8 held in Tunisia at the end of August this year, Prime Minister Kishida expressed his intention to inject a total of approximately \$30 billion from public and private sources over the next three years to support start-ups, promote investment in the green sector, and develop human resources.

In Africa, we are witnessing an emerging trend of startups directly solving social issues at the field level, especially among young people. The Government of Japan, through public-private partnerships, intends to support Japan's startups that aim to cooperate with Africa.

With regards to the green investment, we have also announced the launch of the Africa Green Growth Initiative. We will capture enormous green growth potential and adaptation needs in Africa and accelerate green growth by utilizing Japanese technology.

As for human resources development, we have launched a new "Future Industrial Human Resources Initiative" targeting young people, including women, to develop human resources that will contribute to the advancement of industry. In addition to providing education and training opportunities for 5,000 people over the

next three years, we plan to develop 300,000 human resources over the next three years in a wide range of fields, including industrial human resources.

The underlying idea behind these efforts is to take an "investment in people" approach. By working together to overcome Africa's challenges, Japan hopes to be a "partner for mutual growth," and through this, Japan hopes to learn and grow. This is the embodiment of the "new capitalism" advocated by Prime Minister Kishida. Based on these ideas, Japan will continue to support partnerships with African countries and women's participation in the green economy.

I hope today's event will be fruitful and inspire many people to work together to promote the employment of women in the green economy.

Thank you for your attention.