

Japan and Africa:

The History of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

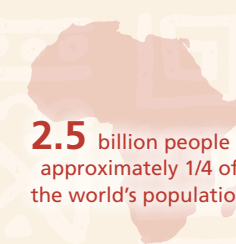
Overview of TICAD

TICAD stands for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, and is an international conference focused on African development. Since 1993, it has been led by the Government of Japan and co-hosted by the UN, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the African Union Commission (AUC). TICAD, which embodies the principles of African countries' "ownership" and international "partnership" in African development, has continued to evolve in response to the challenges and circumstances Africa faces in each era.

Japan-Africa Relations in Figures



The estimated median age of Africa (as of 2025)



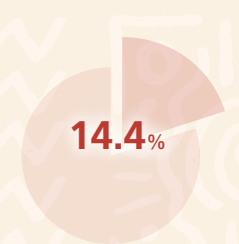
The estimated population of Africa in 2050



The number of Japanese company locations in Africa (as of 2024)



The year-on-year change in Japan's direct investment balance in Africa (as of 2024)



Africa's share of Japan's total bilateral ODA (cumulative, 1960–2024)



At a time when international interest in Africa was waning following the end of the Cold War, TICAD I served as an impetus for renewing global interest in Africa.

TICAD I
1993



1998
TICAD II

TICAD II advocated the importance of Africa's own "ownership" and "partnership" with the international community, principles that continue to underpin TICAD today.



TICAD III
2003

Adopted the "TICAD Tenth Anniversary Declaration," which set out the future direction and priority approach of TICAD.



2008
TICAD IV

Discussions covered the acceleration of economic growth, the establishment of human security, and responses to environmental and climate change issues. The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize was also established.



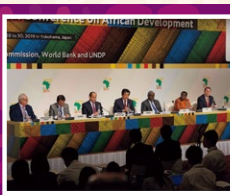
TICAD V
2013

Under the concept of "from aid to private investment," a session was held for the first time in which African leaders and Japanese private-sector companies engaged in direct dialogue.



2016
TICAD VI

First instance of TICAD held in Africa. Japan announced its vision of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" for the first time and declared its commitment to investing in Africa's future.



Under the concept of "Positioning business at the center of TICAD," for the first time in TICAD history, private-sector companies were positioned as official partners, and direct dialogue between Japanese and African public and private sectors was held.

TICAD VII
2019



2022
TICAD VIII

The second TICAD held in Africa. Japan expressed its vision of helping realize a resilient Africa as a "partner growing together" with Africa. The approach emphasized focus on "people" as individuals, specifically prioritizing "investment in people" and "the quality of growth."



Discussions were held under the theme of "Co-create innovative solutions with Africa" utilizing Japan's technologies and expertise. Focus was placed on private sector-led sustainable growth, empowerment of youth and women, and regional integration as well as connectivity within and beyond the region.

TICAD IX
2025



Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize

Named after NOGUCHI Hideyo, who devoted himself to research on yellow fever in Africa, this award is presented on the occasion of TICAD to individuals who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in the field of medical research or medical services in Africa. At TICAD 9, Dr. Abdoulaye Djimdé was recognized in the medical research category, and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) was recognized in the medical services category.



Dr. Abdoulaye Djimdé, who contributed to improving the treatment and control of malaria

Luis Pizarro, Executive Director of DNDi, who contributed to the research and development of treatments and therapies for "neglected tropical diseases" (21 conditions)



Business Development in Africa

With strong expectations for the promotion of private investment in Africa, the "Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum" was launched at TICAD VI. At TICAD 9 as well, a "Public-Private Business Dialogue" was held, with lively discussions taking place under the themes of "Economic diversification," "Intra-regional African integration and connectivity within and beyond Africa," and "Strengthening finance," with the aim of boosting business expansion with Africa. The number of Japanese company locations in Africa has doubled over the past 15 years, and with both large companies and startups entering the market, further business exchanges are expected in the future.



Then Prime Minister Ishiba visiting company booths at the TICAD Business Expo & Conference (Photo: Cabinet Public Affairs Office)