

Fourth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Side Event: “Training in Demining: the Example of CPADD Training Centre”

General Remarks by H. E. Mr. Akio EGAWA
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Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my colleagues from Benin and France for inviting Japan to participate in this side event. Last year during the Third Meeting of States Parties in Oslo, Japan co-hosted a side event with the Government of Lao PDR to introduce our triangular cooperation on capacity building between Lao PDR and Cambodia. It is particularly meaningful that this year we are offered an opportunity to introduce our active contribution in mine action in Africa, together with France and Benin.

The details of the CPADD and its activities have already been mentioned by my fellow speakers and will be elaborated in detail afterwards. I intend to make a brief remark on why it is so important for Japan to support the CPADD, and what significance it carries both in symbolic and practical terms.

There are several reasons behind our decision to support the CPADD in Benin. The most obvious objective is to make additional contributions to global mine action. Throughout the past decade, Japan has consistently provided for those countries most affected. This is done not only because we are a state party to the CCM and the Ottawa Convention, but also because Japan strongly upholds the idea of promoting human security to all corners of the world. Moreover, Japan's mine action cooperation policy puts capacity building at its core since the training of deminers is essential to accelerate clearance.

Another reason why we assist the CPADD is because we hope

strengthening the capacity of its security forces will eventually assist Africa in attaining a lasting peace. Regarding the CPADD, Japan has financed 2 million US dollars in 2009 to develop the infrastructure and training equipment of the centre. We have also financed the dispatch of Japanese and Indian trainers to carry out training courses on Explosive Ordnance Disposal. I am pleased to hear reports that our contributions had a tangible impact which improved the training environment.

Apart from the CPADD, Japan has provided a total of 29.5 million US dollars to support the activities of 11 peacekeeping centres in Africa. The funds are used to maintain facilities, provide equipments and organize training courses. In addition, we have also dispatched a total of 25 Japanese experts to these centres to share their knowledge and experience on peace support.

In June this year, Japan hosted the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). At this meeting, Japan renewed its commitment to strengthen Africa's capacity to create, nurture, and protect peace by supporting their own initiatives. In this context, it gives me a profound sense of accomplishment to know that the CPADD trained Beninese soldiers who were dispatched to Mali in the wake of the crisis in the northern part of that country. This episode indicates that the CPADD's activities not only benefit Benin but have an important role for the security of the region. Japan responded to the Mali crisis directly by contributing 6 million US dollars to support the mine clearance activities carried out by AFISMA (African-led International Support Mission to Mali). We are encouraged to know that we made an active contribution before and throughout this crisis and we hope our support can continue.

Finally, I would like to highlight the fact that the CPADD centre is a significant symbol of Japan-France cooperation. On the occasion of a state visit to Japan by President Hollande of France in June, Japan and France released a joint-statement for cooperation and a "roadmap" for putting the content into action over the next 5 years. In this roadmap, Japan and France announced that together we will strengthen cooperation in the field of peacekeeping by building on existing cooperation. The CPADD was mentioned amongst the list of examples of such "existing cooperation".

I would like to finish by congratulating Benin's contributions to host the CPADD. I look forward to listening to the details of CPADD's activities and I hope that the important work of spreading the knowledge on mine action will continue.

Thank you.