

**Address by H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan,
at the STS forum TICAD VI Japan-Africa Workshop for Strengthening Cooperation in
Science, Technology and Innovation**

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[Provisional translation]

It is an honor for me to participate in this gathering of the STS forum together so many distinguished attendees.

I have participated in the STS forum Annual Meeting held each autumn in Kyoto four times, making me the record holder as Prime Minister of Japan. I look forward to extending this record even more.

I am also the Honorary Chairman of STS forum, in accordance with the intention of the forum's Chairman, Dr. Koji Omi, a person I respect.

Science for science's sake is important in itself. But Chairman Omi's standpoint has been that it is more important to consider science and technology for the sake of society.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Japan, having received a jolt from the West, placed emphasis from the very beginning on education in engineering. Science engenders technology, which in turn makes society stronger. What proved this formula was Japan's modernization.

It has now been 12 years since Chairman Omi took note of this path that Japan itself has taken and started this forum. It is no exaggeration to say that the forum has already become a public good without parallel for all kinds of people with an interest in society and science and technology.

The forum has now taken its first step onto African soil alongside TICAD. That conviction—the strong wish for science and technology to make society prosperous and strong—has tremendous meaning here in Africa in particular. The reason is that, as I stated during the TICAD Opening Session this morning, I am firmly convinced science and technology is at this very moment bringing about a quantum leap in African development.

The forum has from early in its history and right up to the present day enjoyed the participation of Ministers in charge of science and technology and education from such countries as Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Rwanda.

In addition, leaders from companies representing Japan's technologies are participating in today's gathering.

In Africa, on this continent of possibilities, I do not have the slightest doubt that Japan's science and technology and also its education will certainly be useful in increasing people's well-being.

In recent years, the STS forum, which has sought its meeting venue in India, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, is now working to spread that significance to every corner of the world.

I would like to end my remarks by saying once more that this is the continent of possibilities. And that is why there is nowhere-else the STS forum can contribute so much as in Africa. Thank you very much.