

Side Event on the Sidelines of TICAD Ministerial Meeting:
Dialogue with Private Sector from Japan and Africa
Address by Mr. Manabu Horii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

9:00-12:00, August 24

(Venue: Joaquin Chissano International Conference Center)

Government delegations from African countries,
Business representatives from Japan and Africa,

I am extremely pleased that this Dialogue with Private Sector from Japan and Africa is being held as a side event ahead of the TICAD Ministerial Meeting, with participation of ministers and government delegations from African countries as well as companies representing Japan and Africa respectively, and with the cooperation of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), the Confederation of Business Associations of Mozambique (CTA) and the Agency for Investment and Export Promotion (APIEX).

TICAD VI (the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development), which was held for the first time in Africa in August last year, attracted a large number of Japanese business leaders, including the chair person of Keidanren (the Japan Business Federation). I understand that frank and vibrant exchanges of opinion with the leaders of African countries took place during that meeting and various related events.

Private-sector companies have a huge role to play in promoting Africa's development and economic growth, and TICAD VI provided an important platform in terms of public-private dialogue and cooperation.

Capitalizing on the outcomes of TICAD VI, we have decided to invite representatives from the private sector to this Ministerial Meeting. This is the first time in TICAD's 25-year history that Japanese and African companies have participated in a Ministerial Meeting. 300 or more individuals from the public and private sectors have gathered here, making a major contribution to reinforcing the partnership between Japan and Africa.

It is my hope that fruitful discussions and exchanges of opinion will take place during this event. High level of product quality and development of highly skilled human resources through vocational training are the examples of strengths of Japanese companies, and I am confident that their advanced technical capacities will contribute

to resolving Africa's development challenges. I would appreciate it if the participants from Japanese companies would report and disseminate their technologies and activities by touching on specific successful examples.

Additionally, a Business Networking Lunch is going to be held immediately after this event, with an eye on business matching between Japanese and African private-sector companies. I invite all of you to actively participate in this networking lunch. I would like to conclude my address by sincerely wishing that today's event will be a meaningful one for all of you.