

The Seventh Africa CEO Forum
Remarks by Mr. Kenji YAMADA, Parliamentary Vice-
Minister for Foreign Affairs (25 March 2019)

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

(冒頭)

I appreciate this great opportunity to participate in the 7th Africa CEO Forum on behalf of the Government of Japan.

(ルワンダ政府への謝意と敬意及びジェノサイド 25周年の哀悼)

Before I proceed, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to all the victims of the genocide.

This year marks the 25th commemoration of the dark days of 1994, and it was a solemn experience to pay my respect during my visit to the Genocide Memorial.

I acknowledge the path Rwanda has traveled for a quarter century to build a safe and open society of information, not only for local people, but also for foreign investors.

(過去四半世紀のアフリカを取り巻く議論の変化)

Both Rwanda and Africa have undergone significant transformations in the last quarter of century.

In response, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) has evolved as well.

The Government of Japan launched it in 1993 as a pioneering and open international forum to discuss Africa's development based on the principle of Africa's ownership and international cooperation.

Over the years, the focus of TICAD has shifted from economic assistance to the promotion of investment in Africa, which will be a prominent topic at TICAD 7 to be held in Japan this August.

(TICAD 7 に向けて)

On my third and fourth days in office as Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, I co-chaired Plenaries at the TICAD Ministerial Meeting last October.

There we discussed the importance of sound fiscal policies, economic transformation, science and innovation, human resource development, as well as private sector development.

(アフリカにおける官民連携・日本の民間の取組)

As CEOs, I understand you assess various factors when making investment decisions.

The large turnout of this Forum is a clear testament that Africa is a continent full of potential, and we fully share the sentiment.

To provide you with concrete perspectives, I would like to cite some numbers.

In 2012, there were 560 Japanese entities in Africa.

The number was closing in on 800 at the end of 2017, recording a 42% increase.

In Rwanda, government strategies and favorable investment environment have resulted in an eight-fold increase in the number of Japanese entities to 25 in just four years.

Furthermore, nearly 200 companies have visited 24 African countries in the last 10 years through the “Public Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa,” an initiative launched in 2008 at TICAD IV.

The number of entities participating in the last year’s Mission to Rwanda and Zambia went up to the all-time high 31.

Japanese companies are also making a difference through African Business Education Initiative, or ABE Initiative.

It has provided more than 1,200 youths from Africa with opportunities to undergo post-graduate programs and internship in Japan to gain skills and knowledge necessary to become entrepreneurs or future leaders.

We have a number of Japanese entities participating in the Africa CEO Forum; they are keen to exchange ideas and best practices with you.

I myself look forward to widening my perspectives on the future of Africa through this Forum.

(結び)

As the Government of Japan prepares for TICAD 7 in August, we will continue to promote trade and investment between Japan and Africa and to deepen public-private partnership.

I look forward to seeing many of you at TICAD 7, where we will have a three-day Business Expo and seminars, as well as lively discussions on ways to achieve sustainable growth in Africa. Thank you.