

Remarks by Mr. TAKAGI Kei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs  
TICAD 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event Closing Remarks  
August 26, 2023

Distinguished guests,

Thank you very much for attending today's event. I am TAKAGI Kei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. On behalf of the Government of Japan, I will make closing remarks to summarize today's event.

Today, various panelists attended the event and had very meaningful discussions. The strength of TICAD is that it is not a one-time event, but it is a continuous process. Today's event provided us with an opportunity to look back on the history of TICAD and to fully reflect upon the future of TICAD.

In Panel 1, the panelists looked back on the history of TICAD. They also confirmed the importance of "African ownership" and "international partnership" in African development and the utility of the functions of TICAD as a platform to promote involvement of various actors. In addition, the panelists share the recognition on the necessity of harnessing TICAD in order to accelerate measures to address such challenges as poverty alleviation and promotion of private investment.

In Panel 2, the panelists discussed the challenges and the strategy in fully utilizing TICAD, with a focus on the trend of shifting from assistance to private sector investment. During the discussions, the panelists pointed out various elements such as matching African companies and Japanese companies, necessity of support for infrastructure of hardware, software and human resources, supporting Africa as an escort runner of sustainable development; and the importance of promoting green growth in Africa.

In Panel 3, the panelists discussed future role of TICAD, based on the current difficult international situation.

The panelists indicated the necessity of framing TICAD as international platform to lead tackling the global challenges including climate change and food security, the importance of promoting human resource development and technology transfer, start-ups, innovation in the TICAD process, and the necessity of tackling issues with all-Japan efforts. Above all, I fully empathized with the comment that we should go and visit Africa to begin with.

It is projected that African population will account for a quarter of the world population in 2050, and Japan, as a “partner growing together with Africa”, needs to further strengthen the efforts that have been made through TICAD in the past 30 years.

The important theme of the TICAD’s 30th year anniversary event today was to reflect upon the way for Japan and Africa to grow together as well as to look ahead and discuss what we can entrust to the next generations. The future of TICAD is the future of Japan and Africa.

In concluding this event, we invited the younger generations who will shoulder the future of Japan and Africa.

The future where the younger generations take hands together and aim at growing together has already started.

The future of Japan and Africa rests upon them. I believe it important to frame TICAD as a platform to enable Japan and Africa to continue to work together, regardless of areas or generations. For that purpose, I will overcome the challenges one by one together with the participants of today’s event.

Next year in Tokyo, we will host the TICAD Ministerial Meeting. In 2025, TICAD 9 will be held in Yokohama.

By hoping that all of the participants of today’s event together with next generations to meet again, I conclude my remarks.

Thank you for your attention.

(End)