G Africa (Sub-Sahara)

(a) Overview: African Issues to Be Tackled Globally and Efforts by the International Community to Date

Africa in 2004: From Violent Conflict to Peace and Stability

The year 2004 witnessed a significant development toward peace and stability in Africa. In both Somalia and Sudan, where civil conflicts had lasted for a long period of time, great progress toward peace was achieved with the establishment of transitional institutions and the conclusion of a comprehensive peace agreement respectively. In the Great Lakes Region, where the situation remained unstable even after the ceasefire was agreed, the first Summit of the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region was convened in November in Tanzania, attended by the heads of state and government of the countries concerned, who at the end of the summit issued a strong message of peace and stability. In addition to these encouraging developments for peace at national and regional levels, the move for political integration of Africa got underway in earnest as the African Union (AU) set up the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) in March and the Peace and Security Council (PSC) in May.

During 2004, presidential elections were held in some 10 African countries, all of which were conducted peacefully, demonstrating the consolidation of democracy in Africa. The general election in South Africa in April 2004 was a symbolic example, marking the tenth year since the end of apartheid and the country's transition to democratic rule. In the inauguration ceremony of the new president and the ceremony to commemorate the tenth anniversary of democracy that followed the election, important figures from around the world, including leaders of more than 25 African countries and former Prime Minister Mori Yoshiro, Japanese special envoy, shared the moment of the start of a new era in Africa.

In addition, the Executive Committee of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) decided in May to hold the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. As this will be the first FIFA World Cup ever to take place on the African continent, the news attracted international attention. Furthermore, Dr. Wangari Maathai (Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya) was awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy, and peace. These positive moves in various parts of Africa represent the continent's overall trend toward peace and stability.

The Current Situation in Africa

Africa suffers from a series of problems whose impact goes beyond the continent and has global implications, such as infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria, conflicts, refugees, and poverty. Problems facing Africa, which include the terrorism that has been threatening some parts of the continent, should be tackled with concerted efforts by the international community. Africa itself has been trying hard to strengthen cooperation within the continent by, for example, adopting in 2001 the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),[1] the first comprehensive development initiative of its own making, and also enhancing the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the AU in 2002.[2] These moves have been regarded as new attempts to substantiate Africa's ownership of its development and attracted international attention.

Efforts by the International Community

Against this background, the attention of the international community to African issues has increased in recent years. In particular, Group of Eight (G8) Summit meetings have been dealing with African issues as one of their main agenda items following the G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, where Japan as the G8 chair invited the heads of state and government of developing countries including African countries to participate in dialogue. The 2002 Kananaskis Summit saw the launch of the G8 Africa Action Plan (AAP), a comprehensive

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1. New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD): A development initiative formulated under African leadership with the aim of making Africa itself responsible for reducing poverty, achieving sustainable growth and development, and becoming integrated into the global economy, without relying on assistance from the international community. NEPAD was adopted at the July 2001 summit of the OAU. It gives priority to promotion of peace and security, governance, and regional cooperation, which are viewed as prerequisites for Africa's development.
2. African Union (AU): A regional organization covering all the African continent, established in 2002 by reorganizing the OAU. Since its start, the AU has been playing a leading role in promoting Africa's political and economic integration. In recent years, it has played a very important role in resolving the conflicts that have frequently broken out in Africa (in Sudan, the Great Lakes Region, and Côte d'Ivoire, for example).

Promotion of Asia-Africa Cooperation

Africa-Asia Trade and Investment

African Exports to Asia
(Unit: US$1 billion)

22	
20	
18	
16	
14	
12	
10	
8	
6	
4	
2	
0	

94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02

Source: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics*.

Trade and investment between Africa and Asia have been steadily expanding. For instance, African exports to Asia have more than doubled compared with about 10 years ago.

(Photo)

More than 700 government and private-sector representatives from African and Asian countries and regional and international organizations participated in lively discussions. Product exhibitions, investment seminars, and other side events were also organized, with the cooperation of African diplomatic missions, international organizations, and Africa-related groups.

Japan's Efforts to Promote Trade and Investment

1. Efforts in the TICAD process
☆ TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference (November 2004, Tokyo)
More than 700 participants attended the conference from 78 Asian and African countries and 24 organizations. With business representatives also taking part, detailed discussions were devoted to the promotion of African development through the enhancement of trade and investment between Asia and Africa. As a part of the preparatory process, an Asia-Africa Public-Private Joint Forum was held in Malaysia in May 2004.
☆ Africa-Asia Business Forum
The fora provide a venue for business negotiations among representatives of African and Asian companies interested in forging business ties between the two regions.
   1st forum: October 1999, Malaysia
   2nd forum: July 2001, South Africa
   3rd forum: April 2004, Senegal
2. Extending assistance for infrastructure building, human resources development, and other means to promote trade and investment
3. Providing duty-free and quota-free access to about 93% of the imports from least-developed countries (LDCs) since April 2003
4. Implementing assorted other activities, including the dispatch of investment missions and the formation of a network of chambers of commerce and industry in both regions

Promotion of Asia-Africa Cooperation
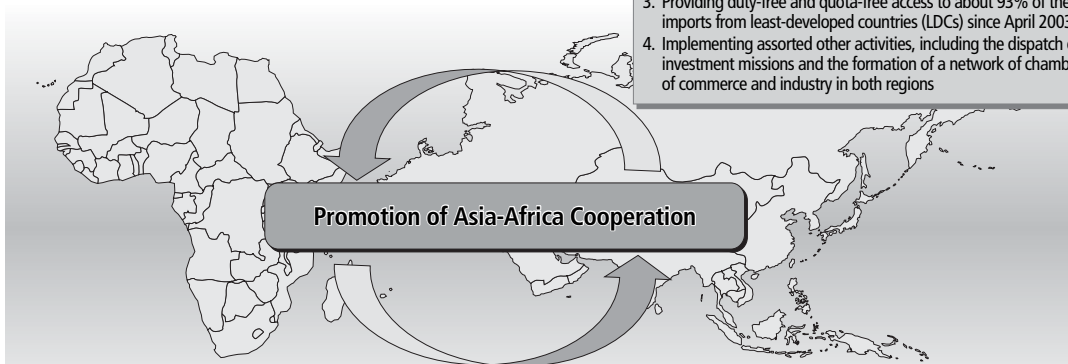
Japan's Efforts to Promote South-South Cooperation

1. Third-country training
Aid provided by Japan enables more than 500 African trainees to undergo training in a variety of fields in Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and other African countries each year. The objective of this program is to extend the technology and expertise Asia and other regions have acquired with assistance from Japan further to other countries. In Asia, members of ASEAN and other countries accept some 100 trainees per year, and it is hoped that this exchange will grow yet more active.
2. NERICA
NERICA (New Rice for Africa) is a promising new species of African rice created by crossing highly disease-resistant African rice with high-yielding Asian rice. Its characteristics include high yields, disease resistance, weed resistance, rich protein content, and a short growth cycle. Through the TICAD process, Japan is supporting the development and dissemination of NERICA.

(Photo)

With the participation of many companies from both Africa and Asia, 59 business deals were concluded with a total value of some US$36 million.

Asian-African Summit
(Bandung Conference 50th Anniversary)

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Asia-Africa Conference in 1955 in the city of Bandung, leaders of Asian and African countries are to meet in Indonesia in April 2005. They are expected to strengthen the Asian-African partnership with a view to promoting cooperation between the two regions.
   Having worked thus far to enhance Asia-Africa cooperation through the TICAD process, Japan is planning to actively launch further initiatives aimed at greater development of the cooperative relations between the two regions.

program for assisting NEPAD.[3] Outreach dialogue between the G8 and African leaders has since become a normal practice at the G8 Summit, and, at the Sea Island Summit in June 2004, six African leaders were invited to the outreach session.

As a responsible member of the international community, Japan has been actively participating in, and contributing to, various international initiatives on African issues.[4] In the conviction that "there will be no stability and prosperity in the world unless the problems facing

3. The adoption of the AAP, which provided a base for support and cooperation with NEPAD, was the G8's response to the launching of NEPAD. The AAP is a comprehensive plan, covering areas such as peace and security, governance, trade and investment, economic growth, sustainable development, education, health, and agriculture.
4. Africa is high on the agenda at various international conferences on development issues. The Millennium Declaration issued at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 devoted one section to "meeting the special needs of Africa." Since then, issues of Africa's development have been widely discussed at, for instance, the Monterrey International Conference on Financing and Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which took place in 2002, and the 3rd World Water Forum, held in Japan in 2003.

African Regional Organizations

African Regional Organizations

Movement toward regional integration is underway in Africa. Upon its establishment in 2002 through a developmental reorganization of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Union (AU) set its sights on advanced political and economic integration and the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa as a whole. The entities known as sub-regional organizations, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the southern region and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the western region, are also acquiring greater importance.
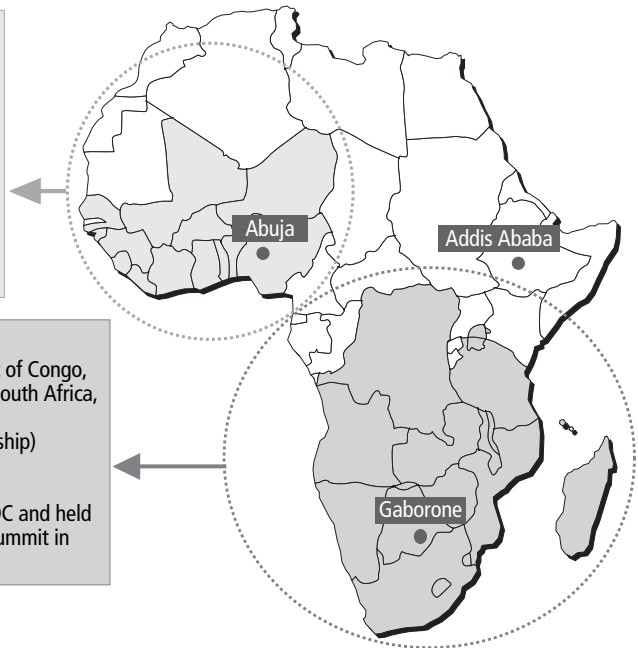
African Union (AU)
- Membership: 53 countries and region (Morocco is not a member)
- Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- In October 2004, Prime Minister Koizumi and Chairperson of the AU Commission Konaré agreed to initiate a strategic dialogue between Japan and the AU to further strengthen relations between them.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Membership: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo (15 countries)
- Headquarters: Abuja, Nigeria
- Population: 223 million; GNP: US$81,442 million
- Japan has strengthened its relations with ECOWAS by, for instance, making financial contributions to its Secretariat and engaging in personnel exchanges.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Membership: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe (13 countries; Madagascar is a candidate for membership)
- Headquarters: Gaborone, Botswana
- Population: 190 million; GNP: US$186,032 million
- Japan is strengthening cooperative relations with SADC and held its first high-level policy dialogue at the 2004 SADC Summit in Mauritius.
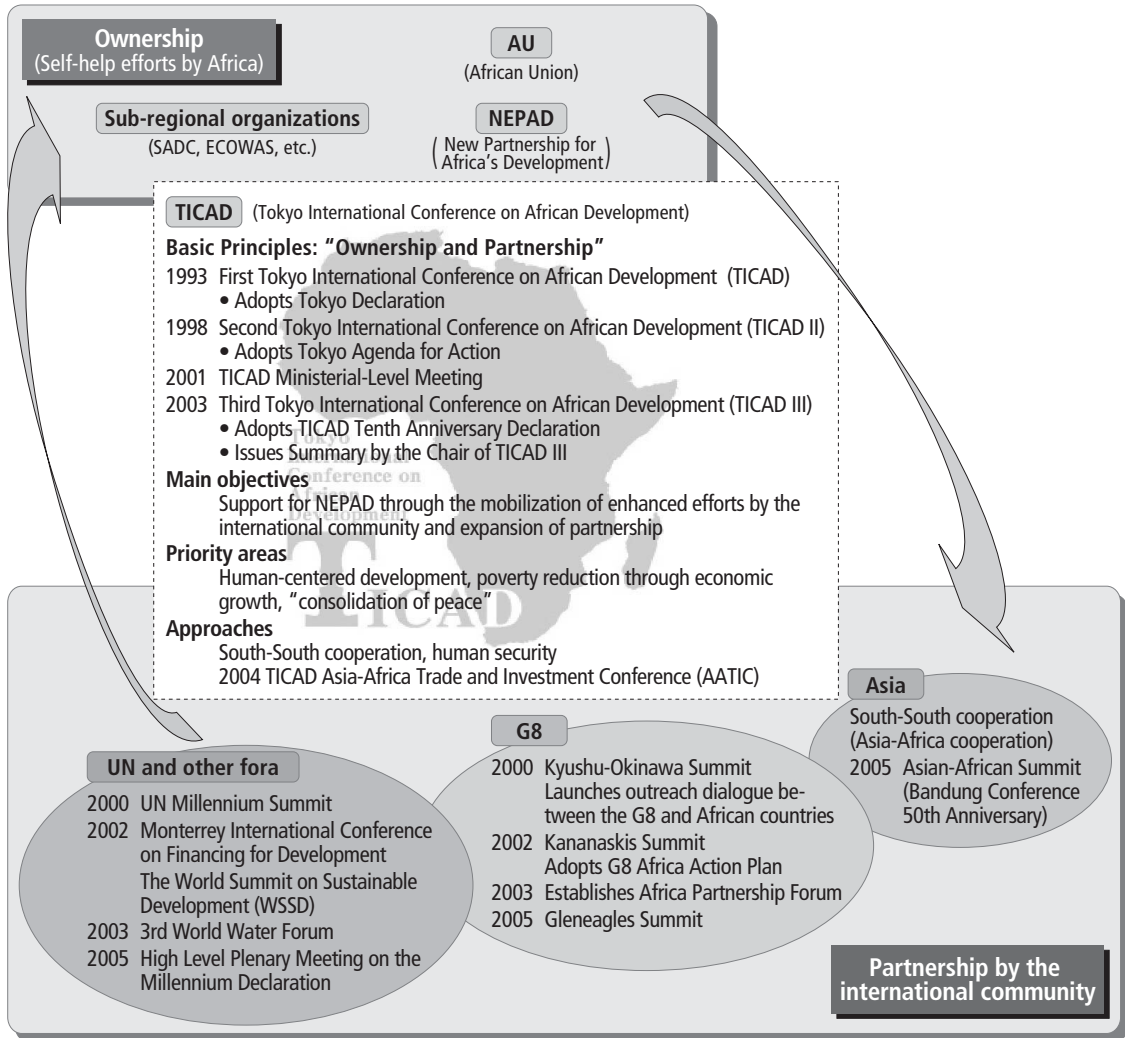
Other Sub-regional Organizations	
West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) Composed of 8 member states, including Côte d'Ivoire and Mali	**Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)** Composed of 5 member states, including Algeria and Libya
Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) Composed of 6 member states, including Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Gabon	**Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)** Composed of 19 member states, including Egypt and Zambia
Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) Composed of 11 member states, including Angola, Cameroon, and Gabon	**Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** Composed of 7 member states, including Ethiopia and Kenya
Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) Composed of 21 states, including Benin, Senegal, and Togo	**East African Community (EAC)** Composed of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda
Council of the Entente Composed of 5 member states, including Benin and Côte d'Ivoire	**Southern African Customs Union (SACU)** Composed of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland
Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) Composed of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda	

Africa are resolved," Japan has been actively providing support to African development through the process of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)—Japan's unique initiative for promoting African development (see below). In supporting Africa, Japan has been working closely with other major donor countries and international organizations such as the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), France, and the European Union (EU). The year 2005 is the "Year of Africa," when African issues are to be in the spotlight at the G8 Gleneagles Summit chaired by the UK, at the United Nations Millennium Review Summit, and on other important occasions, and Japan will further strengthen its cooperation with Africa in this context.

International Framework for African Development

Ownership
(Self-help efforts by Africa)

AU
(African Union)

Sub-regional organizations
(SADC, ECOWAS, etc.)

NEPAD
(New Partnership for
Africa's Development)

TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development)

Basic Principles: "Ownership and Partnership"
1993 First Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)
  • Adopts Tokyo Declaration
1998 Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II)
  • Adopts Tokyo Agenda for Action
2001 TICAD Ministerial-Level Meeting
2003 Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III)
  • Adopts TICAD Tenth Anniversary Declaration
  • Issues Summary by the Chair of TICAD III
Main objectives
  Support for NEPAD through the mobilization of enhanced efforts by the
  international community and expansion of partnership
Priority areas
  Human-centered development, poverty reduction through economic
  growth, "consolidation of peace"
Approaches
  South-South cooperation, human security
  2004 TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference (AATIC)

Asia
South-South cooperation
(Asia-Africa cooperation)
2005 Asian-African Summit
(Bandung Conference
50th Anniversary)

UN and other fora
2000 UN Millennium Summit
2002 Monterrey International Conference
on Financing for Development
The World Summit on Sustainable
Development (WSSD)
2003 3rd World Water Forum
2005 High Level Plenary Meeting on the
Millennium Declaration

G8
2000 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit
Launches outreach dialogue be-
tween the G8 and African countries
2002 Kananaskis Summit
Adopts G8 Africa Action Plan
2003 Establishes Africa Partnership Forum
2005 Gleneagles Summit

**Partnership by the
international community**

(b) Japan's Efforts

The TICAD Process

Following the end of the Cold War, developed countries faced what is called "aid fatigue"[5] and attention to African issues began to fade in the international community, almost leaving Africa behind in the rapid trend of globalization. Quickly recognizing the seriousness of the situation, Japan held TICAD in 1993 together with the United Nations (UN) and the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA)[6] in order to revive international attention to African issues. In 1998 TICAD II was held with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) joining with the group of co-organizers. In 2003, the 10th anniversary of the TICAD process, TICAD III took place with the World Bank also acting as a co-organizer. The TICAD process, which has adopted ownership of Africa and partnership in the international community as its basic philosophies, has been leading the efforts by the international community to tackle African issues,

5. During the first half of the 1990s, the end of the Cold War removed the need for the East and West camps to keep the countries of Africa aligned with their side. With Africa's strategic value in decline, the interest of donor countries in the continent fading, and disappointment in aid that was not producing the expected results, a situation known as "aid fatigue" emerged.
6. Global Coalition for Africa (GCA): A non-governmental organization (NGO) offering a forum for high-level international discussion among heads of state and others, with the aim of building a consensus among African countries, donor countries and organizations, and NGOs on Africa's priority development issues. Among the co-chairpersons are Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chair of the AU Commission; Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia; and Ogata Sadako, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

particularly by promoting South-South cooperation between Asia and Africa based on the development experience of Asia. The process has greatly contributed to Africa's own efforts, including the establishment of NEPAD.

TICAD III Follow-up

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is not merely a gathering held every five years but a consecutive process incorporating various activities. The energetic follow-up activities to TICAD III have been conducted with a focus on the "consolidation of peace," the "promotion of trade and investment," and "South-South cooperation (especially between Asia and Africa)." As announced by Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro at TICAD III, focusing on "human-centered development," Japan promised to provide grant aid assistance totaling US$1 billion over the next five years for areas such as health and medical care, water supplies, education, and food. The implementation of this assistance, of which about US$400 million was allocated in the first year after TICAD III, is progressing steadily.

Promoting Trade and Investment between Asia and Africa

In 2004 Japan worked on the promotion of trade and investment particularly between Asia and Africa as one of the priority goals in the TICAD process. While Asia-Africa trade and investment make up a small share of the world economy overall, they are attracting attention as growth areas of the future. African exports to Asia, for example, have more than doubled over the past 10 years.

Prime Minister Koizumi addresses the TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference in November. (Photo: Office of the Cabinet Public Relations, Cabinet Secretariat)

Japan has taken various steps in the TICAD process aimed at further enhancing such flows. In April the 3rd Africa-Asia Business Forum was held in Dakar, Senegal, to facilitate business talks among private enterprises of the two regions. The forum attracted 120 companies from 15 African countries and 37 companies from 6 Asian countries, and the lively negotiations resulted in 59 business deals worth approximately US$36 million in total. In May the Asia-Africa Public-Private Joint Forum was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with participation of public officials and business leaders from both regions. The wide-ranging discussions focused on the importance of developing the private sector for Africa's development and on the role the public sector can play in promoting it.

Building on these efforts, the TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference (AATIC) was held in Tokyo in November. Indicative of the international community's high expectations of the conference, it was attended by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, and more than 10 ministerial-level officials, in addition to officials in charge of trade and investment from 78 countries and 24 international and regional organizations and more than 700 representatives of the private sector. The Japanese side also demonstrated its full commitment to the promotion of Asia-Africa trade and investment. Prime Minister Koizumi delivered an opening address, and among the others taking part were Minister for Foreign Affairs Machimura Nobutaka; Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Nakagawa Shoichi; Kawaguchi Yoriko, special assistant to the prime minister; and Ogata Sadako, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Japan took the lead at the conference with the unveiling of "Japan's Proposal for Promoting Asia-Africa Trade and Investment," a strategy based on the four concepts of (1) formulation of appropriate policies, (2) promotion of product development, (3) empowerment of local SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises), and (4) promoting social contributions by private enterprise. In addition, the Joint Policy Framework for the Promotion of Trade and Investment Between Africa and Asia[7] was signed between TICAD and NEPAD—Africa's own development initiative, reaffirming commitments to further stepping up cooperation.

7. TICAD-NEPAD Joint Policy Framework for the Promotion of Trade and Investment Between Africa and Asia: A policy framework providing for mutual cooperation to promote business in Africa approved by TICAD's co-organizers and the NEPAD Secretariat. The framework (1) is based on the philosophy of "poverty reduction through economic growth," African ownership, and respect for universal values; (2) affirms to share specific tasks including ensuring political and social stability, developing human resources, and eliminating corruption; and (3) promises to strengthen the channels for dialogue and cooperation between the public and private sectors in order to promote trade and investment between Asia and Africa.

Promoting the "Consolidation of Peace" in Africa

Japan prioritizes the "consolidation of peace" as the foundation of development, and is making comprehensive efforts for promoting peace processes in regions of conflict and providing seamless support for reconstruction. Specifically, Japan has been supporting disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants and providing assistance to refugees, bilaterally or through international organizations, to consolidate peace and to ensure human security in countries such as Angola, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Liberia. Japan is extending substantial support to the UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) conducted in various parts of Africa by, among others, covering approximately 20% of its operation costs. Japan is also working with African organizations like the AU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)[8] and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)[9] in its efforts to resolve conflicts and achieve peace and stability in Africa.

Promoting Japan-Africa Dialogue and Exchange

In 2004, as in 2003, frequent and substantive dialogue and exchange took place between Japan and Africa, including at the governmental and private-sector levels. In August, Prime Minister Apolo Robin Nsibambi of Uganda visited Japan to attend the memorial service for former Prime Minister Suzuki Zenko. In October, Chairperson of the Commission of the AU Alpha Oumar Konaré visited Japan, and in the course of extensive exchanges of views with Chairperson Konaré on ways to strengthen the ties between Japan and the AU, it was agreed that a high-level, strategic dialogue between Japan and the AU would be initiated from 2005. President Obasanjo of Nigeria, which is serving as Chair of the AU and is one of the leading countries in Africa, came to Japan to attend the TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference in November, as did President Kibaki of Kenya, who has been pursuing domestic reform and is energetically working to mediate peace in neighboring countries. President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania also visited Japan in December. At the foreign-minister level, visits to Japan were made by then Foreign Minister Stephen Kakonzo Musyoka of Kenya and Foreign Minister Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania in March, Foreign Minister Chirau Ali Mwakwere of Kenya in November, and Foreign Minister Raymond Ramazani Baya of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in December.

Many visits were made from Japan to Africa as well. In April, Japanese Special Envoy Mori Yoshiro (former prime minister) and Advisor to the Special Envoy Sugiura Seiken attended the inauguration ceremony of the new president of South Africa and the tenth anniversary ceremony of the transition to democracy in the country. In September, President of the House of Councillors Ogi Chikage led a delegation to South Africa to attend the inauguration of the Pan-African Parliament. Parliamentary Secretaries for Foreign Affairs (then) Tanaka Kazunori and (current) Kawai Katsuyuki visited African countries in January and September, and in December, respectively, in order to present and advocate Japan's foreign policy toward Africa and to further strengthen bilateral relations. At the parliamentarian level, 16 Japanese members of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League, which was created in 2003, visited, in five groups, 17 African countries in 2004.

High-level bilateral policy consultations were carried out between Japan and Nigeria in September and Japan and South Africa in October, with a view to promoting cooperative ties in a broad range of fields. In addition, lively exchanges between Japan and Africa took place at the level of citizens, especially at the 2004 African Festa in May and the side events of the TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference (AATIC) in November.

Foreign Minister Machimura talks with Chairperson of the AU Commission Konaré in October.

8. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): A subregional organization founded in 1975 to promote economic integration in the West African region. In recent years, ECOWAS has stepped up efforts to resolve regional conflicts, getting support from the international community, deeming it important to achieve political stability as a precondition for economic integration.
9. Southern African Development Community (SADC): A regional organization composed of the 13 Southern African countries, which include South Africa, Botswana, and Tanzania. With its headquarters in Gaborone, Botswana, it is promoting, inter alia, economic development, regional integration, and the maintenance and promotion of peace and security in the region.

Nigerian President Obasanjo and Prime Minister Koizumi meet for talks in November. (Photo: Office of the Cabinet Public Relations, Cabinet Secretariat)

(c) The Situation in Each Region of Africa and Japan's Diplomacy

East Africa

Ethiopia and Eritrea signed a peace agreement in December 2000 to resolve their border conflict, and the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission demarcated the geographical boundary. However, there is a discord between the two countries over certain disputed areas, and it has kept the relations between them tense. Somalia has been in a state of anarchy since 1991, but in the course of a peace process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), progress has been made toward the establishment of a transitional federal government with the election of a provisional president and the appointment of a provisional prime minister. Kenya remains engaged in economic and social reforms, including measures to combat corruption and enhance public security domestically. It is also making substantial contributions to peace and stability in African regions, by actively mediating peace talks in Sudan and Somalia. Uganda has witnessed an abatement of anti-government activities in the northern region, but after almost 20 years of disorder more than 1.6 million people have become refugees or internally displaced persons (IDP), and there is a need for humanitarian aid from the international community.

In the East African Community (EAC),[10] a Customs Union protocol was signed and ratified by Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. It is hoped that the customs union, which officially went into effect in January 2005, will further invigorate the economy of the East African region.

Southern Africa

The year 2004 offered evidence of the consolidation of democracy in the Southern African region, with elections being held in South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, Namibia, and Mozambique. In the April general election in South Africa, which was marking the tenth anniversary of its democracy, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) was victorious, and President Thabo Mbeki was reelected. In Botswana, the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) was the victor in the National Assembly election (October), and President Festus Mogae was reelected. The region also saw a succession of peaceful democratic changes of government following presidential elections, with Bingu wa Mutharika taking over as the new president of Malawi (May), Hifikepunye Pohamba moving into office as the new president of Namibia (November), and Armando Emilio Guebuza becoming the new president of Mozambique (December). On the other hand, however, the relations between Zimbabwe, which will have a parliamentary election in March 2005, and the international community remained tense. The EU, the US, and other countries are still imposing sanctions on Zimbabwe because of dissatisfaction with the way the administration of President Robert Mugabe is handling issues of land reform, democracy, and human rights.

The movement toward regional integration centering around the SADC is steadily progressing in Southern Africa. In August 2004, on the occasion of the SADC Summit in Mauritius, the first high-level policy dialogue between Japan and the SADC was held.

Central Africa

A transitional government was established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in July 2003, but the country's future remains quite uncertain, with anti-Rwandan-government forces and other foreign mercenaries said to be based in the country's eastern region and relations with Rwanda still unstable. On the other hand, progress was made toward achieving peace in the region as the first Great Lakes Region Summit,[11] co-

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10. East African Community (EAC): A regional organization composed of the three East African countries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. With its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, it was formally launched at a summit of the three countries in 2001. It is aimed at cooperation in a wide range of fields, including intraregional politics, the economy, society, culture, security, and justice.
11. The presidents of the 11 countries of the Great Lakes Region gathered in Tanzania on November 19–20 for summit talks organized by the UN and the AU. With a view to formulating an action plan to promote regional cooperation, thereby ending the cycle of conflicts in the region, they issued the "Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy, and Development in the Great Lakes Region."

Major Conflicts in Africa (as of February 2005)

Sierra Leone
Outline: Civil war between the government and anti-government forces
Current status: DDR completed in January 2002. Presidential and parliamentary elections held peacefully in May 2002.
Challenges: Economic recovery and the country's own efforts after the withdrawal (scheduled for the end of June 2005) of UNAMSIL (UN PKO)

Liberia
Outline: Civil war between the government and anti-government forces broke out in 1989.
Current status: Civil war halted after July 1997 presidential and national assembly elections, but armed actions by anti-government forces resumed in 2002. A transitional government was inaugurated based on the August 2003 comprehensive peace agreement, and UNMIL (UN PKO) was deployed (October 2003). Peace process advanced in 2004 with full-fledged DDR and return of refugees.
Challenges: Smooth operation of the transitional government, steady support for DDR, etc.

Sudan
Outline: Civil war between the government (northern Arab Muslims) and anti-government forces (southern African Christians) broke out in 1983.
Current status: Current peace process began after terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. With realization of January 2005 comprehensive north-south peace agreement, civil war of more than 20 years is concluded.
Challenges:
(1) Steady implementation of peace process (observance of peace agreement, reconstruction, and reconciliation with anti-government forces)
(2) Resolution of humanitarian problems in western Darfur region

Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict
Outline: Conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea over border demarcation
Current status: A ceasefire was agreed in June 2000, and a peace agreement was signed in December 2000. The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is being deployed.
Issues: Border demarcation, compensation for damages, etc.

Mano River basin countries

Côte d'Ivoire
Outline: Hostilities between government and anti-government forces (New Forces) broke out in September 2002. Peace agreement was concluded in January 2003, but country remains divided between north and south.
Current status: French and UNOCI (UN PKO) forces are overseeing a ceasefire, but the situation deteriorated again in November 2004 when government forces struck at anti-government forces. UN Security Council passed November 2004 resolution imposing arms embargo and freezing personal assets.
Challenges: Rededication by concerned parties to implementing the peace agreement.

Somalia
Outline: A state of anarchy with armed forces holding various territories
Current status: In October 2002 a ceasefire agreement was concluded. In October 2004 Interim President Abudllahi Yusuf Ahmed was elected. In December Interim Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Gedi was appointed, and in January 2005 a transitional government was established in Nairobi. The government's relocation to Mogadishu is awaited.
Issues: Establishment of a federal state.

Horn of Africa

Angola
Outline: Civil war between government and anti-government forces from the time of independence in 1975
Current status: Ceasefire agreement was signed in April 2002.
Issues: Reconstruction of infrastructure, clearance of landmines, repatriation of refugees and displaced persons, reintegration of ex-combatants into society, implementation of national assembly and presidential elections, etc.

The Great Lakes region

Rwanda
Outline: Hostilities between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups
Current status: In May 2003, a new constitution was adopted. Presidential elections were held in August 2003, and parliamentary elections were held from September through October in the same year.
Challenges: National reconciliation, rebuilding of the nation.

Democratic Republic of Congo
Outline: Hostilities between government and anti-government forces, both supported by neighboring countries
Current status: Comprehensive agreement on transitional government established in December 2002. A transitional government was inaugurated in July 2003, but the situation remains unstable in some parts of country.
Issues: "Consolidation of peace" under transitional government, implementation of national assembly and presidential elections.

Burundi
Outline: Hostilities between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups
Current status: In 2001, a transitional government of interethnic collaboration was established. In November 2003, a peace agreement was signed with the largest anti-government group.
Challenges: Reconciliation with the last anti-government group that has refused to participate in the peace talks. Implementation of national assembly and presidential elections.

sponsored by the UN and the AU, was held in Tanzania in November. In 2005, presidential elections or constitutional referendums are scheduled to take place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, the Central African Republic, and Gabon. Central Africa is thus at a crucial juncture in the consolidation of peace and democratization.

There are also examples of democratic progress in Central Africa. For instance, Cameroon held a presidential election in October 2004, and President Paul Biya was reelected to office. In Equatorial Guinea, meanwhile, it was reported that an attempted coup d'état, seemingly by a group of mercenaries, was foiled in March.

West Africa

In Côte d'Ivoire, after anti-government forces staged an uprising in September 2002, the Government of National Reconciliation was established, and French forces and the UN Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) took over the task of maintaining public order. The situation deteriorated in November 2004, however, when fighting broke out after government forces staged attacks against rebel bases, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries. Now, the tasks to be dealt with include the revision and promulgation of the country's constitution and the smooth holding of a presidential election. In other parts of West Africa, where conflicts had been occurring frequently, peace has been steadily taking root. In Liberia,

Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Tanaka meets President Kufuor of Ghana for talks in January.

a provisional government was formed in October 2003, and refugees have been returning home. In Sierra Leone, rebuilding of the state is well underway, following the end of conflict.

In December 2004, presidential elections were held in Niger and Ghana. In both countries, incumbent presidents—President Mamadou Tandja of Niger and President Johon Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana—won second terms. In Nigeria, local rebels in the oil-producing region of the Niger Delta threatened to go to war against the government in September, which was seen as one of the factors behind the global rise in oil prices, but the situation was settled through talks between the rebels and Nigerian President Obasanjo.

Taking a Horse-drawn Carriage to the Imperial Palace, Releasing Ducks to the Skies

Ambassadors of any country start their duties by presenting credentials*[1] to the head of the state*[2] where they are received. Today, there are 136 embassies in Tokyo and the ambassadors are conducting their daily activities to promote good relations between their home countries and Japan. How is Japan viewed by ambassadors accredited here?

In Japan, His Majesty the Emperor receives foreign ambassadors at the Ceremony of the Presentation of Credentials. The average tenure of foreign ambassadors is about three years, hence about 40 new ambassadors arrive each year. This means that Ceremonies of Presentation of Credentials and related preparations constitute a considerable portion of His Majesty's official duties requested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some readers might have witnessed a part of the Ceremony of the Presentation of Credentials: a convoy of specially trained and decorated horses prepared by the Imperial Household carries a new ambassador and members of his/her suite between the Tokyo Station and the Imperial Palace. Escorted by members of the police guard on horses, the new ambassador's team proceeds to the main gate of the Imperial Palace, accompanied by the sounds of horse hooves echoing on the stone-paved path toward the Imperial Palace. At Tokyo Station, a red carpet is prepared and the stationmaster, wearing a white formal uniform, salutes the ambassador to wish him/her a good start. The tradition of using a horse convoy is said to remain only in the United Kingdom (UK), Spain, and Japan. Regardless of the size of the country, every ambassador presents his/her credentials to the Emperor and renews his/her determination to work for his/her country and Japan.

A few months after the Ceremony of the Presentation of Credentials, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, as well as Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess, respectively, host a tea reception for a group of the newly accredited ambassadors. Furthermore, every year all ambassadors and their spouses are invited by Their Majesties to the following three occasions: Their Majesties' New Year Reception in January, Their Majesties' Garden Party at Akasaka Palace in April and His Majesty's Birthday Reception in December. These ceremonies provide the ambassadors with opportunities to closely communicate with Their Majesties and other members of the Imperial Family. Ambassadors are also given opportunities to deepen their cordial exchanges with Their Majesties and other members of the Imperial Family at Court Luncheons. The members of the Imperial Family, except the Emperor and the Crown Prince, often assume the presidency or honorary presidency of various societies promoting friendship with foreign countries. Members of the Imperial Family visit the Imperial Wild Duck Preserve in Niihama and Saitama with ambassadors and jointly demonstrate the Japanese traditional way of catching wild ducks; wild ducks migrating from Russia in winter are led by tamed ducks to the narrow waterway and ambassadors catch them as they are about to take off with a traditional hand-held net. Ambassadors release the caught ducks to the sky by hand after rings are put on their ankles for preservation. This event at the Imperial Wild Duck Preserve gives a wonderful opportunity to introduce the nature, tradition, culture, history and hospitality of Japan to figures who represent all parts of the world.

One of the horse-drawn carriages used for the Ceremony of the Presentation of Credentials (Photo: Imperial Household Agency)

*1 Normally the credentials are presented to the head of state, but in some countries like Canada and New Zealand, they are presented to the Governor General instead.
*2 Credentials take the form of a letter from the head of the sending state addressed to the head of the receiving state. The content of a letter of credence normally includes such friendly expressions as the desire that relations with the receiving state will further advance, affirmation of the reliability of a dispatched ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary or of an envoy equivalent to an ambassador, a request that the head of the receiving state will accord the envoy cordial treatment, and expectation that the receiving state will place utmost confidence in what the envoy will convey in the name of his or her head of state or government. The credentials are customarily handed over at a ceremony, and in Japan's case, they are presented directly to His Majesty the Emperor.