

Section 7

Africa

1 Overview

Africa, with a population of over 1.3 billion in 54 countries, has attracted the interest of the international community, owing to its high potential and rich natural resources. Africa has been influential on multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations. Progress has been made on Africa's own efforts toward economic growth, including the entry into force of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA¹) in May. Furthermore, as symbolized by the fact that the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy, African-led conflict resolution efforts to stabilize the region are in progress.

On the other hand, in addition to conventional existing challenges, such as political instability, serious disparities and poverty, vulnerable health systems, and high unemployment especially among the youth, terrorism and violent extremism continues to be active on the continent. At the same time, new issues have emerged in some countries, such as worsening fiscal situations due to an increase in public debt. Overcoming these challenges is important not only for Africa, but

for the peace and prosperity of the international community as a whole.

In 1993, Japan started the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), under the principles of Africa's ownership (self-help efforts) and international partnership (cooperation), and has been supporting efforts by Africa.

At TICAD7, held in Yokohama in August, discussions on the development of Africa were held under the three pillars of Economy, Society, and Peace and Stability, with the participation of 53 African countries, including 42 leaders, as well as development partner countries, international organizations, and civil society. In particular, business promotion was the main focus of discussion at TICAD7 (see the Opening Special Feature on page 6 and the Special Feature on page 160).

In the first pillar, Economy, it was confirmed that active private sector involvement, improving connectivity through quality infrastructure investment, human resource development, industry diversification including promotion of the blue economy,² and sound fiscal management including debt transparency and sustainability are the keys to sustainable economic growth in Africa.

¹ Signed by African countries in March 2018 at the Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Kigali, Rwanda. Officially entered into force on May 30, 2019, establishing large-scale FTA in Africa with a population of over 1.3 billion people and a GDP of 2.5 trillion US dollars.

² Concept to promote sustainable growth by utilizing marine resources.

In the second pillar, Society, with the aim of moving toward an ever more sustainable and resilient society, there were discussions on the importance of health including the promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Science and Technology Innovation (STI), the environment and disaster prevention, climate change, human resource development and education, and empowering women and youth.

In the third pillar, Peace and Stability, it was confirmed that African-led efforts are progressing in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region. In addition to that, discussions were held on the need for support from the international community to push the African efforts forward, and it was acknowledged that there is a need for further development, and boosting peace and security in the Sahel and other regions.

On the occasion of TICAD7, Japan announced “TICAD7: Japan’s contributions for Africa,” declaring that Japan will (1) Promote Japanese private investment and innovation and support economic transformation that is taking off in Africa while contributing to the improvement of the business environment in Africa to achieve over 20 billion US dollars in private investment (Economy), (2) Contribute to building a resilient and sustainable society including in the health field to realize human security and SDGs, which are foundations of the betterment of livelihood and economic growth (Society), and (3) Implement the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA)³ that supports the African Union (AU) and other organizations-led

mediation and dispute resolution efforts and institution building to support Africa’s forward-looking initiatives (Peace and Stability), which are the preconditions for economic growth, investment, as well as the betterment of livelihood, and also provides support in a proper way to Japan, particularly long-term human resource development.

Furthermore, at the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers’ Meeting chaired by Foreign Minister Motegi, African development was taken up as one of the urgent issues facing the international community, and, based on the outcome of TICAD7, discussions were held on the need to support Africa’s own efforts as the international community. Participating countries expressed high appreciation for TICAD7 and pointed out that it is important for the international community, including the G20, to work closely with regards to African development. In addition, G20 members confirmed that the G20 must play a leading role for the steady promotion and establishment of the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.

Outside of Japan, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani Shinichi attended the 6th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, held in Dakar (Senegal) in November, and the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development held in Aswan (Egypt) in December. In both fora, Parliamentary Vice-Minister Nakatani explained discussions and achievements at TICAD7 and pointed out Japan’s concrete efforts, including NAPSA, toward peace and stability in Africa.

³ A new approach proposed by Prime Minister Abe in August at TICAD7, held in Yokohama City. With respect to African ownership and the idea of addressing the root causes of conflict and terrorism, it proposes (1) African-led initiatives such as conflict prevention, mediation and intervention by the AU, regional economic communities (RECs) and others, (2) institution building and strengthening of governance, and (3) support for preventing youth radicalization and resilience of local communities.

Special
Feature

Japan Business Council for Africa (JBCA)

Known as the largest frontier in the 21st century, Africa is considered to be a continent of future growth with high latent potential due to its rapid economic and population growth, and new products and services in Africa are being created one after another using innovative technologies. Expanding business relationships with African countries is considered to be a key to Japan's future growth as well, and, in fact, Western and Asian countries are rapidly entering the African market.

Against this background, in order to promote business relations including trade and investment between Japan and Africa, the Japan Business Council for Africa (JBCA) was established on June 6 as a permanent platform for Japanese companies, ministries and agencies, and government-related organizations to regularly share information about Africa and exchange opinions on business in Africa.

Establishment of the JBCA was recommended in the "Recommendations by the Japanese Private Sector." These recommendations were adopted in March at the "TICAD7 Public-Private Roundtable Meeting," which was established to discuss measures to promote the expansion of Japanese companies to Africa, based on changes in the business environment since TICAD VI and the progress of the international community's efforts ahead of TICAD7 (August). They recommended that the various existing public-private partnership frameworks outline the cooperation and collaboration needed to support Japanese companies considering an expansion to Africa. As for concrete activities, the JBCA listens to organizations and private companies to collect proposals and priority issues for business development in Africa, and, based on this feedback, relevant ministries and governmental agencies will consider and implement the strengthening or addition of support policies.

Based on requests from Japanese private companies and the African side, business promotion was the main focus of discussion at TICAD7, which considers fast-growing Africa as a partner for mutual growth. The third plenary session in particular, "Public-Private Business Dialogue," was a milestone as, for the first time in TICAD history, private companies from Japan and Africa participated as official partners. The JBCA actively participated in the discussions, and sector-specific working groups (infrastructure, health-care, agriculture, and support for SMEs/startups), established under the JBCA, and announced specific efforts in each sector and proposals to the African side. In response to this, participants from the African side expressed their strong expectations for partnerships with Japanese private companies.

Additionally, the "Recommendations by the Japanese Private Sector" also suggested that a "Committee on the Improvement of the Business Environment" be established as a place for the public and private sectors of Japan and African countries to continuously discuss issues and consider specific solutions in order to solve the various problems facing private companies operating in Africa. Taking advantage of TICAD7, the Government of Japan agreed to set up the Bilateral Committee on the Improvement of the Business Environment with seven African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa). In response to this, the JBCA also established its own "Business Environment Improvement Working Group" and is following up on the state of the business environment in African countries, including the seven aforementioned countries.

The Government of Japan is working to strengthen business relations between Japan and Africa for the next conference, TICAD8, by using its various policy tools to fully support the JBCA's activities as "all-Japan" efforts.



First meeting of the Japan Business Council for Africa (June 6, Tokyo)

2 East Africa

(1) Ethiopia

With the population of more than 100 million and home to the headquarters of the AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Ethiopia is the most populous country in the East Africa region and plays an important political role in the African continent. On the economic front, Ethiopia's economy continues to grow steadily, and aims to become a middle-income country by 2025. In October, it was announced that Prime Minister Abiy would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to peace in the region, including the resumption of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and its neighboring Eritrea, after 20 years of conflict.

Foreign Minister Kono visited Ethiopia in May and met with Prime Minister Abiy and State Minister of Foreign Affairs Markos. In addition, Prime Minister Abiy visited Japan in August with Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedu to participate in TICAD7, and in October, Former President Mulatu visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with both of them respectively. Furthermore, in November, the Exchange of Notes was signed concerning an ODA yen loan (approximately 9.7 billion yen) for a project to upgrade the road between Jimma and Chida.



Japan-Ethiopia Summit Meeting
(August 29, Yokohama; Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

(2) Eritrea

After Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia in 1993, a border dispute that broke out from 1998 to 2000 left the two countries in a state of conflict, but in July 2018, the diplomatic relations were resumed for the first time in 20 years. In addition, in November 2018, a resolution to lift sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council since 2009 was unanimously adopted.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Osman visited Japan in March 2019 upon invitation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and had a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono. Minister of Foreign Affairs Osman visited Japan again in August to participate in TICAD7 and had a meeting with Foreign Minister Kono.

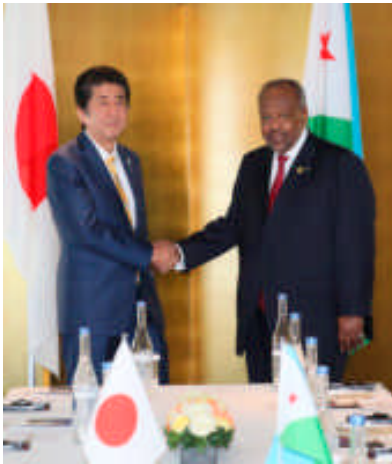
(3) Kenya

Kenya plays a central role in the regional economy with its port of Mombasa, the largest in East Africa, serving as a gateway to East and Central Africa. Kenya also contributes to the peace and stability of the region as a stabilizing force in East Africa by engaging in efforts to build peace in Somalia, South Sudan, and elsewhere. In domestic affairs, President Kenyatta launched in 2017 the BIG4 five-year economic development plan consisting of four pillars in the fields of (1) manufacturing, (2) food security, (3) universal health coverage, and (4) affordable housing, and is engaged in a new nation building effort.

A number of important ministers, including Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Juma, visited Japan in August with President Kenyatta to attend TICAD7 and had meetings with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono.

(4) Djibouti

Djibouti, situated at one of the great trade arteries that passes through the Indian Ocean and connects Europe and Asia, is aiming to be a distribution hub of East Africa. It is a base for international security and is also a key country in achieving a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)."



Japan-Djibouti Summit Meeting
(August 29, Yokohama;
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

Since 2011, Djibouti has been hosting the facility of Japan Self-Defense Forces to carry out Japan's counter-piracy operations, and the two countries have been developing an excellent relationship. President Guelleh and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Youssouf visited Japan in August 2019 to attend TICAD7 and President Guelleh had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, Prime Minister Abdoukader visited Japan in October for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and had a meeting with Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Kihara Minoru and Minister of Defense Kono. In December, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Kihara and Minister of Defense Kono each visited Djibouti, making 2019 a year for active exchange of high-ranking officials.

In September, the Exchange of Notes was signed for ODA grant aid (grant limit of approximately 4.1 billion yen) for "The Project for the Reinforcement of Maritime Transport Capacity at the Gulf of Tadjourah," and, additionally, in case of heavy rain and flood disaster in November, a part of the Self-Defense Forces unit originally deployed for anti-piracy operations conducted

International Disaster Relief Operations such as drainage and cleaning work at an elementary school and transferring emergency relief goods provided by Japan.

(5) Sudan

Sudan is the second largest country by area in Sub-Saharan Africa, and is blessed with crude oil, minerals, as well as water resources and fertile arable land from the Nile River. In April, the Bashir administration, which had been in power for 30 years, collapsed, and the domestic security situation temporarily deteriorated. However, in August, a new provisional government based on power sharing between the armed forces and the people was established, with an agreement to form a new government by holding democratic elections after an interim three-year period. The new provisional government has put priorities on the end of the civil war and economic revitalization and aims to realize nation building in coordination and cooperation with the international community.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ilham attended the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region held at TICAD7.⁴

(6) Seychelles

Although Seychelles has the highest gross national income per capita (GNI) of 15,600 US dollars (2018) in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is a small island country with vulnerabilities in fields such as climate change and disaster prevention.

In January, the Embassy of Japan in Seychelles was newly established. In August, President Danny Faure and Secretary of State Ambassador Barry Faure visited Japan to attend TICAD7. They met with Prime Minister Abe and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato Masahisa, and confirmed the

⁴ Following the decision of the AU to suspend Sudan's AU membership (June to September 5, 2019), Sudan did not participate in the TICAD7 plenary session but did participate in the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region.

strong bilateral relationship between Japan and Seychelles. In addition, in October, the Exchange of Notes was signed regarding ODA grant aid for the Project for the Capacity Improvement of Maritime Safety (800 million yen).

(7) Somalia

In Somalia, a unified government was established in 2012 for the first time in 21 years, but Somalia is still in the process of building a country due to the humanitarian crises, such as droughts and continuing activities by the terrorist organization Al-Shabaab.

In August, President Mohamed visited Japan to participate in TICAD7 and met with Prime Minister Abe. In October, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdulkadir visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and met with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Keisuke. In November, the signing and exchange of notes regarding ODA grant aid (approximately 500 million yen) took place to provide Somalia with the equipment and data for creating topographic maps and to support improvements in map-making capacity.

(8) Madagascar

The presidential election in Madagascar was peacefully held in 2018, following the presidential election in 2013, and President Rajoelina was elected. Based on the democratic outcomes of the last five years, Madagascar's economic growth is expected to accelerate.

2019 was a year for active exchange of high-ranking officials. In January, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Akiba Kenya (member of the House of Representatives), attended President Rajoelina's inauguration ceremony, and afterwards Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada Kenji also visited Madagascar. In addition, President Rajoelina visited Japan in

August to participate in TICAD7.

On the economic front, the integrated production of nickel and cobalt ores, which is the largest mining investment in Africa by a Japanese company, is contributing to Madagascar's economy. In addition, Japan is supporting the expansion of Toamasina Port, Madagascar's largest port, with yen loans.

(9) South Sudan

Turmoil has continued in South Sudan since the clashes in the capital, Juba, in December 2013. Mediation efforts by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)⁵ are ongoing. The Khartoum Declaration relating to a permanent ceasefire was issued in June after the second conflict in July 2016, and President Kiir, former first Vice President Machar, and others signed a reinvigorated conflict resolution agreement in September. However, the establishment of the new transitional government was realized only in February 2020 after two postponements, in May and November 2019, due to provisional security measures and problems with borders and the number of states.

Foreign Minister Kono visited South Sudan in May, and Vice President Igga visited Japan in August to participate in TICAD7.

(10) Rwanda

In 2019, 25 years after the Rwandan genocide, under the leadership of President Kagame, the country continues working toward economic growth and national reconciliation. In recent years, Rwanda has garnered interest from Japanese companies mainly in the field of information and communication technology (ICT), and, against this backdrop, 2019 was a year which saw a heightened momentum for further promotion of Japan-Rwanda relations.

In January, President Kagame visited Japan and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe

⁵ IGAD: a regional economic community in eastern Africa.



Japan-Rwanda Summit Meeting
(August 29, Yokohama;
Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

and a business forum. In March, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada visited Rwanda and attended the Africa CEO Forum,⁶ where he discussed the upcoming TICAD, and held talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sezibera and Minister of ICT and Innovation Ingabire. In August, President Kagame visited Japan for the sixth time to participate in TICAD7, and held the second Japan-Rwanda Summit Meeting for 2019.

The fields of cooperation between Japan and Rwanda are expanding, and, in September, Rwanda's RWASAT-1, jointly assembled by Rwandan engineers and the University of Tokyo, was launched into orbit.

3 Southern Africa

(1) Angola

Since the inauguration of President Lourenço (2017), the Government of Angola has been promoting economic reforms, including actively exposing corruption by individuals connected to the former dos Santos administration, fiscal and financial reforms including the introduction of a VAT, a reform of the exchange rate system, and improvements to the investment environment.

Angola is also working on diversifying the economy to depart from an economic structure that relies on natural resources.

In August, President Lourenço participated in TICAD7 for the first time as Angola's incumbent President, and demonstrated Angola's stance of attaching importance to the relationship with Japan by having a large number of accompanying ministers attend the meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In October, a technical cooperation agreement was signed, which is expected to further contribute to the social and economic development of Angola.

(2) Eswatini

Eswatini remains an absolute monarchy, with King Mswati III having overwhelming power in administration and legislation. The parliament remains an advisory body, and the royal family occupies important positions within the government. On April 19, 2018, it was announced that the country's name would be changed from the "Kingdom of Swaziland" to the "Kingdom of Eswatini," and the change came into force that same day. Eswatini has become the only country in Africa to have diplomatic relations with Taiwan after Burkina Faso severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 2018.

In August, Prime Minister Dlamini visited Japan to participate in TICAD7, and in October, King Mswati III visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. Both of them had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe during their visits. In addition, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki made a courtesy call to King Mswati III during the Sixth Replenishment Conference of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria held in Lyon (France).

(3) Zimbabwe

Former President Mugabe, who had been in power since Zimbabwe's independence in 1980

⁶ An international conference started in 2012, bringing together in one place business owners, investors, and government officials from inside and outside Africa for the purpose of conducting discussions focused on private investment in Africa.

until 2017, passed away in September 2019. While there has been little progress on reforms after the administration change, natural disasters such as droughts and hurricanes have caused great damages, leaving concern about the impacts on Zimbabwe's economy and on people's lives.

Taking every opportunity for the exchange of high-ranking officials, Japan has been continuously emphasizing directly to government officials, including the president, about the importance of promoting democracy and economic development in Zimbabwe, and Japan expects that President Mnangagwa and his administration will promote democracy and steadily implement economic reforms. In August, many ministers from Zimbabwe, including President Mnangagwa and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Moyo, visited Japan to participate in TICAD7, and held a summit meeting and a foreign ministers' meeting.

(4) Namibia

Namibia has abundant marine and mineral resources, and, as a distribution hub on the Atlantic side of the Southern Africa region, it is expected that trade and investment will expand in the fields of resource development and energy. March 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of Namibia's independence.

In August, President Geingob visited Japan to participate in TICAD7 and met with Prime Minister Abe. In November, the Namibian team participated as the African representative in the Rugby World Cup 2019, which was held in Japan for the first time and deepened grass root exchanges through sports.

(5) Malawi

Malawi is a landlocked country in Southern Africa that has maintained relatively stable domestic affairs since its independence in 1964, but the domestic situation remains fluid due in part to frequent demonstrations organized by human rights groups since the May 2019 presidential election.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has dispatched a total of more than 1,800 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Malawi, the most in the world, and Malawi has deep grassroots exchanges with Japan, such as implementing the One Village One Product movement, which is the first in Africa, to cultivate specialty products for each region.

In August, Vice President Chimulirenji visited Japan to attend TICAD7 and had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

(6) South Africa

South Africa is the only African country that is a G20 member. It continues to garner attention from foreign companies including Japanese companies as a major economic power in Africa and as a base from which to carry out business expansion. South Africa has, for the third time, been serving as a member of the UN Security Council since 2019, and has a strong presence in the international arena.

In May, the incumbent President Ramaphosa was reelected in a general election, and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Seki Yoshihiro (State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry) attended President Ramaphosa's inauguration ceremony in May, reconfirming to strengthen bilateral relations between Japan and South Africa, focusing on trade and investment.

President Ramaphosa visited Japan in June and August to attend the G20 Osaka Summit and TICAD7 respectively, and had meetings with Prime Minister Abe. At the G20 Osaka Summit, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Pandor had a meeting with Foreign Minister Kono, witnessing the good progress of the bilateral relations. In November, President Ramaphosa visited Japan to watch the finals of the Rugby World Cup 2019 in which South Africa achieved its third victory, and 2019 resulted in a great year for bilateral exchanges in sports.

(7) Mozambique

Mozambique is rich in natural resources especially in the Nacala Corridor region, and Japanese companies have shown great interest in Mozambique, including one that announced their participation in Mozambique's natural gas development projects in 2019.

In August, former President Chissano and Minister of Economy and Finance Maleiane visited Japan to participate in TICAD7 and met with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono. In addition, President of the Assembly of the Republic Macamo visited Japan in October for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and there were also active inter-parliamentary exchanges, such as meeting with the presidents of Japan's House of Representatives and Councilors. In October, the incumbent President Nyusi was reelected in the presidential election, and the ruling party won an absolute majority. In January 2020, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Mihara Asahiko (Member of the House of Representatives) attended President Nyusi's inauguration ceremony.

(8) Lesotho

Lesotho is a landlocked country surrounded by South Africa, composed mostly of mountainous highlands, and continues to grow economically through mining and water resources development. In addition, trout aquaculture is carried out in the lake of the Katse Dam constructed by utilizing natural resources, providing a major export product to Japan.

In August, Prime Minister Thabane visited Japan to participate in TICAD7 and had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, in October, King Letsie III and Queen Masenate visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and King Letsie III had a meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

4 Central Africa

(1) Cameroon

In November 2018, President Biya established a National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee (DDR) in order to stabilize the English-speaking regions, where independence movement is occurring, and the Far North region threatened by the Islamic extremist organization of Boko Haram. In September 2019, Prime Minister Ngute chaired a national dialogue on the situation in North-West and South-West regions that belongs to the English-speaking regions.

In August, Minister of External Relations Mbella Mbella attended TICAD7 and had a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Kono.

(2) Democratic Republic of the Congo

President Tshisekedi was elected in the December 2018 presidential election, took office in January 2019, and established a new ruling coalition in August.

The Ebola outbreak continued in some of the eastern regions, and in July, the World Health Organization declared that it was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Japan provided emergency relief goods and emergency grant aid as well as dispatching Japan Disaster Relief Infectious Diseases Response Teams.



Japan-Democratic Republic of the Congo Foreign Ministers' Meeting (October 21, Tokyo)

In August, President Tshisekedi attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In October, State Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Tumba visited Japan and had a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi.

(3) Central Africa

President Tuadera, in cooperation with the international community, is continuing efforts to revitalize the country from the longstanding political instability. In Khartoum (Sudan) in January, negotiations were held between the Central African Government and armed groups, under mediation from the AU and the UN, and a peace agreement was signed on February 6.

In August, President Tuadera attended TICAD7 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

5 West Africa

(1) Ghana

Since President Akufo-Addo took office in 2017, his administration has adopted the concept of Ghana Beyond Aid, and is working to attract investment from foreign companies. Many Japanese companies are also expanding their business in Ghana.

As Japan and Ghana have a friendly bilateral relationship, 2019 also turned out to be a year for active exchange of high-ranking officials. In June, the 2nd High-Quality Infrastructure Conference was held in Accra, in which State Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Otsuka Takashi participated. In addition, in August, President Akufo-Addo attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In October, First Lady Rebecca Akufo-Addo attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor, and the chief attendant and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Charles Owiredu met with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki.

(2) Guinea

Guinea has been playing a role as a stabilizing force in the West African region by promoting regional cooperation in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and by accepting refugees from neighboring countries. On the other hand, since October, the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC), which opposes a constitutional amendment that could allow a third term for President Condé, announced that it would hold demonstrations indefinitely and all over Guinea. Demonstrations have been held regularly since then, and there have also been conflicts between demonstrators and security forces.

In August President Condé attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

(3) Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau peacefully held parliamentary elections in March, and Japan cooperated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide approximately 1 million US dollars in support. In August, Prime Minister Gomes attended TICAD7 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Afterwards, President Vaz completed his term peacefully, the first ever case since independence. Following this, the first and second votes in the presidential election were held in November and December respectively. Japan cooperated with the UNDP to provide approximately 750,000 US dollars in support for that.

(4) Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire has maintained an average annual growth rate of approximately 8% in recent years and has been a driving force in the West African economy as a regional logistics hub.

Japan has maintained cordial relations with Côte d'Ivoire since its independence. In August, Prime Minister Coulibaly attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In

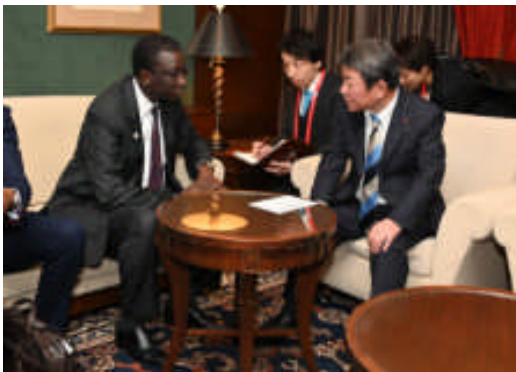
October, President Ouattara visited Japan for the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

On the economic front, Japanese companies still maintain a high interest in Côte d'Ivoire, and on January 13, 2020, the Japan-Cote d'Ivoire Investment Agreement was signed in Abidjan.

(5) Senegal

Against a background of good bilateral relations, 2019 continued to be a year for active exchange of high-ranking officials between Japan and Senegal. A number of Japanese officials visited Senegal, including the January visit by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamada to attend the Third Edition of the International Conference on the Emergence of Africa, the April visit by Special Envoy of the Prime Minister Mr. Kitamura Seigo (member of the House of Representatives) to attend the inauguration ceremony (reelection) of President Sall, and the November visit by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani to attend the 6th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa.

From Senegal, in June, President Sall attended the G20 Osaka Summit and relevant Ministers participated in a series of G20-related ministerial meetings. In August, President Sall attended TICAD7 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Furthermore, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad Ba attended the



Japan-Senegal Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(November 23, Nagoya)

G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting and had a meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi.

(6) Togo

After parliamentary elections in December 2018, the second Komi Klassou cabinet was formed in January 2019. Currently, third-term President Gnassingbe is working to improve the investment environment with the aim of reducing poverty through economic growth, and in November, a Japanese corporate mission by JICA and JETRO visited Togo.

In August, President Gnassingbe attended TICAD7 and held a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, in October, President Gnassingbe revisited Japan to attend the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor. As President Gnassingbe also attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor for Emperor Heisei in 1989 as the Presidential Representative back then, this was his second consecutive time to attend the Ceremony.

(7) Nigeria

Nigeria, with the largest population and economy in Africa, has high economic potential. While many Japanese companies are interested in expanding into Nigeria, the country is facing the problem of terrorism, mainly in the northeastern region, by Boko Haram and Islamic State (IS) West Africa Province (ISWAP).

As a result of the February presidential election, incumbent President Buhari was re-elected. President Buhari's slogan is to guide Nigeria to the "Next Level," and he has positioned economy, security, and anti-corruption measures as the three pillars to be prioritized.

Japan and Nigeria maintain amicable bilateral relations, and 2019 was a very active year for exchange of high-ranking officials. In June, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, Mr. Shunsuke Takei (member of the House of Representatives) attended Democracy Day ceremonies and made a courtesy call to President Buhari.

In August, President Buhari attended TICAD7 and met with Prime Minister Abe. In November, Speaker of the House of Representatives Gbajabiamila visited Japan at the invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan Oshima Tadamori, and paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Abe.

(8) Niger

Niger, one of the Sahel countries, has recently faced the threat of terrorism from the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) and ISAWP.

President Issoufou visited Japan in August and October to attend TICAD7 and the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor respectively, and held summit meetings with Prime Minister Abe.

(9) Burkina Faso

The political situation in Burkina Faso has been comparatively stable since current President Kaboré was chosen in the November 2015 presidential election. On the other hand, there have been a number of terrorist incidents in recent years, and in January 2019, a state of emergency was declared in the eastern, northern, and south-western regions, which remains in effect.

In August, President Kaboré attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. In addition, in October, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Barry attended the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and had a foreign ministers' meeting with Foreign Minister Motegi.

(10) Benin

Since President Talon, who used to work as a businessman, was elected in the March 2016 presidential election, his administration is aiming to realize sustainable economic and social growth under the Government Action Program (PAG), the government's strategic policy.

In August, President Talon visited Japan to attend TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with

Prime Minister Abe, where they discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena.

(11) Mali

In 2015, a peace and reconciliation agreement was signed between the government and northern militants in Mali. Currently, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), French troops, and part of the G5 Sahel Joint Force (with the participation of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger) are deployed to Mali to address the threat of terrorism. Nonetheless, terrorist incidents are successively occurring.

In response to such a situation in Mali, Japan is assisting the country with providing security maintenance equipment, strengthening the capacity of the national police, and supporting the PKO training center in collaboration with UN agencies.

In August, President Keïta attended TICAD7 and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe.

(12) Mauritania

Mauritania is blessed with marine resources. Japan started cooperating with Mauritania in the fisheries sector in 1977, and the fisheries industry has developed into one of Mauritania's major industries. In particular, approximately 40% of its octopus exports go to Japan.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visiting an elementary school supported by Japan (February 27, Mauritania)

In February, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sato visited Mauritania and, in addition to paying a courtesy call on President Aziz, visited an elementary school constructed by the support of Japan.

In addition, Prime Minister Sidiya attended

TICAD7 in August and had a summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe. Moreover, in November, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani paid a courtesy call on President Ghazouani at the 6th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa.