

Section 8

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.

At the same time, Africa still faces challenges such as conflicts and political turmoil that threaten peace and stability, terrorism and violent extremism, and the serious poverty and development issues. Overcoming these challenges in Africa is also important for the peace and prosperity of the international community as a whole.

In 2020, infections of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spread across Africa as well. The number of COVID-19 cases in Africa has increased at a slow pace since the first case was confirmed in Egypt in February. After peaking in August, the number of newly confirmed cases decreased mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa, but since fall 2020, the number of infections has started to rise again in some countries, and Africa experienced a second wave after the end of the year. With many countries having weak healthcare systems, COVID-19 in Africa is likely to continue to be a serious issue.

Japan has been contributing to the development of Africa for many years through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), which boasts a history of more than 25

years, based on the basic principles of African ownership and partnership with the international community. Through this initiative, Japan has been making efforts with a focus on the protection and empowerment of individuals based on the concept of human security.

Under this vision, Japan has supported health and medical systems in Africa in the medium to long term through TICAD. The concrete results of these efforts have been demonstrated during the recent spread of COVID-19. For example, Japan has provided support for the establishment of the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana and assisted in the training of its medical laboratory technologists. The Institute serves as the hub of the country's response to COVID-19 and processes up to about 80% of PCR tests carried out in the country.

As the spread of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Africa's economy and society, Japan has engaged in a multilayered approach in its efforts including support for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Africa, based on the concept of human security with the aim of "leaving no one's health behind." The following are examples of these efforts; First, Japan enhanced Africa's ability to respond to COVID-19 by supporting the improvement of medical equipment and training medical staff. In fact, in response to the spread of COVID-19, Japan provided support

such as capacity building and provision of health and medical equipment to 48 out of 54 African countries (as of December 2020) according to their individual circumstances through bilateral approaches or international organizations. Second, to build a robust and comprehensive health and medical system, Japan is, for example, supporting the Kenya Medical Research Institute, and is developing human resources to disseminate maternal and child health handbooks in Ghana. Third, as a response to socio-economic issues, Japan provided humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons due to damage from desert locusts and floods, and the threats of terrorism and war. Furthermore, in the field of peace and stability, Japan contributed to institution building including support through the PKO Training Centers under the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA) announced by Japan at TICAD7 in August 2019.

The 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) will be held in

Tunisia in 2022. This will be the second time TICAD is held in Africa, since TICADVI in Kenya in 2016. Looking ahead to TICAD8, Japan will actively tackle various African development challenges that have been highlighted due to the spread of COVID-19.

In December 2020, despite challenges the COVID-19 pandemic poses to high level visits, Foreign Minister Motegi made his first visit to Africa after taking office as Minister, travelling to Tunisia, the TICAD8 host country, and three Southeast African countries facing the Indian Ocean—Mozambique, South Africa and Mauritius. In January 2021, he visited Senegal and Kenya, becoming the first Japanese Foreign Minister to visit a total of six African countries in two months.

During these visits, Foreign Minister Motegi met with the leaders and foreign ministers of each country and confirmed to promote African development leading up to TICAD8 and to strengthen business relations, looking ahead to the post COVID era. The Minister also exchanged views and confirmed to cooperate to achieve the vision of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).” Foreign Minister Motegi’s two visits to Africa put into practice “diplomacy with a sense of caring and robustness” in Africa to maintain and strengthen a free and open international order based on the rule of law, and laid the foundation for Japan to exercise leadership in shaping a post-COVID-19 international order.



Japan-Mauritius Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(December 13, Vacoas-Phoenix, Mauritius)



Courtesy call to President Sall of Senegal
(January 11, 2021, Dakar, Senegal)

2 East Africa

(1) Uganda

Under President Yoweri Museveni’s long-serving administration since 1986, Uganda has enjoyed sustained economic growth owing to its stable domestic politics, and has contributed to regional stability as a major actor in East Africa. Uganda also actively accepts refugees, including South Sudanese refugees staying in the northern part of the country.

Following the damage caused by desert locusts,

Japan provided Emergency Grant Aid of approximately 66 million Japanese yen through the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in June.

(2) Ethiopia

Ethiopia, which has the second largest population in Africa (110 million people), holds an important position in African politics, serving as the location of the African Union (AU) headquarters. It also recorded a solid economic growth rate until 2019. In March, in response to the damage from desert locusts, about 3.3 billion yen was provided for food assistance through the WFP.

In April, as COVID-19 spread, Japan requested support from the Ethiopian government, and Japanese nationals residing in African countries were able to leave Africa through Ethiopia via flights on Ethiopian Airlines (see the Opening Special Feature on page 2). During a summit telephone call with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed that month, Prime Minister Abe expressed his gratitude for Ethiopia's support for the repatriation of Japanese nationals.

(3) Kenya

Kenya plays a central role in the regional economy with its port of Mombasa, the largest port 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 its efforts including its engagement in peacebuilding in Somalia, South Sudan, and elsewhere. Under the leadership of President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Kenyan economy has achieved solid growth in recent years but has been hit hard by the spread of COVID-19 and lockdown measures. In March, Japan provided Emergency Grant Aid for food assistance of approximately 396 million Japanese yen through the WFP in response to the damage caused by desert locusts.

At the Japan-Kenya Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in France in October, the Ministers exchanged opinions on cooperation for realizing universal



Japan-Kenya Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(January 13, 2021, Nairobi, Kenya)

health coverage and coordination for TICAD8. In January 2021, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Kenya and paid a courtesy call to President Kenyatta and met with Foreign Minister Raychelle Awuor Omamo and Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Heritage Dr. Amina Mohamed.

(4) Union of the Comoros

Union of the Comoros is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean and its long-standing political instability and agricultural-based economy affected by climatic conditions have become obstacles to economic growth and social development. In January, Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation at the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Dr. Takiddine Yousouf visited Japan to meet with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani Shinichi.

(5) Djibouti

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

In August, the two countries exchanged notes concerning grant aid to expand access to basic

education and improve school environment, with a maximum grant limit of 2.092 billion yen.

(6) 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. The country has potential for economic development, but its development has been hampered by a long civil war totaling about 40 years since independence. In April 2019, the Bashir administration, which had been in power for 30 years, collapsed. In August, a new provisional government based on power sharing between the armed forces and the people was established. The new provisional government has prioritized a complete end to the civil war, and in October 2020, signed a peace agreement with the Sudan Revolutionary Front. In addition to the agreement to normalize diplomatic relations with Israel, relations with the international community are improving significantly, such as the resumption of support from international financial institutions following its removal by the U.S. from the list of state sponsors of terrorism. The international community has welcomed the changes in Sudan, and the Sudan Partnership Conference was held in Berlin in June, with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Keisuke participating from Japan online. At the conference, each country announced its support for Sudan totaling 1.8 billion US dollars.

(7) Seychelles

Although Seychelles has the highest gross national income per capita (GNI) of 16,900 US dollars (2019) in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is a small island country with vulnerabilities in fields such as climate change and disaster prevention.

At the end of October, presidential and national assembly elections were held peacefully, with the opposition candidate Wavel Ramkalawan winning with 54.9% of the vote, with the opposition Seychelles Democratic Alliance party, headed by

Ramkalawan, taking 25 out of 35 seats. It is the first democratic election in the history of Seychelles' internal affairs that has led to a change of government since the 1977 coup d'état.

(8) Somalia

In Somalia, the federal government was officially reestablished 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 floods, as well as continuing activities by the terrorist organization Al-Shabaab.

In March, Japan provided food assistance of about 341 million Japanese yen through the WFP following damage from desert locusts.

(9) Madagascar

Madagascar is an island country situated at the gateway to eastern and southern Africa, which celebrated its 60th anniversary of independence in 2020. Japan is supporting the project to extend Toamasina Port, the country's largest port, with an ODA yen loan, as one of the key countries to realize a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

In July, Japan exchanged notes with Madagascar concerning grant aid through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, which contributes to improving children's nutrition and health services. On the economic front, investments by a Japanese company is contributing to the Madagascar's economy with the integrated production of nickel and cobalt ores, which is the largest mining investment in Africa.

(10) 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) are ongoing. After the second clashes in July 2016, the Khartoum Declaration of Agreement between parties of the conflict of South Sudan was issued in June 2018, and President Kiir, former first Vice President Machar, and others signed the

Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan in September 2018. The establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity was realized only in February 2020, after being postponed twice in May and November 2019. Future important challenges in domestic affairs include reform of the security sector (integration of the national army and opposition forces), reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, establishment of a new constitution, and holding presidential elections at the end of provisional period.

(11) Mauritius

Mauritius is an island country at the center of marine transportation on the Indian Ocean, and is one of key countries for realizing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

From August to September, Japan dispatched Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Teams in response to an oil leakage off the coast of the country. In December, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Mauritius for the first time as Japan's foreign minister and met with Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Nandcoomar Bodha. Foreign Minister Motegi inspected the extent of the damages from the oil spill and the status of recovery (see the Special Feature on page 167).

3 Southern Africa

(1) Angola

In March, President João Lourenço declared a state of emergency at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic and introduced strict regulations, including the suspension of international flights. Under these circumstances, Japan provided support including distributing sanitary products such as masks and disinfectants to healthcare centers as a part of the technical cooperation “Project for Improving Maternal and Child Health Handbook” that has been ongoing since 2017.

(2) Eswatini

Eswatini remains an absolute monarchy, with King Mswati III having overwhelming power in administration and legislation. In April 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.

(3) Zambia

With abundant mineral resources, Zambia has been working on economic diversification in recent years to break its economy away from over-dependence on minerals.

In July, Japan exchanged notes with Zambia concerning grant aid with a maximum of 2.654 billion Japanese yen to improve and upgrade health centers into district hospitals in Copperbelt Province.

(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.

In September, Japan exchanged notes with Namibia concerning grant aid to provide vocational training centers with training equipment for industrial human resources development.

(5) Botswana

Botswana was the first country in Africa to adopt the Japanese terrestrial digital broadcasting system (ISDB-T system) in 2013 and is moving forward with the change to terrestrial digital broadcasting and the use of data broadcasting. In April, Japan and Botswana exchanged notes concerning grant aid to promote terrestrial digital television broadcasting receivers based on the Japanese system with a grant amount of 150 million Japanese yen.

Response to the Oil Leakage off the Coast of Mauritius

On July 25 (local time), the bulk carrier “WAKASHIO” got stranded off the southern-east coast of Mauritius. About 1,000 tons of fuel oil leaked from the ship from August 6 (local time), causing serious damage over the environment in the affected area, which could have a serious impact on the country’s tourism industry as well.

In response, Japan decided to dispatch Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Expert Teams (19 members in total) three times to the Republic of Mauritius, holistically considering circumstances, including the request for urgent assistance from the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the friendly relationship between the two countries. From August 12 to 21, the first team (comprising six members) conducted marine pollution surveys and offered training on oil removal and control to the National Coast Guard of Mauritius. The second team (comprising seven members), active from August 21 to September 11, and the third team (comprising six members), active from September 4 to 18, conducted environmental impact surveys on the coral reef ecosystems, mangroves and birds. The first and second teams also carried and provided equipment.

On September 7, Foreign Minister Motegi held a telephone call with Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth of Mauritius. Foreign Minister Motegi explained that the Government of Japan took the accident very seriously and expressed his intention to advance an unprecedented scale of cooperation from the mid- and long-term perspectives in a swift manner toward the restoration and revival of Mauritius. This includes the following areas of cooperation: (1) maritime safety; (2) recovering the environment; (3) restoring the livelihoods of the people engaged in fishery; and (4) recovery and development of the Mauritian economy. In response, Prime Minister Jugnauth expressed his appreciation for the immediate dispatches of the JDR Expert Teams as well as the proposal of future cooperation, and expressed his expectation to receive Japan’s continuous support. Toward the realization of the abovementioned cooperation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) survey missions were dispatched first from October 24 and then from November 22.

In December, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Mauritius. During the courtesy call to Prime Minister Jugnauth,



Foreign Minister Motegi paying a courtesy call to Prime Minister Jugnauth (December 13, Vacoas-Phoenix, Mauritius)



Foreign Minister Motegi inspecting the extent of damages from the oil spill and the status of recovery in Mauritius (December 13, Riviere Des Creoles estuary, Mauritius)



Visit to the JDR team by Prime Minister Jugnauth (August 13, Blue Bay, Mauritius; Photo: JICA)

Foreign Minister Motegi presented the progress on the cooperation committed to at the telephone call in September. Touching on the activities of the JICA survey teams, he conveyed that: (1) a technical cooperation project in the areas of environment and fishery would be initiated as soon as possible based on the result of the survey; (2) a technical cooperation project for preventing maritime accidents would be implemented at the earliest possible date, and preparations were ongoing to enable the early implementation of grant aid to support the monitoring of maritime navigation; and (3) implementation of swift financial support based on the request of the Government of Mauritius and the dispatch of a Public-Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment to Mauritius would be considered for recovering and developing the economy of Mauritius. Foreign Minister Motegi stated that he would like to achieve more steadfast bilateral relations than ever before by building on these supports. During the same visit, Foreign Minister Motegi also held a meeting with Mr. Nandcoomar Bodha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and inspected the extent of damages from the oil spill and status of recovery while receiving a briefing from Mr. Sudheer Maudhoo, Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping.

Japan will continue to cooperate closely with the relevant countries and organizations as well as the private sector, in order for Mauritius to recover the environment in the affected area, overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, and restore the economy and people’s livelihoods as soon as possible.

(6) Malawi

Malawi has maintained relatively stable domestic affairs since its independence in 1964, but there have been frequent demonstrations since the May 2019 presidential election. In February 2020, the constitutional court ruled to invalidate the outcome of the election, and in a repeat election held in June, the leader of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), Lazarus Chakwera, defeated the incumbent and became president.

(7) South Africa

South Africa is the only G20 member in Africa. It continues to garner attention from foreign companies including Japanese companies as a major economic power in Africa and as a hub 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.

Following the spread of COVID-19, in addition to implementing domestic measures, President Cyril Ramaphosa has been leading Africa's efforts to fight the pandemic as the AU chair.

In January, the 7th Joint Committee Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation between South Africa and Japan was held in the capital Pretoria, where the two countries confirmed bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology. In December, Foreign Minister Motegi visited South Africa and held a foreign ministers' meeting with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor as well as a telephone talk with President Ramaphosa.

(8) 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. However, since the latter half of 2019, the security situation in Cabo Delgado Province in the north has deteriorated,



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(December 11, Maputo, Mozambique)

and President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi has been working to strengthen security measures while seeking cooperation with donor countries and neighboring countries. Japan allocated part of its food assistance via the WFP, granted through an exchange of notes in September, to support internally displaced persons in the province. In October, Japan decided to provide Emergency Grant Aid in collaboration with five international organizations, and continues to cooperate toward the realization of regional peace and stability.

In January, Mihara Asahiko, acting President of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League, attended the presidential inauguration ceremony as a special envoy of the prime minister. In December, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Mozambique and met with President Nyusi and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Veronica Macamo.

(9) 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. Trout aquaculture is carried out in the lake of the Katse Dam constructed by utilizing natural resources, providing a major export product to Japan.

Japan exchanged notes with Lesotho for food assistance through the WFP in September in response to the droughts, heat waves and floods that have significantly reduced crop yields.

4 Central Africa

(1) Cameroon

In Cameroon, various security problems are occurring in the English-speaking regions in the Northwest and Southwest regions. Under the direction of President Paul Biya, the country is tackling the challenge of stabilizing these regions based on the national dialogue in 2019 on the situations in the Northwest and Southwest regions. On December 6, the regional election was held for the first time to promote decentralization, including in the English-speaking regions.

In 2020, Japan and Cameroon celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Japan has friendly relations with Cameroon, and cooperation is progressing in various fields, such as sports exchanges and development cooperation.

(2) Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the 11th outbreak of the Ebola virus disease declared in June in Equatorial Province ended in November. President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo is working to stabilize the eastern region, where the activities of armed groups such as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF, Ugandan rebels) have created major security challenges, and is also advancing various domestic reforms including anti-corruption measures.

Japan maintains excellent bilateral relations with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Japan has long supported the DRC's National Institute of Professional Preparation and has contributed to the country's economic development through the development of industrial human resources. In addition, the National Institute of Biomedical Research (Institut National pour la Recherche Biomédicale INRB), which Japan has been supporting for the expansion of testing facilities and the development of infectious disease

specialists, plays a central role in the country's measures against Ebola and COVID-19.

(3) Central African Republic

In Central African Republic, under leadership of President Faustin Archange Touadéra, efforts are underway for peace and stability based on a peace agreement with armed groups. Although opposition parties and some armed groups demanded that the presidential election be postponed and the security situation deteriorated temporarily, the first round of voting in the presidential election was held on December 27, and President Touadéra was re-elected.

Japan has friendly relations with Central African Republic, and in 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Japan, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), has contributed to institution building in Central African Republic by providing 248 million Japanese yen in support for the presidential election mentioned above.

(4) Gabon

Gabon is a politically stable country with no experience of civil war or conflict, while it is located in the politically unstable Central Africa region. President Ali Bongo is engaged in diversification of the country's economy, with the aim of transitioning from an oil-dependent economy, including strengthening the timber processing field. With the cabinet reshuffle in July, the Osouka Raponda Cabinet was inaugurated, resulting in the country's first female prime minister.

Japan has friendly relations with Gabon, and in 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Japan is cooperating mainly in the fields of infectious disease control and environmental conservation.

5 West Africa

(1) Ghana

The administration of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has adopted the vision of “Ghana Beyond Aid,” and has been working to attract investment and diversify industry since he assumed the presidency in 2017. Since the spread of COVID-19, the administration has been focusing on measures to fight COVID-19 and rebuilding the domestic economy. President Akufo-Addo, New Patriotic Party (NPP), was re-elected in the presidential election held on December 7.

Japan has supported the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research for many years through ODA. The institute, a symbol of friendship between the two countries, was responsible for up to about 80% of the country's PCR tests. It has played a central role as a core facility for measures against COVID-19.

(2) Guinea

In Guinea, which has fertile soil and abundant mineral resources, President Alpha Condé has initiated socio-economic development efforts. On the domestic affairs front, national assembly elections and a referendum on constitutional amendments was held in March. In October, a presidential election was held based on the new constitution, and President Condé was inaugurated in December.

Japan has friendly relations with Guinea, and President Condé has visited Japan three times since he took office (2013, 2017 and 2019). There have also been exchanges at the grassroots level, such as exchanges through traditional drums (*djembe*).

(3) Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau aims to escape poverty and political instability by taking advantage of its fertile lands, fishery resources and mineral resources. It held presidential elections in November 2019 and January 2020, where candidate Umaro Sissoco

Embaló was elected as the new president.

Japan is providing support to Guinea-Bissau mainly in basic human needs, contributing to the alleviation of poverty. At the time of the presidential election, Japan provided election-related materials and equipment in cooperation with the UNDP.

(4) Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire, a major country in West Africa, held a presidential election in October, re-electing President Alassane Ouattara. President Ouattara is making efforts to strengthen the foundation for the further development of the country with measures such as advancing reconciliation between the ruling and opposition parties.

Japan has friendly relations with Côte d'Ivoire, and in 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Both countries signed the Japan-Côte d'Ivoire Investment Agreement in January, which is expected to promote bilateral business relations in the future.

(5) Senegal

In February, the Public and Private Sector Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Africa headed by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakatani was dispatched from Japan to Senegal in which 20 Japanese companies participated. President Macky Sall expressed Senegal's expectations for further investment by Japanese companies. In addition, the first meeting of the Japan-Senegal Economic Committee, established by the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in August 2019, was held in conjunction with the dispatch of the Mission.

In 2020, Japan and Senegal celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the 40th anniversary of the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to Senegal, and commemorative events were held in



Japan-Senegal Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(January 11, 2021, Dakar, Senegal)

both countries. In October, the Foreign Minister and Economic Minister from the Government of Senegal attended a commemorative reception hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Dakar. In November, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Washio Eiichiro attended a commemorative ceremony in Tokyo hosted by the Senegalese Embassy in Japan.

In January 2021, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Senegal to pay a courtesy call to President Sall and also hold two foreign ministerial meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs Aïssata Tall Sall. Through Foreign Minister Motegi's visit, the two countries agreed to enhance multilayered relations of cooperation based on long-standing friendly relations.

(6) Togo

Under the strong leadership of President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, who won his fourth election in the February presidential election, Togo is actively working on democratization, improving people's lives, and stabilizing the West African region. Prime Minister Victoire Tomegah-Dogbé was appointed in September, and a new cabinet was formed in October.

Japan has friendly relations with Togo, and in 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. President Gnassingbé is known to have great affinity toward Japan, having visited the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake

twice. In September, a mutual cooperation agreement was signed between Hyuga City (Miyazaki Prefecture), the Embassy of the Republic of Togo in Japan, and the Japan-Togo Friendship Association.

(7) Nigeria

President Muhammadu Buhari, re-elected in the 2019 presidential election, is prioritizing efforts on the three pillars of economy, security and anti-corruption. On the security front, in particular, Nigeria is cooperating with neighboring countries to deal with the problem of terrorism in the north-eastern region by Boko Haram and Islamic State (IS) West Africa Province (ISWAP).

In 2020, Japan and Nigeria celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Japan is providing support to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), which plays an important role in fighting COVID-19 in Nigeria. Many Japanese companies are also interested in Nigeria's high economic potential. As such, in January 2021, Foreign Minister Motegi held a telephone call with Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama in which they shared the view to promote cooperation, including on the fight against COVID-19, development challenges, and business relations.

(8) Niger

In Niger, the first round of presidential elections was peacefully held in December, and the top two candidates advanced to the final round next year.

Japan has friendly relations with Niger, and in 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. In September, Japan provided emergency relief goods, such as tents and water purifiers, after the country was hit by large-scale flooding nationwide.

(9) Burkina Faso

The political situation in Burkina Faso has been relatively stable since President Roch Kaboré took

office in 2015. On the other hand, there have been a number of terrorist incidents in recent years, and the country is facing deteriorating public security. President Kaboré was re-elected in the November presidential election, announcing that improving security would be a priority. The election was held peacefully, demonstrating that democracy has progressed in the country.

Japan has friendly relations with Burkina Faso, and in 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. In March and August, Japan provided Emergency Grant Aid in response to the rise in internally displaced persons in the country.

(10) Mali

In Mali, a coup by a group of Malian army soldiers in August forced President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to resign, and rebel leader Assimi Goita seized power. After discussions with mediators from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), interim President Bah N'Daw took office in September, and an interim cabinet led by interim Prime Minister Moctar Ouane was inaugurated in October. The interim government is preparing to hold presidential and national assembly elections within 18 months. In Mali, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the French military forces, and others have been

deployed and are working to maintain peace and combat terrorism.

Japan has friendly relations with Mali, and in 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Japan is supporting efforts to improve security in Mali by providing security equipment and supporting the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) training center.

(11) Mauritania

Mauritania has a stable government under President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, who took office in August 2019. The country attaches great importance to efforts for peace and stability in the Sahel region and chaired the G5 Sahel¹ in 2020. On the economic front, Mauritania's economy is based on exporting abundant marine, mineral and energy resources. In recent years, expectations have increased for developing offshore oil and gas resources.

Japan has friendly relations with Mauritania, particularly with respect to marine resources. In 2020, the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Japan is supporting Mauritania in its efforts toward food security through food assistance, in addition to support for capacity building in fisheries.

¹ Framework for cooperation on security, development and governance by the five Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger)

Column

60th Year of Japanese Diplomacy since the “Year of Africa”**Shirato Keiichi, Professor, College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University**

1960 is known as the “Year of Africa,” when 17 countries on the African continent gained independence. For Japan, whose top priorities at the time were the postwar process and the securing of its position as a member of the West, it would not be an exaggeration to say that systematic diplomacy with Africa did not even exist.

This situation began to change around the first half of the 1970s. The signing of the Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 1965 and the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China in 1972 signaled certain prospects for progress in the postwar process. In addition, due to the first oil crisis that struck in 1973, the Government of Japan began to position Africa as an oil supplier. Furthermore, there were also stronger views that relations with countries of Africa should be strengthened as they could offer their voting support at the United Nations. Against this backdrop, then-Foreign Minister Kimura Toshio became the first Foreign Minister of Japan to make a round of visits to five African countries from October to November 1974. For the first time, Japan turned its gaze on Africa, which had been virtually outside of Japan’s field of vision until then. We can say that Japan’s diplomacy with Africa began to derive some “benefits” from the strengthening of its relations with Africa.

A significant turning point in Japan’s Africa policy came during the end of the Cold War, from the second half of the 1980s to the early 1990s. Amidst the turbulent changes to the global structure, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs increasingly leaned toward the position that instead of the “passive diplomacy” that it had previously practiced as a country defeated in the war, Japan should practice “proactive diplomacy” and be actively involved in the establishment of the world order. This point of view was embodied in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process, which began in 1993. The inaugural conference, TICADI, did not focus on the perspective of “how to help Africa,” but instead placed the emphasis on “the sharing of the principles of development by the international community with countries of Africa,” and Japan sought to take the lead in these discussions. For more than a decade after that, Japan’s diplomacy with Africa focused on values and principles, such as the approach to development and human security.

Japan’s diplomacy with Africa, which developed in this way, began to reflect the new circumstances of rapid economic growth among African countries at the start of the 21st century, and shifted toward an emphasis on promoting private investment. As the focus for African development funding changed from aid to investment, the pillars of Japan’s diplomacy with Africa in recent years have moved toward attracting Japanese corporations to the African business world and generating profit for both Japan and the countries of Africa.

The year 2020 marked the 60th year since the “Year of Africa.” As Japan’s diplomacy with Africa developed with a strong commitment to profit, the world was struck by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how human society cannot be sustained through the pursuit of profit through economic growth alone, and reaffirmed the importance of addressing issues such as disparity and poverty. As we approach TICAD8, which will be held in Tunisia in 2022, it is hoped that Japan will pursue both profit and values in its diplomacy with Africa.

