

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, political turmoil, and terrorism that threaten peace and stability, and 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.

Leading into 2021, COVID-19 continues to have tremendous impacts on Africa's economy and society. The third wave of COVID-19 has arrived in Africa, and the cumulative number of infected people has risen to more than nine million (as of December 2021). However, as vaccine development progresses around the world, improving the vaccination rate has become an important issue while the rate in Africa as a whole is only 11% (as of December 2021). Under these circumstances, in Japan announced in April assistance to 25 countries in Africa to build a vaccination system with cold chain equipment and enhance vaccination capabilities, as "Last One Mile Support." In addition, Prime Minister Kishida announced at the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2021 held in December that Japan would provide vaccines to Africa.

2021 was also a year of significant political instability in multiple parts of Africa. In Mali,

provisional government leaders were detained by a group of army soldiers, while in Guinea, the president was detained. In Ethiopia, armed clashes between the government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) occurred, and in Sudan, the army detained the prime minister and other officials and dissolved the cabinet.

As part of its efforts to address challenges in the areas of peace and stability, Japan provided emergency grant aid of 3.179 billion Japanese yen to seven African countries facing humanitarian crises in March 2021 to address political instability and the enormous economic and social impacts of COVID-19. This initiative is aimed at preventing regional instability by providing food assistance to countries facing humanitarian crises, including food crises, due to sluggish economic activity caused by COVID-19. Furthermore, under the New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA) advocated at the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), Japan is working to provide assistance for stabilizing regions affected by conflict and terrorism, as well as institution building, strengthening governance, and preventing the radicalization of youth.

In 2021, people-to-people exchanges took place at various levels between Japan and Africa even in the situation where official travel was restricted by the impact of COVID-19.

In January, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Kenya and Senegal to reaffirm the friendship

between Japan and Africa that has developed over many years.

In addition, ministerial-level officials from 27 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior of South Sudan, visited Japan on the occasion of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 (Tokyo 2020 Games) held in the summer. The exchanges through the Olympic host town were an opportunity to encourage exchange between Africa and Japanese towns.

Japan has been contributing to African development for many years through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), which has a history of over a quarter of a century, based on the basic principles of African ownership and partnership with the international community. The Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) is scheduled to be held in Tunisia in 2022. While COVID-19 has brought to light various development issues in Africa, Japan will strongly support African-led development through TICAD 8 and set out a pathway of African development looking ahead to the post-COVID-19 era. (See the Column on page 178)

2 East Africa

(1) Uganda

Under President Yoweri Museveni's long-serving administration, 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 those from South Sudan staying in the northern part of the country. In the presidential election held in January, the incumbent President Museveni won his sixth term.

(2) Ethiopia

Ethiopia hosts the headquarters of the African Union (AU) and occupies an important position in African politics. It has the second largest

population in Africa (110 million people) and high annual growth rate of around 10% from 2004 to 2019 (6% in 2020). Addis Ababa, the capital, is one of Africa's leading hubs and is home to the only African airline that operates direct flights to Japan (Ethiopian Airlines).

Armed clashes occurred between the federal government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in November 2020, and a State of Emergency was declared nationwide in November 2021. The number of internally displaced persons due to this conflict has risen to 9.4 million, and human rights and humanitarian issues are severe. Japan provided humanitarian assistance through international organizations, such as emergency grant aid of 6.6 million US dollars in February and 12.4 million US dollars in December and is working with the international community for the early resolution of the situation.

(3) Eritrea

Eritrea is a country located on the international strait connecting the Indian Ocean, the Suez Canal and Europe. The country has the potential for economic growth thanks to its rich mineral, fishery and tourism resources. Since November 2020, as the situation in northern Ethiopia deteriorates, Eritrea has had an important role in regional stability. In January 2022, Japan opened an embassy in the capital Asmara.

(4) Kenya

As a major power in East Africa, Kenya contributes to the peace and stability of the region and plays a role as a gateway for Japanese companies to expand their markets into Africa. In January, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Kenya to pay a courtesy call to President Uhuru Kenyatta and to meet with Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Raychelle Awuor Omamo and other officials.

In December, a subcommittee of the 2nd Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum was held online between Nairobi and Japan. Japanese and African businesses and government officials who

participated the forum discussed the promotion of business in Africa. At the forum, expectations were expressed for the promotion of activities by private companies in the healthcare field while a memorandum of cooperation on the “Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative” was introduced, which was signed between Japan and Kenya in December.

(5) Union of Comoros

The Union of Comoros is an island country located in the Indian Ocean and is an Islamic nation endowed with fishery resources. Under President Azali Assoumani, the Union of Comoros has established the “the Emerging Comoros Plan (ECP) for 2030” and is promoting development with tourism, transportation, health, energy and other sectors as priority fields.

(6) Djibouti

Djibouti, located at one of the great trade arteries that passes through the Indian Ocean and connects Europe and Asia, is aiming to be a regional distribution hub. Stability in Djibouti is a key for regional security, and also 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 developed an excellent relationship.

A presidential election was held in April, and the incumbent President Ismail Omar Guelleh won his 5th term. In May, the first Japan-EU-Djibouti joint exercise on counter-piracy operations was held.

(7) Sudan

Sudan is endowed with crude oil, water resources from the Nile, and fertile land. Civil war has continued for over 40 years since its independence in 1956. In addition, the Bashir administration, which lasted for 30 years, collapsed in 2019 at the outset of demonstrations against rising prices. A provisional government was later established based on an agreement between the

armed forces and civilians with the aim of transitioning to civilian rule. The international community supported this initiative: in May 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron hosted a meeting to support this effort. Prior to the Conference, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Washio Eiichiro held an online meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mariam Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi. However, in October, the armed forces seized power and dissolved the cabinet. Demonstrations by people calling for the transition to civilian rule are continuing. Japan calls for the restoration of transitioning to civilian rule in collaboration with the international community.

(8) Seychelles

Seychelles is an island country in the Indian Ocean and has maintained its stable political situation even through the democratic changes of government in 2020. After COVID-19 swept the country, Seychelles promoted vaccination comparably early in Africa and boasts a high vaccination rate among the population (about 80% of the population has received their second vaccination). The decline in the number of visitors has affected the country, in which tourism is its economic pillar, but it has shown signs of recovery in 2021.

(9) Somalia

In Somalia, a federal government was established in 2012 for the first time in 21 years, but the political situation in the country remains unstable due to challenges such as the humanitarian crisis and continuing terrorist activities by Al-Shabaab. The presidential election was scheduled to take place in February 2021 but as of end 2021, the election was not yet held.

(10) Tanzania

Tanzania, which supports the peace and stability in Southeast Africa, has maintained a high economic growth rate over many years. In recent years, as private sector shows its high willingness to expand into Tanzania, the bilateral relationship with Japan has become closer, especially in

terms of the economy and development cooperation. Following the passings of former President John Magufuli in March, President Samia Suluhu Hassan became the first female president in April.

In October, novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah won the Nobel Prize in Literature to become a first Tanzanian laureate of the prize.

(11) Burundi

Burundi's domestic human rights and security situation has continued to deteriorate since the attempted coup d'état by its military in May 2015. President Évariste Ndayishimiye, who took office in June 2020, has promoted a policy of reconciliation with international community, which helped generate momentum for domestic and regional stabilization. Under these circumstances, the United States issued an executive order in November 2021 to lift sanctions on Burundi.

(12) Madagascar

Madagascar is an island country located off the southeastern coast of Africa. On the economic front, investments by Japanese companies in the integrated production of nickel and cobalt, which is the largest mining investment in Africa, are contributing to the economy.

The food crisis caused by the drought is becoming more severe in the southern part of the country, and in February, Japan provided humanitarian assistance such as food aid through emergency grant aid of 3 million US dollars.

(13) South Sudan

South Sudan celebrated its 10th anniversary of independence in 2021 and is preparing for a transition process to a democratic government based on an agreement signed between the parties to the conflict in September 2018. Despite some progress, such as the appointment of governors and the reorganization of the National Legislative Assembly, there are also many issues such as reorganizing the unified force. Japan has been supporting the implementation of the peace process



Courtesy call to Prime Minister Suga by Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior of South Sudan (July 22. Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

through the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other organizations to support the efforts of the South Sudanese government to achieve peace and stability. Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior visited Japan in July 2021 to attend the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Suga. In addition, South Sudan opened an embassy in Japan in November.

(14) Mauritius

Mauritius is located at the center of the Indian Ocean and is an important country for promoting a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” In 2020, following the oil spill of the cargo ship *Wakashio*, Foreign Minister Motegi provided Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth with medium- to long-term support for the restoration and reconstruction of Mauritius. As part of this, in February and August 2021, Japan decided to provide equipment for the purpose of preventing marine accidents.

(15) Rwanda

Rwanda, under the leadership of President Paul Kagame who won his third term in 2017, has continued its efforts on economic development and national reconciliation. In recent years the country has been experiencing rapid growth, especially in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and the number of Japanese businesses expanding into Rwanda has been also growing.



Japan-Rwanda Foreign Ministers' Meeting
(June 29, Italy, Rome)

In June, a foreign ministers' meeting was held between Foreign Minister Motegi and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Vincent Biruta on the occasion of the G20 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting. The two ministers also held a telephone call in August, expressing their hopes to further deepen bilateral relations in various fields, including business relations.

3 Southern Africa

(1) Angola

The structure of Angola's economy is dependent on oil industry. Combined with the decline in oil prices caused by COVID-19 pandemic, the country has recorded negative growth for five consecutive years since 2016 (-5.2% in 2020 (IMF)), making economic diversification and stabilization an urgent task. Angola is actively working to strengthen relations with its development partners and opened the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Angola in Nagoya in May.

(2) Eswatini

In Eswatini, King Mswati III has outstanding power in administration and legislation, and maintains the only absolute monarchy in Africa. In April 2018, the country changed its name from the "Kingdom of Swaziland" to the "Kingdom of Eswatini." It is the only country in Africa that has diplomatic relations with Taiwan. In May 2021,

Japan celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and sent a congratulatory message from Japan during an online commemorative event.

(3) Zambia

Zambia which has abundant mineral resources has been working on economic diversification in recent years to shift its economy away from over-dependence on minerals. In the presidential election held in August, President Hakainde Hichilema took office. The democratic change of power was realized for the first time in 10 years.

(4) Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is located in the center of southern Africa and is a landlocked country where successive kingdoms have prospered between the 11th and 15th centuries, leaving behind a large group of stone ruins known as "Great Zimbabwe." Promoting distribution and infrastructure development is also important for the development of the regional economy. In May, the "Project for the Road Improvement of the Northern Part of the North-South Corridor" to rehabilitate a part of the main road connecting the country and the Zambia border, which was supported by Japan, was completed. President Emmerson Mnangagwa and others expressed their gratitude for Japan's cooperation.

(5) Namibia

Namibia has abundant marine and mineral resources, and as a distribution hub on the Atlantic side of southern Africa, it is expected that its trade and investment will expand in the fields of resource development and energy. Namibia is a stable democratic country, and thus remained the top among African countries in the 2021 Press Freedom Index following 2020.

(6) Botswana

Botswana has developed as a middle- and high-income country with diamonds as core

industry which boasts the second-largest production in the world under stable political situation since gaining independence in 1966. In recent years, it has been focusing on diversifying industry and reducing poverty with the aim of breaking away from its diamond-dependent economy.

(7) Malawi

Malawi has had relatively stable domestic affairs since its independence in 1964, but there have been frequent demonstrations against the result of the presidential election in May 2019. Re-election was held in June 2020, the leader of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), Lazarus Chakwera defeated the incumbent and became president, and the country is regaining stability.

In 2021, Japan and Malawi celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s dispatch to the country, which began in 1971. Since the start of the dispatch, JICA has contributed to nation-building through rural development, medical care and school education. As of the end of December, the total number of dispatched workers was 1,897, the highest in the world.

(8) 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.

After former President Jacob Zuma was imprisoned in July for contempt of court over alleged corruption, riots broke out centered on plundering shops that killed more than 330 people and resulted in more than 3,400 arrests. In addition, following the spread of COVID-19, President Cyril Ramaphosa has been continuously implementing domestic measures to both control infections and restart the economy. In August, South Africa became chair of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Affairs of the SADC and continues to play an important role in controlling infections

regionally.

In November, unitary local elections were held, and the African National Congress (ANC), the ruling party, received less than 50% of the votes for the first time since democratization in 1994.

(9) Mozambique

In Mozambique, attacks by armed groups claiming to be IS and others have occurred frequently in the northern province of Cabo Delgado since the latter half of 2019. In March, a large-scale attack occurred near the LNG project site in the province. Since the summer, the security situation has been improving with the participation of the SADC and Rwanda security forces in operations to eliminate terrorists. Japan has been providing humanitarian assistance such as food aid for internally displaced persons and development assistance to help the local residents achieve economic independence.

(10) Lesotho

Lesotho, a landlocked country composed mostly of mountainous highlands, 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.

In March, the Honorary Consulate General of the Kingdom of Lesotho in Gunma was opened. In July, Japan celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and sent a congratulatory message from Japan during an online commemorative event.

4 Central Africa

(1) Cameroon

Under the leadership of President Paul Biya, Cameroon is making efforts to bring stability to the English-speaking regions in the North West and South West regions based on the "Presidential Plan for the Reconstruction and Development

of the North West and South West Regions” launched in April 2020. Japan, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is contributing to the reconstruction of the regions by providing 291 million Japanese yen in support for the renovation of health centers and other facilities.

Japan and Cameroon are maintaining and strengthening friendly relations, including sports exchanges. During the Tokyo 2020 Games, Cameroon athletes held their pre-Games training camp in Hita City, Oita prefecture.

(2) Democratic Republic of the Congo

President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo declared the state of emergency martial law in Ituri and North Kivu provinces in May, and 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. In addition, the President Tshisekedi serves as the AU Chair and is actively involved in discussions on Africa in the international arena and in solving issues relating to peace and stability within Africa. The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is also working with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to rebuild the domestic economy that was crippled by COVID-19.

Also in May, the Nyiragongo volcano erupted near Goma City, North Kivu, and Japan provided emergency relief supplies as the lava flow caused many casualties, including deaths, as well as physical damage. In August, the Minister of Sport and Leisure, Serge Chembo Nkonde, visited Japan for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

(3) Chad

In Chad, President Idriss Deby Itno, who had been in power for more than 30 years, passed away in April after being injured in a battle with the rebel armed group FACT. Also in April, the Transitional Military Council (CMT), chaired by President General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, the

son of the former President Idriss Deby Itno, was set up to hold elections after an 18-month transition period.

Japan and Chad have friendly bilateral relations, Minister of Youth, Employment and Sport and Entrepreneurship Promotion, Routouang Mohamed Ndonga Christian visited Japan for the Tokyo 2020 Games in August as an exchange through sports.

(4) Central Africa

In Central Africa, under President Faustin-Archange Touadera, who was reappointed in March 2021, completed the election for members of the National Assembly by July, despite security problems caused by attacks of armed groups. He also announced a “unilateral cease-fire” in October and continues to work for peace and stability in Central Africa.

Japan has been providing humanitarian assistance, such as food aid, for Central Africa, which is facing humanitarian crises, such as a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons and is contributing to the strengthening of peace and stability in the country.

5 West Africa

(1) Ghana

The Akufo-Addo administration (New Patriotic Party (NPP)) that took office in 2017 and was re-elected for the second term from 2021, has adopted the concept of Ghana Beyond Aid, and is working to attract investment and diversify industries. Since the spread of COVID-19, the government has been focusing on counter measures against the virus and on rebuilding the domestic economy.

Japan has supported the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research for many years through ODA. The institute is a symbol of friendship between the two countries and has been responsible for about 80% of the country's PCR tests at its peak and has played a central role

as a center for measures against COVID-19. Dr. Noguchi Hideyo's hometown of Inawashiro, in Fukushima Prefecture, was the host town for Ghana during the Tokyo 2020 Games.

(2) Cabo Verde

Cabo Verde has a well-established democracy with relatively high political stability among African countries. With the expiration of the term of office of former President Jorge Carlos Fonseca, a peaceful presidential election was held in October, and Jose Maria Neves became president.

Japan has contributed to the development of Cabo Verde for many years through ODA. In 2021, it supported the country's efforts to reduce inequality and create sustainable economic development through food aid and the provision of medical and fishery-related equipment.

(3) Guinea

In Guinea, in September, a group of soldiers detained President Alpha Condé by force. Subsequently, Colonel Mamady Doumbouya became the interim president, and under the transition charter, a transition system is being put in place, including the appointment of ministers of the transitional government.

Guinea has abundant water resources and fertile land, has high development potential for agriculture and fisheries, along with the largest mineral resources in West Africa that produce bauxite and iron. Japan has had a friendly cooperative relationship with Guinea for many years.

(4) Côte d'Ivoire

Under President Alassane Ouattara's stable administration of more than 10 years, during which he was re-elected at the end of 2020, Côte d'Ivoire has achieved steady economic development with its increasing presence as a distribution hub in West Africa centered on the port of Abidjan. In June, former President Laurent Gbagbo returned to Côte d'Ivoire after being acquitted by the International Criminal Court, and further

domestic reconciliation and dialogue is expected.

Japan is supporting the sustainable social stability of Côte d'Ivoire and promoting economic and social development through infrastructure development and pursuing a good health society. In addition to favorable bilateral relations, the Japan-Côte d'Ivoire Investment Agreement came into effect in March 2021, and it is expected that economic relations will become even closer at the private level.

(5) Senegal

Against the backdrop of domestic political stability, President Macky Sall has pursued active diplomacy even during COVID-19 epidemic and has been actively involved in the issue of peace and stability in the region through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He also hosted the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in November and the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security



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



Courtesy call to President Sall of Senegal by Minister Motegi
(January 11, Dakar, Senegal)

in Africa in December, demonstrating his presence in the international community.

In January, Foreign Minister Motegi visited Senegal and paid a courtesy call to President Sall and two two-day foreign ministerial talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Ambassador Aïssata Tall Sall. Through this visit, Foreign Minister Motegi affirmed that Japan will further strengthen its multi-layered cooperative relationship with Senegal, including cooperation in tackling international issues, based on the friendly relationship with Senegal, with which Japan celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2020. In the Dakar International Forum in December, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Takako participated by sending a video message, touching on Japan's efforts to support Africa's peace and stability, while appealing for the strengthening of international cooperation to help Africa building back better from COVID-19 pandemic.

(6) Nigeria

President Muhammadu Buhari, who started his second term in 2019, continues to prioritize the economic, security and anti-corruption measures he has been working on to take Nigeria to the "next stage." On the security front, following the report that the leaders of Boko Haram and Islamic State (IS) West Africa (ISWAP), which had been engaged in terrorist activities in the northeast, died in May and October, respectively, it is said that the number of armed groups, including their families, surrendered one after another, reaching a total of 17,000 people in November.

Forty-seven Japanese companies have set up operations in Nigeria. Japan and Nigeria are deepening exchanges in various fields, including economic relations. In December, Japan and Nigeria exchanged notes concerning grant aid of 300 million Japanese yen for road maintenance-related equipment ("The Economic and Social Development Programme").

(7) Niger

Mohamed Bazoum assumed office as president in April after a peaceful presidential election. Buttressed by the establishment of democracy, Niger is striving to tackle development issues and counterterrorism and violent extremism. It also actively contributes to the international peace and security, especially the Sahel region, for instance by hosting a high-level open debate on climate change and international peace and security as the UN Security Council President for December.

Japan has been supporting the promotion of Niger's sustainable development through improving education and agricultural and rural development. In October, Japan provided grant aid of 400 million Japanese yen for food aid and is working on cooperation to improve food security.

(8) Burkina Faso

Under President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, who was re-elected at the end of 2020, Burkina Faso has continued to work on development issues, such as formulating its next five-year strategy, "National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES II)." However, there has been growing dissatisfaction with counter-terrorism measures as terrorist acts have occurred in various places, and in January 2022, a group of soldiers of the armed forces detained the president and others and seized power. While Burkina Faso has been suspended from participating in ECOWAS and the AU, prompt return to a constitution-based order is expected.

(9) Benin

A presidential election was held in Benin in April, and President Patrice Talon, who had been promoting various reforms including infrastructure development and anti-corruption measures since taking office, was re-elected.

Japan has been providing economic cooperation focusing on infrastructure development, industrial promotion and improving the people's livelihoods. The Hospital Allada, which was

constructed with the support of Japan, also plays an important role as a hub to fight COVID-19.

(10) Mali

Since the armed uprising by a group of Malian army soldiers in August 2020 followed by the resignation of President Ibrahim Keita, the provisional government led by interim President Bah Ndaw had been preparing to hold presidential and national parliamentary elections by February 2022. In May 2021, a group of Malian army soldiers detained officials of the provisional government, and the political situation once again became unstable. Under the new interim President Assimi Goita, although he is working toward the restoration of constitutional order and the transition to civilian rule, the transfer to civilian rule is stalled as the provisional government hopes that the election will be postponed significantly because the restoration of security is the highest priority.

The peace and stability of Mali are also essential for the prosperity of the Sahel region, and Japan intends to support Mali's efforts toward

the early restoration of constitutional order and the transition to civilian rule, in cooperation with the international community. In December, Japan made the decision to provide the equipment necessary for conducting elections through the UNDP for the early implementation of transparent and reliable elections.

(11) Mauritania

Mauritania continues to have a stable government under President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, who took office in August 2019, as he reaches a turning point in his term. On the economic front, Mauritania's economy is based on exporting abundant marine, mineral, and energy resources. In particular about 30% of its octopus exports are for Japan.

Japan has friendly relations with Mauritania. In 2021, the Mauritania parliament created the Mauritania-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Group. Japan is supporting Mauritania in its efforts toward food security through food aid, in addition to support for capacity building in fisheries.

Towards TICAD 8

– Japan's African Diplomacy through the TICAD Process to Date

The year 2023 marks the 30th anniversary since Japan launched the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993. Looking ahead to the Eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) in August this year, we look back on the history of TICAD.

TICAD is an international conference launched by Japan in 1993 with the aim of reviving interests within the international community in supporting Africa and advocating the importance of extending assistance to the region, against the backdrop of such interests waning after the end of the Cold War. As a forum on African development, this conference is a pioneering initiative in the international community. The first conference (TICAD I) emphasized the importance of harnessing the successful experience of Asia's economic growth for the benefit of African development.

TICAD II (the second TICAD) was held in 1998 based on the theme of "Poverty Reduction and Integration into the Global Economy." At this conference, "ownership" of Africa and "partnership" of the international community were also advocated as underlying principles of TICAD. These principles reflect the application of Japan's post-war experience to African development, as Japan itself had developed with the support of the international community while retaining its autonomy after World War II. Today, these principles of "ownership" and "partnership" are shared globally and are inspiring African countries.

TICAD III (the third TICAD) was held in 2003 amidst the strengthening of ownership among the African countries towards promoting development. For example, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was established in 2001, and the African Union (AU) was established in 2002. Under the recognition that "there will be no stability and prosperity in the world in the 21st Century unless the problems of Africa are resolved," Japan has engaged in discussions with a view to bringing together the knowledge and experiences of the international community to provide support for Africa.

TICAD IV (the fourth TICAD) was held in 2008 under the theme "Towards a Vibrant Africa: a Continent of Hope and Opportunity." At this conference, discussions were focused on the priority matters of boosting economic growth, ensuring human security, and addressing environmental issues and climate change. Japan announced its intention to double its ODA and private investment in Africa, and affirmed the importance of the TICAD follow-up mechanism, which has remained as one of the features of TICAD till the present day.

TICAD V (the fifth TICAD) was held in 2013 on the theme "Hand in Hand with a More Dynamic Africa," and discussions were held on further boosting Africa's economic growth. In light of the importance of human resource development for industries in Africa, the "African Business Education Initiative for Youth" ("ABE Initiative")^(Note) was announced at this conference.

TICAD VI (the sixth TICAD) was held in Kenya in 2016 as the first TICAD conference held in Africa. At this conference, Japan announced that it would invest in Africa's future through measures such as developing quality infrastructure, promoting resilient health systems, and building a foundation for peace and stability, amounting to approximately 30 billion US dollars under



At TICAD IV (May 28, 2008, Yokohama)



Group photograph at TICAD 7 (August 28, 2019, Tokyo. Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office)

public-private partnership.

TICAD 7 was held in 2019 under the theme “Advancing Africa’s development through people, technology and innovation.” Discussions were held at this conference based on the three pillars of economy, society, and peace and stability. The promotion of business was the main focus of discussions, and the conference served as an opportunity to affirm the importance of promoting more private investment in Africa than ever before. The number of Japanese companies entering the African market has almost doubled over the past decade, from 520 to 910 companies.

Since the launch of TICAD, Japan has worked actively on enhancing the international community’s interest in African development. Today, Africa’s potential as the “final frontier of the 21st century” is attracting an unprecedented level of attention from the international community. It is also important for Japan to further deepen its cooperative relationship with Africa through the TICAD process.

As COVID-19 has shed light on various development challenges faced by Africa, Japan aims to strongly support Africa-led development and set out a pathway for African development through TICAD 8, looking ahead to the post-COVID-19 era.

Note African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative): A program that invites African youths to Japan and provides them with opportunities to study for their master’s degrees in Japan and participate in internships at Japanese companies. It fulfills the important role to build a bridge between Japan and Africa.