

Japan-AU High-level Policy Dialogue: Its Background and Significance

Changes in Africa

- Political and Economic Integration centered on AU
~ Establishing Peace and Security Council and Pan-African Parliament, Integration of NEPAD within 2 years
- AU as a body representing Africa
- Independent engagement and contribution in solving conflicts in Africa
~ Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi
- Increased importance of trans-border cooperation
- Rise of interest in Asia

Japan's Policy toward Africa

- TICAD Process prioritizes African ownership, esp. support for NEPAD and AU.
- G8 Process stresses support for NEPAD, and PSO, for which AU is a focal-point in Africa.
- Japan, as a would be non-permanent member of the UNSC, is to assume a more assertive role in African security issues.
- Leadership in cooperation between Africa and Asia ~ TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference

Significance of Regular Policy Dialogue

- Top-level officials are to discuss concrete measures to enhance cooperation between Japan and both AU and NEPAD
- Harmonization between AU's policies and Japan's policy for Africa centered on TICAD
- Flexible and non-exclusive framework → providing a focal point of dialogue and cooperation between Africa and Asia
- Valuable information sharing on priorities regarding African conflicts and development, esp. in relation to NEPAD policy