

TICAD-NEPAD Joint Policy Framework for the Promotion of Trade and Investment between Africa and Asia

On the occasion of the “TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference (AATIC)” held in Tokyo on 1 – 2 November, 2004, the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) co-organizers and the NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development) Secretariat (herein after, “both sides”), on behalf of all stakeholders of the TICAD and the NEPAD (a social and economic development program of the African Union) jointly resolve to cooperate mutually and strengthen their dialogue for Africa’s development, *inter alia*, through promotion of trade and investment between Africa and Asia. Both sides approve this document as a policy guideline for that purpose. Both sides, recognizing the importance of the points contained in this document, commit to collaborate in promoting trade and investment between the two regions under their respective programs in cooperation with all concerned stakeholders including governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, the civil society, and academia.

I. Shared Recognition

Both sides recognize the considerable potential for enhancing economic linkage between Africa and Asia by, *inter alia*, promoting trade and investment between the two regions, and urge all stakeholders of TICAD and NEPAD to:

1. *affirm* that the ultimate goal of promoting trade and investment is essentially to attain “poverty reduction through economic growth” in Africa, the concept that was promoted by the TICAD process and has since been gaining an increasingly wider recognition in various international frameworks addressing established objectives including the Millennium Development Goals;
2. *reiterate* that African ownership and leadership are essential for promoting trade and investment that will lead to self-reliant and sustainable development and equitable growth as well as support and cooperation of the Asian countries;
3. *underscore* that development strategies of African countries should contain active utilization of private resources, while respecting the basic principle that the foundation of trade and

investment is the profit-earning activities of private enterprises;

4. *strengthen* a wide range of partnership between Africa and Asia in both public and private sectors, while raising greater awareness of the fact that the expansion of business will reinforce mutually beneficial relations between the two regions;
5. *ensure* that trade and investment between Asia and Africa be promoted in a fair and transparent manner in accordance with internationally agreed rules and that the enhancement of Africa-Asia partnership be beneficial for the entire world by nurturing universal values including conservation of the global environment and protection of human-rights and intellectual property rights.

II. Tasks

Although mindful of a wide range of important roles that African governments can assume to overcome various impediments to the promotion of trade and investment between Asia and Africa, given that business is by nature an activity of the private sector, both sides appeal to all the participating countries and organizations which support and promote the TICAD process and AU/NEPAD programme to make their utmost efforts respectively to:

1. *demonstrate* political commitment to ensure political, economic and social stability, good governance and transparency over a substantial period of time with a view to gaining the confidence of private enterprises;
2. *maintain*, through the implementation of sound macroeconomic management and the enforcement of rules of law, a stable and predictable business environment for enabling private enterprises to concentrate their resources on economic activities and to promote business on the basis of a long-term strategy;
3. *improve* basic socio-economic conditions through various measures including infrastructure development, human resources development, institution building of economic and social systems as well as financial market, and *enhance* overall economic efficiencies by eliminating bribery and corruption and streamlining administrative procedures such as registration and custom clearance, in order to reduce the transaction costs of private business activities;

4. encourage private business activities that are consistent with the development strategies of the concerned countries.

III. Concrete Actions

Both sides, further recognizing the importance of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for Africa's development, undertake to cooperate, *inter alia*, for the establishment of an appropriate channel for networking public and private sectors in Asia and Africa and facilitating active public-private dialogues so as to:

1. stimulate the interest of the private sector in business opportunities in Africa, especially in the areas of trade and investment between Asia and Africa;
2. promote mutual understanding and confidence between the public and private sectors through candid exchanges of needs for assistance by governments and continental and sub-regional organizations and the expectations regarding social contribution by the private sector;
3. exchange good practices of fair and honest treatment by African governments, especially in cases of business claims, and social contributions by private enterprises, share Asia's experiences of successful economic growth through the promotion of trade and investment, and make intellectual contributions to global knowledge;
4. bridge the information gap and remove negative perceptions associated with doing business in Africa in order to ensure that the private sector pay fair attention to business opportunities in Africa;
5. cooperate in the Bandung process that features Asia-Africa cooperation in a wide range of areas including trade and investment, and further strengthen partnership for the Asia Africa Summit that will take place on 21-22 April 2005 in Bandung in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee of the 1955 Bandung conference.

2 November 2004

Tokyo, Japan

/signed /

Amb. Masaharu KOHNO
Personal Representative of
the Prime Minister for Africa
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Representative of TICAD Co-organizers

/signed /

Hon.Dr. Wiseman NKUHLU
Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee
Representative of NEPAD

Witnessed by TICAD Co-organizers:

/signed /

Amb. Mr. Ibrahim GAMBARI
Special Advisor on Africa and the USG of the UN

/signed /

Hon. Mr. Tesfaye DINKA
Senior Adviser of the GCA

/signed /

Mr. Zephirin DIABRE
Associate Administrator of UNDP
Representative of UNDP

/signed /

Ms. Yukiko Omura
Executive Vice President
Representative of World Bank