

REPORT

Japan-Africa Journalists Symposium on African Development



Photo : Osamu Funao (JICA)

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Date : 13:30-17:40, March 4th (Tue), 2008

Venue : Chiyoda Media Plaza (Tokyo), 1-1, Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Organizer : Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Supporters : Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK),
The Asahi Shimbun,
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

WEB : http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/ticad/ja_jsad/hokoku.html

Japan-Africa Journalists Symposium on African Development

Objective

On Tuesday, March 4, 2008, the Japan-Africa Journalists Symposium on African Development took place at Chiyoda Media Plaza, Tokyo. Japan will host the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in Yokohama from May 28 to 30, 2008. Subsequently, the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, to be held from July 7 to 9, is expected to take up poverty alleviation in Africa and assistance to Africa among its main topics. As a preliminary event to these meetings, journalists from Africa and Japan joined with experts from Japan to discuss how to address the current situation and the challenges facing Africa.

Program

- 13:30 Opening remarks** Mr. Kazuo Kodama (Director-General for Press and Public Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- 13:45 Keynote speech** Mr. Masaharu Kohno (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- 14:20 Panel Discussion Session 1**
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| Moderator | Ms. Aiko Doden (Senior Commentator, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)) |
| Panelists | Zambia Ms. Rose Chumpuka (Head Special Projects, "The Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation") |
| | Tanzania Mr. Joseph Kubebeke Kurangwa (Chief Editor, "Majira Newspaper") |
| | Senegal Mr. Mamadou Kassé (Former Chief Editor, "Le Soleil") |
| | Japan Mr. Jinichi Matsumoto (Former columnist of Editorial Board, The Asahi Shimbun) |
- 15:30 Coffee Break**
- 15:50 Panel Discussion Session 2** Three resource persons join the Panel Discussion 2.
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| Resource Persons | Mr. Masaki Miyaji (Corporate Advisor, Mitsubishi Corporation) |
| | Mr. Tsuneo Kurokawa (Director General, Regional Department IV(Africa), JICA) |
| | Mr. Masato Kitera (Director-General for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) |
- 17:30 Closing Address** Mr. Kazuo Kodama (Director-General for Press and Public Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Keynote Speech

Mr. Masaharu Kohno, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Joined Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1973. Private Secretary to Chief Cabinet Secretaries. Deputy Director-General of the Asian Affairs Bureau. Deputy Director-General of the North American Affairs Bureau. Consul-General of Japan in Los Angeles. Director-General for Sub-Saharan African Affairs. Deputy Vice-Minister for Foreign Policy. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs in January 2007.

In his Keynote Speech, Mr. Masaharu Kohno, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke about his views from the perspectives of "Why should we discuss Africa?" and "What significance does Africa have for Japanese people?"

Recently Africa has been receiving increased attention around the globe, and it is also one of the agenda items to be discussed at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. There are various reasons for Africa appearing on the agenda, the first being that issues of poverty, infectious diseases and the food crisis affecting Africa are said to be a part of the dark underbelly of globalization, and that these issues represent global challenges that Africa alone cannot resolve. In addition, in contemporary issues such as climate change, terrorism and energy security, Africa is a region that cannot be excluded from consideration. Furthermore, as represented by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Africans themselves are increasingly seeking to build the future of Africa by themselves, and the G8 countries have expressed their strong resolve to respond to these efforts as partners for African development.

However, the question remains as to whether or not our understanding about African issues has in fact deepened. Are there problems with the way Africa is reported in the media? A cross-section of reporting on Africa today can broadly be classified as "pitiful Africa" embroiled in hardship and suffering, "bright and cheerful Africa" incorporating cultural and artistic aspects, and also "profitable Africa," portraying it as a place of business opportunities. However, does such a cross-section really provide an adequate picture of the realities of Africa? Although reporting on Africa has increased tremendously, it is still fragmentary in nature and inevitably this can skew the knowledge that Japanese people have about Africa.

In that sense the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is one way to throw a

spotlight on Africa, which is, for Japanese, still a faraway region. The first TICAD was held in 1993, following the end of the Cold War between the East and the West, and it was planned as an active diplomatic means of strengthening Africa-Japan relations. At a time when “aid fatigue” was spreading through the international community, Japan took the initiative in refocusing global attention on Africa. Over the 15 years since that time, assistance from the international community has been refocused on achieving ownership by the countries of Africa themselves as well as partnership.

Africa and Japan are now developing closer ties. Japan must respond to the high expectations placed on it by Africa. What Japan needs to do now is to consider the question “Why Africa?” and, from that starting point, reduce the sense of remoteness between Japan and Africa, learn from Africa, and work to create a relationship of coexistence. To that end, the messages that the media transmit about Africa are of increasing importance.

Panel Discussion Session 1

Ms. Aiko Doden, Senior News Commentator, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK)

As NHK's senior commentator on South East Asia and Africa development issues, anchored key NHK news programs such as “NHK News at 9” and “NHK World Network”. Produced feature stories and commentaries on the Millennium Development Goals such as poverty eradication, gender equality, reproductive rights and literacy, while reporting on the initiatives intensively as a correspondent for South East Asia. Japanese Government Goodwill Ambassador for the UN World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) in 2005.

In this session, four journalists active in Africa and Japan introduced their own newspaper articles and television news reports, and explained how, with regard to the problems that Africa is facing, they present the issues and on what issues and perspectives they focus.

Zambia: Ms. Rose Chumpuka, Head of the Special Projects, Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation

Journalist for the past 15 years with the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, covering events locally, regionally and internationally. Master's degree in Communication and Media studies and a Bachelors degree in Mass Communication and Public administration, Exposed to various media training.

Ms. Chumpuka introduced a television news report (approx. 4.5 minutes) about how aid to Zambia is used. Aid is aimed at the sustainable development of rural villages and for that reason it must reach these communities and fulfill basic social requirements such as health care and clean water. In addition, it is important for donors to accurately understand the developmental objectives of the recipient country and to respect independence of action. In addition, it is important to increase the economic strength of communities by focusing on micro-economic projects and responding to local initiatives.

The one-stop border initiative is one example of a successful assistance project. Zambia's development needs include development of the business environment and facilitation of trade, and the ability to manufacture products that are competitive in the international market. The one-stop border initiative is being implemented with the cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a means of achieving this objective and also to eliminate trade barriers with other countries. Bilateral tariff examinations have been implemented in a joint facility and by promoting a mechanism that reduces the time required for customs procedures, great improvements have been achieved in terms of cost reductions and distribution efficiency. In the implementation of the project what was important was a “Triangle of Hope,” namely the integration of three factors: government, administrative bodies and private sector companies.

It goes without saying that it is also important to continue nurturing local micro industries as well as continue dealing with social challenges such as public health, infectious diseases and poverty reduction.

Tanzania: Mr. Joseph Kubebeke Kulangwa, Chief Editor, Majira Newspaper

Started a career as a Reporter and Editor in Uhuru Newspaper after teaching in various secondary schools. Editor in Majira Newspaper for the past 10 years. Attended various seminars within and without the country concerning economic and environmental issues.

Mr. Kulangwa introduced a newspaper article explaining the activities of the Ruvuma Women Development Fund (RUWODEF). The empowerment of women can change communities and lead to the vicious cycle of poverty being broken. This fund was launched to provide financing to the women living in the Ruvuma region of Tanzania. Poor people who have no access to financing from banks are able to borrow money from the fund and use it to launch income creation activities, such as the selling of baskets. A portion of the income created is returned to the fund. JICA provided advice for fund management and also for implementing human



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resources development and training.

According to the census of 2002, 76% of the women in the Ruvuma region were making a living from small-scale commerce and many were facing a difficult situation. Assistance from overseas has helped these women in alleviating their poverty and provided a unique method for empowerment.

Recently, as a measure to tackle malaria, the "Sumitomo Bednet" project was launched in the Arusha region. When the President of the United States visited this region he pledged to distribute 5.2 million mosquito bednets to children under the age of five years in Tanzania. If disease can be beaten, poverty alleviated and people empowered, Tanzania too will be able to enjoy prosperity and reduce its dependence on aid and assistance.

Senegal: Mr. Mamadou Kassé, Former Chief Editor; PR Technical Counselor of the Ministry of Information

Journalists, specialized in environmental, national land development, and integration issues, as well as a member of various networks such as African Environmental Journalists, Partnership of Water Issues, National Land Development Activity Committee.

Mr. Kassé introduced a newspaper article about NEPAD. Currently the countries of the world are becoming increasingly interdependent in both economic and environmental terms. The world is becoming like one village. In such a world, the key for African countries is to create partnerships with the countries of the world and find a response to globalization. In that sense a framework like NEPAD based on mutual trust is an essential element in order for Africa to create partnerships with other countries.

Africa has experienced three tragedies in its history. The first is slavery, the second is colonial rule by foreign powers and the third is the outflow of citizens to other countries as illegal immigrants. African integration also represents a solution to the third of these issues, which countries are now facing. In addition, it is still the case that an unfair trade relationship exists, whereby foreigners are taking Africa's wealth of resources, processing and fabricating these resources and then selling them back to Africa at high cost. This situation must be corrected. Bearing in mind the diversity of the 53 countries of Africa and the various situations in each country, it is important not only to strengthen cooperation and solidarity, but also to communicate effectively. Through media such as television and radio, we should share knowledge, information and know-how. In addition, it is necessary to implement large-scale projects in which multiple countries participate, such as railways, dams and hydropower generation, as well as to eliminate trade barriers, develop an environment for continued investment, and establish political and administrative stability.

Japan: Mr. Jinichi Matsumoto, Former Columnist of Editorial Board, The Asahi Shimbun

Joined the Asahi Shimbun in 1968. Nairobi Office Chief. Middle East and Africa General Bureau Chief. Columnist in 1993 onwards. Won "Vaughn-Ueda International Journalist Prize" for reporting Middle East peace in 1994, "Japan Essayist Club Award" in 1998, "Award of Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association" in 2002, and "Japan National Press Club Award" in 2007.

Mr. Matsumoto introduced a series of 11 articles entitled "Kalashnikov: Guns, Nations and People," including photographs. In Somalia, a state of civil war has been ongoing and one could see children walking around with Kalashnikov rifles and people fighting for power over the barrel of a gun. Law and order have broken down completely. Under these conditions, in 1993, tribal elders held a gathering at which they determined to collect all weapons and create a country to be known as Somaliland, which would have an army and police force and be free of guns. Although the international community did not recognize the new state, United Nations organizations offered support for nation building. The Japanese government offered assistance through UNICEF, building 10 new schools where none had existed before, with a management committee also established for the schools. Children and the local community welcomed the new schools and the functions of the local community were formed around these schools. The total cost of assistance for the construction of the schools was only 7 million yen. However, this very small amount was successfully utilized to give new life to local communities. With assistance, what is important is to understand the recipient region in detail, know what the people there want and have the expertise to provide assistance that will be useful. That is, the critical issue is not the amount of the assistance, but rather the ability of the assistance to be useful and reach local communities directly, thereby helping them to raise themselves from poverty.

Following the presentations of the panelists, a discussion took place about how journalists should report on Africa and from what angle. Through discussion, it was identified that a balance between positive and negative angles is important, and that in reports it is also important to make people around the world realize that Africa is a continent of “human being” and one that is part of the international community.

Panel Discussion Session 2

In Session 2, three resource persons joined the panel and talked about their efforts in African development to date. The panel also deepened its discussion on what efforts are important for the development of Africa.

Mr. Masaki Miyaji, Corporate Advisor, Mitsubishi Corporation

Joined Mitsubishi Corporation in 1965. General Manager of Johannesburg Branch. President of Mitsubishi Corporation(UK)PLC(1999), Executive Vice President of Mitsubishi Corporation. Corporate Advisor of Mitsubishi Corporation as well as Honorary Consul in Hokkaido of Republic of South Africa as well as Visiting Senior Advisor of Japan International Cooperation Agency onwards.

Economic development is important in efforts to eliminate poverty, and to that end, private sector investment is essential. In the future Japan should look into strategies that realize projects through unified action between the government and the private sector, with government aid and private sector investment coming together to create synergistic effects. I was involved in the Mozal Project in Mozambique, an aluminum smelting project that has one of the largest production volumes in the world, employing 10,000 people and accounting for 55% of Mozambique's total exports. This project is based on partnership with the local community and on principles of mutual understanding and returning profits to the community. From my experiences on that project I believe that the following four points are important for private sector investment: (1) international cost competitiveness; (2) selection of excellent partners; (3) an outstanding environment for business infrastructure; and (4) long-term government commitment. Of these, long-term government commitment is the most important. For example, in the Mozal Project, the government of Mozambique provided financing and designated it as a national project. It is also necessary for the government to formulate an economic policy strategy and inform the people of this, encouraging people to take the initiative, or in other words take “ownership,” which is one of the key concepts of TICAD.

What is vital for African development is human resources. Africa certainly does not desire to be awash in assistance. By arousing enthusiasm for development among Africans and adding a spirit of aspiration and self-improvement it is possible to achieve growth, and it is therefore important that the people of Africa have the hope and resolve to make a better tomorrow for themselves. It is essential that journalism transmit just such a positive message about Africa to the world.

Mr. Tsuneo Kurokawa, Director-General, Regional Department IV(Africa), Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA)

Resident Representative, JICA Senegal Office. Director of Security Information Office, JICA. Director General, JICA Regional Department IV (Africa), JICA in 2004. In charge of activities of technical assistance and Overseas Volunteers in 48 Sub-Sahara countries. Graduated Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Developpement, Geneve(Master of Arts)

JICA is the implementing agency of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA). I will discuss the three pillars of its aid policies: (1) self-reliance support, (2) consolidation of peace, and (3) support for economic growth, providing case examples of specific projects.

Self-reliance support, otherwise known as empowerment, aims at realizing the concept of “human security” by drawing on the strength of the local people. The fact is that the people of Africa are not simply waiting for aid organizations and NGOs to come along to do something. For example, in a small-scale irrigation project currently underway in Malawi, the local people build irrigation facilities by utilizing their own readily available materials. JICA sends experts to provide indirect support for their efforts.

It is important to combine top-down and bottom-up approaches by appealing to the government and the local communities at the same time. An example of this would be the community development project in Ethiopia centered around the construction of schools. Local residents established a school building committee, and by involving the government (the Ministry of Education) in this process, they succeeded in having teachers allocated soon after the construction was complete.

The consolidation of peace is making steady progress in Africa. JICA supports peace and security efforts by such means as vocational training in countries like Sierra Leone, Liberia, Angola, Rwanda, and Burundi.



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The importance of infrastructure for supporting economic growth need hardly be mentioned. JICA is currently considering a region-wide infrastructure improvement plan for Africa, which involves constructing a major trans-border highway network. Furthermore, JICA is taking on comprehensive social development initiatives to ensure that the infrastructure benefits the people in the surrounding areas. For example, JICA constructs roadside stations to let people sell agricultural produce or to implement AIDS prevention measures in the local communities.

Finally, I would like to pose one question. Development and assistance tend to be treated as the same thing, but I feel that there is a difference. The scope of development is much larger than that of assistance. The key to Africa's development lies in peace and security, trade and investment, fair government, and human resources. Aid plays a supporting role, like the "spice" to the development efforts. And this is exactly what we mean by JICA's role.

Mr. Masato Kitera, Director-General for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Joined Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Apr.1976. Director of the Grant Aid Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau. Director of Budget and Financial Affairs Division. Minister, Embassy of Japan in France. Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO, Permanent Mission of Japan in Geneva. Deputy Director-General of Economic Affairs Bureau, Ambassador in charge of United Nations Affairs, Foreign Policy Bureau. Director-General for African Affairs from Jan. 2008.

Africa has attained an annual average economic growth rate of more than 5% at present and it has been experiencing the consolidation of peace and democratization. There are also a number of positive signs such as integration and mutual cooperation among African countries, as we can see in the African Union (AU). Japan intends to continue lending support for these positive developments.

The heads of more than 40 African countries and representatives of international organizations and donor countries will take part in TICAD IV, with its message of "Towards a Vibrant Africa." They will discuss the three priority themes of (1) accelerating growth, (2) establishing human security, and (3) responding to environmental and climate changes. For example, for economic growth, which is essential in alleviating poverty, it would be beneficial to reduce the risk of investing in Africa by improving the investment environment, stimulating trade, and strengthening linkages between ODA and private sector initiatives.

From the first Conference in 1993 through to today, TICAD has consistently strived to listen carefully to Africa's identification of issues, priority sectors, and concerns and consider what should be done from their perspective. I think this approach is unique to Japan and cannot be found in other conferences on Africa.

In addition, I believe that one of the important jobs of the Director-General for African Affairs is to listen attentively to the ambassadors stationed in Tokyo. History has placed Africa in difficult circumstances. I think it is natural that we sympathize and empathize with Africa at an intellectual level and maintain a human sense of solidarity. Going further, we must transition from this intellectual sense of unity to a sense of unity accompanied by action, and then to a sense of unity that produces results. I am confident that TICAD serves as a venue for giving expression to this sentiment.

Discussion

Discussions were held after the presentations by resource persons.

● How should Japan support Africa in the midst of budget reductions for ODA?

Mr. Kitera, MOFA

While the total budget is being cut, we are trying to provide aid in a way that will unfailingly reach the people through grant aid for grass-roots movements and similar means. If the economic situation improves, then ODA loans will also become a possibility, so the scope of support may expand in the future.

Mr. Kassé, Senegal

Even though the total amount of Japan's ODA has dropped, I do not think that Japan's resolve to support Africa has weakened. In Africa, countries are facing a great diversity of situations. Some need investment, others emergency assistance, and still others the large-scale cross-border infrastructure development that will be possible through regional integration. So, I expect more assistance substantially benefiting African development, utilizing a needs-oriented approach.

Ms. Chumpuka, Zambia

I feel that Japan is capable of providing support to Africa by means other than increasing disbursements. For example, greater understanding about Africa by the Japanese government and the private sector may bolster investment, which will help us resolve development issues.

● Importance of investment for African development and the role of aid

Mr. Miyaji, Mitsubishi Corporation

By investing in Africa's unique mineral resources and other highly promising projects, we must develop Africa together with the local people and aim to provide high-value products and services to global markets. Otherwise, our activities will profit neither Africa nor Japan. China and India are already taking that approach.

Mr. Kitera, MOFA

We have heard calls from African countries for investment. Africa must improve their investment environment, including infrastructure and public security, to let Japanese companies invest there.

Mr. Kurokawa, JICA

As early as 2003 at TICAD III, Japan had already proposed "poverty reduction through economic growth." Projects such as a south-south cooperation program for Zambia based on Malaysia's experiences have been effective in improving its investment environment. The key to future assistance for Africa will be an approach of tailoring aid to what the target country needs the most, which involves striking a balance between support for economic growth and support for social sectors. To begin with, it would be an unfortunate prospect if Japan and Africa were connected only through aid. Rather, it would be best if connections between companies and the like were further strengthened.

● The role of the African side in receiving aid and investment

Mr. Kulangwa, Tanzania

Africa is striving to achieve development, but is hampered by poor public safety and poverty. Poverty reduction and education are essential for development.

Ms. Chumpuka, Zambia

Japanese people may have the wrong impression that Africa does not welcome Japanese aid. The people of Africa look up to Japan as a truly great country and are eager to learn from Japan's experiences in achieving development.

Mr. Kassé, Senegal

To root out graft and corruption, NEPAD has adopted a system called "governance peer reviews," which helps promote good governance, democracy, and freedom by evaluating the governance of African countries, analyzing their competitiveness, and presenting the results to donors.

● The appropriate role of journalists in African development

Mr. Matsumoto, formerly of the Asahi Shimbun

We must consider what aid is all about. As I see it, aid has three aspects: it benefits the local people, plays a role in diplomatic strategy, and benefits Japanese companies. In any case, we cannot let huge sums of money flow from Japan without yielding any concrete results. I think journalists should pay careful attention to such issues as public safety and impartiality by the government, and monitor where aid goes.

Mr. Kulangwa, Tanzania

As a reporter, I meet and talk with a variety of people. I try to see what types of problems and needs the people have, so as to report what we can do about them. I take it as my mission to raise the living standards of the people through my reporting.

Mr. Kitera, MOFA

One thing I have realized through discussions with African ambassadors stationed in Tokyo since assuming my current position is that they would like to build long-term strategic relationships with Japan. I would like African journalists to offer their opinions concerning what they expect of Japan in terms of such relations.

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Mr. Miyaji, Mitsubishi Corporation

I would like them to report more on positive examples, to emphasize how Africa achieved self-reliance despite incredibly difficult circumstances. We are now speaking about cooperation for Africa, but for Japan there are many industries that are economically unviable without Africa, such as those using chrome, for example. Japanese people should understand Africa's importance more in these aspects. In that regard, I would like reporters to stress that what we need to do is to live together, rather than merely to provide aid.

Mr. Kurokawa, JICA

The theme of TICAD IV is "Towards a Vibrant Africa," and I think that originally Africans were more vibrant than the Japanese. This is the Africa I would like them to report on. I think that the young Japanese volunteers dispatched to Africa as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) are getting energy from the African people. I feel that this is because from Africa they learn the love for family, social safety nets, and the spirit of mutual help. For example, one of the volunteers sent to Senegal put it this way: "The people of Senegal thank us for coming as volunteers, but we are the ones who should be thankful. We came here to teach them about agriculture, but the people of Senegal are exceptionally well versed in agriculture in the Sahel. Throughout the two years that we were there, they invited us to dinner every night, sharing what little food they had."

Mr. Kassé, Senegal

What occurs in Africa is also tied to Japan. Emotional ties between people are also important, and these ties will contribute to the future of Africa. Such matters should be reported upon.

Comments from the audience

- * Africans residents in Japan have indicated that there is prejudice against Africa and requested journalists to convey the diversity of Africa.
- * A point was made regarding the role of the media as the fourth power in monitoring graft and government. As such, it was suggested that the education of journalists is important and that support for sector is desirable. In response to this, it was suggested that reporters should develop their investigative by working in the field rather than through classroom learning.
- * It was noted that self-reliance and ownership are taking root in Africa as a result of support from and Africa intensify their cooperation.

Comments from Ms. Aiko Doden, Moderator

TICAD and the G8 Summit will be held this year. To ensure that this high level of interest in Africa is maintained in the future, we should recognize the diversity of Africa and closely watch to see what changes in Africa occur as a result of these meetings.

Closing Address

Mr. Kodama, Director-General of the Press and Public Relations of MOFA

I believe that this has served as an opportunity for each and every one of us to take a fresh look at the current state of Africa and the issues facing it. I hope that the various ideas emerging from this Japan-Africa Journalists Symposium on African Development touch an even greater number of people.

Towards a Vibrant Africa



The Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development

MAY 28th-30th, Yokohama

WEB : <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/ticad/index.html>