



Chatham House

Conference Opening Remarks

Japan-African Engagement: The Outcomes of TICAD IV and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Agenda

Itsunori Onodera, Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

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Thank you, Dr. Niblett, Director of Chatham House, for your kind introduction. The very name Chatham House is synonymous with the highest quality of research in international affairs, and I have been particularly pleased to see TICAD addressed in such depth by an institution as highly respected as yours. I very much appreciate this opportunity to address the participants here today.

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today as we take up the topic of “Japan-African Engagement” I would like to extend my highest regards to Chatham House for bringing into the spotlight this very timely and important subject of TICAD IV outcomes and the agenda of the upcoming G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. In addition, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to again convey my deepest appreciation to the co-organizers of TICAD IV—UNOSAA, UNDP, and the World Bank—for their continued commitment to making the TICAD process a success.

I personally have been involved in the TICAD IV process throughout the preparatory stages. In attending the preparatory ministerial meeting in Gabon in March, I was able to hear views from all around the African continent, and I believe that both the co-organizers and the African representatives emerged from the Gabon ministerial meeting invigorated for the leadup to both TICAD IV and the G8 Summit. We are all fully determined to work towards consensus and send a strong, united message. The enormous momentum of the past few months continued to build during the Summit itself and expectations are high for the TICAD IV outcomes to be reflected into the discussions at the G8 Summit.

TICAD IV was held in Yokohama and attended by 41 African heads of state and government. The Conference enjoyed more than 3,000 participants in total, including high-level delegations from Africa, Asia, donor countries and international and regional organizations as well as representatives from other civil society stakeholders. TICAD IV played an important role in African development as the world’s largest policy forum.

The TICAD process has, throughout its long history, strongly and consistently advocated the concept of “Ownership” and “Partnership,” and this concept was reconfirmed in the course of the discussions. TICAD IV took up as its overarching theme “Towards a Vibrant Africa: A Continent of Hope and Opportunity” and prioritized areas of cooperation, which was highly evaluated as “timely” and “substantial” by numerous African heads of state and government during the Conference. The priorities set at TICAD IV were “Boosting economic growth,” “Ensuring Human Security, including achieving the MDGs and the consolidation of peace and good governance,” and “Addressing environmental issues/climate change.”

Four outcome documents came out of the conference, namely the Yokohama Declaration; the Yokohama Action Plan, which lays out a roadmap for concrete actions to be taken over the next five years; the TICAD Follow-up Mechanism; and the TICAD IV Chairperson’s Summary.

What was outstanding at the conference was the openness and transparency that prevailed. A perfect case in point was the online broadcasting of the plenary session. This was a first for TICAD, but it is just one example of the open and transparent approach that has characterized TICAD since its launch in 1993. I would also like to highlight the fact that the Conference was highly regarded for its solid collaboration with other civil society actors. It was particularly significant that civil society voices from Africa and Japan were incorporated so actively both in the preparation process and at the conference.

Another outstanding feature of TICAD IV was the establishment of the TICAD Follow-up Mechanism, which ensures regular monitoring of the implementation process over the next five years. Japan’s concrete proposals and the TICAD Follow-up Mechanism were highly evaluated by African leaders.

Finally, the Conference enjoyed the participation of eminent individuals who have been working on African development issues, including Bono, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Youssouf Ndour, and Professor Wangari Maathai. Their

remarks were stimulating on a number of levels, and they approached African issues from unique and valuable angles.

Japan has become increasingly proactive in its policies towards Africa. In particular, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda announced some of Japan's initiatives in his opening speech to TICAD IV. I would like to highlight a few of those for you now. While Japan proposed a wide range of initiatives, including those focused on the MDGs, today I will highlight the economic initiatives to reflect the particularly high level of interest given to these by the African heads of state and government.

First, with regard to ODA, Japan has pledged that it will double its ODA to Africa by 2012. Japan will provide ODA loan up to 4 billion US dollars, with special focus on infrastructure and agricultural development.

We are also determined to foster trade and investment with Africa. The Government of Japan will be providing assistance with the aim of doubling foreign direct investment from the Japanese private sector to Africa by the end of 2012.

Japan has been particularly engaged with the issues of soaring food prices, and you may know that in his speech at the FAO High-level Conference on World Food Security in Rome Prime Minister Fukuda highlighted the necessity to improve agricultural productivity and production capacity of African nations and stressed the urgency expressed repeatedly by African leaders. At TICAD IV, President Museveni of Uganda and other leaders emphasized that this food crisis could in fact provide opportunities for Africa if proper measures are taken, with Africa transforming itself into a base for food provision. We are greatly encouraged by these comments.

Japan has made numerous commitments towards food security in Africa not only for the immediate future but over the longer term. As immediate relief, Japan has pledged an emergency food aid package of 100 million US dollars to be distributed by July, mainly targeting Africa. We are also determined to help increase African agricultural productivity, including assistance aiming at

doubling rice production in African countries over the next ten years in cooperation with other partners such as international organizations.

I would be remiss here if I did not call your attention to Japan's many proactive efforts towards the provision of infrastructure. Japan has been engaged in efforts to join unconnected road networks in Africa, and I am pleased to say that the United Kingdom is our highly valued partner in these efforts. JICA and DFID will together promote facilitation of cross-border procedures by expanding the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) system. This is a critical step in enabling Africa as a whole to move forward with greater dynamism. You may be aware that Japan and the UK have been engaged in various activities together in the past, such as a joint visit to Tanzania in 2005 by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DFID. It is my strong personal hope that our success in these efforts to date will lead to even greater cooperation in the years to come.

Underlying Japan's various initiatives is the concept of "Human Security," which Japan has been promoting tirelessly with a view to protecting and empowering individuals and local communities. As I mentioned earlier, Human Security was one of the three priority areas taken up at TICAD IV.

I spoke earlier of the momentum that was felt so strongly during the TICAD process. That momentum was also very tangible in Asia-Africa cooperation. High-level representatives from around Asia, including the Vice-Prime Minister of Vietnam, stated that they were proactively promoting Asia-Africa cooperation. South-south cooperation, especially among African states, was highlighted prominently.

Looking specifically at the road ahead to the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, Prime Minister Fukuda has stated his strong resolve to have the leaders of the G8 engage in full-fledged discussions on the issues that African leaders themselves have identified as critical. The strong political will that was demonstrated at TICAD IV has further increased our expectations that highly meaningful outcomes will be emerging from Toyako.

Japan greatly respects the determination and the efforts now underway by African nations to make their continent increasingly vibrant. Japan remains ever mindful of the support it received from the international community during its own development. As a responsible member of the international community, we intend to extend our partnership to Africa in turn. As Prime Minister Fukuda stated, we are now opening to a new page in the great narrative of African development, titled the “century of African growth.” Japan is determined to support Africa as it makes this century of growth a reality.

Thank you for your attention.