



A woman holds up bottles of freshly pressed peanut oil in front of a processing factory for farm products in Malawi where JICA's One Village One Product project is underway. (Photo by Katsumi Yoshida)

## 2 Support for Accelerating Growth in Africa

### TICAD IV and Support for Africa

Considering it important to be more attentive to the voices of developing countries in the discussion of various issues concerning the international community, Japan invited representatives of developing countries to the G8 Kyushu/Okinawa Summit 2000. The summit was attended by the leader of Thailand, then ASEAN Chair and former UNCTAD10 (10th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) Chair, in addition to the leaders of Nigeria, South Africa, and Algeria, all of whom exchanged opinions with G8 leaders. It was the first summit that provided an opportunity for dialogue between the leaders of G8 and developing countries, and the contribution of Japan was highly appreciated by the participating leaders. With this event providing momentum, support for Africa gained further attention in the international community. African countries launched the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for themselves in 2001 and have continued self-help efforts toward development.

Previously, Japan co-hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1993. This meeting, which directed the attention of the international community to support for Africa, has been held every five years since the first meeting. The fourth meeting (TICAD IV) is

scheduled for 2008.

#### Current Trends of Economies in Africa

While economies in Africa have been in long-term recession since the latter half of the 1970s, East Asia, including the Republic of Korea and Singapore (NIES), Thailand and Malaysia (ASEAN), and China, have achieved unprecedented economic growth, resulting in a large economic gap among developing countries. Recent years also witnessed remarkable economic growth in South Asia, including India. Afro-pessimism prevailed until the 1990s, since the continent was mired in armed conflicts, contained failed nation states, and was further marginalized in the world economy.

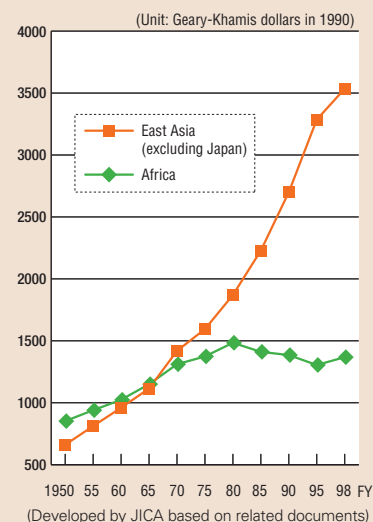
However, the macro economy in Africa has been stabilized since the end of the 1990s, showing signs of improvements in social services, such as basic education, health, and water supply. At the same time, peace and security have steadily progressed even in conflict-ridden areas such as the Great Lakes Region\*1, Sudan, and Liberia. Along with this trend, African countries have taken initiatives towards peacebuilding and development through the African Union (AU) and NEPAD, regarding development issues as challenges to be addressed by themselves.

Nevertheless, the economic struc-

tures of many countries remain dependent on primary products and have yet to develop a sustainable economic growth mechanism entailing reforms. Since economic growth does not lead to poverty reduction based on appropriate distribution, further efforts are necessary for the protection of the socially vulnerable (correction of income distribution between urban and rural areas and among different social classes).

Thus, in light of the fact that African countries are addressing their own issues, such as resolving regional conflicts, democratization, liberalization of economy, and administrative and financial reforms through poverty reduction plans,

**Figure a. Trends of GDP Per Capita in East Asia and Africa**



the international community, including Japan, is expected to be involved in development issues in Africa in a concerted manner and to provide support for the ownership of African countries. The TICAD IV is a perfect opportunity for Japan to exercise its initiative.

## Asia's Experience .....

The development experiences in Asia indicate that structural factors for economic growth are summarized into three points: (1) a sufficient supply of diligent and low-cost labor; (2) development-oriented government and the presence of an effective administrative mechanism; and (3) a relatively high domestic savings rate and development of private financial sector. Four political factors can also be listed: (1) an export-oriented trade system converted from the import substitution policy of 1950s-1960s (policy to promote domestic production of imported goods); (2) an open economy system to promote foreign direct investment; (3) proactive government interventions, including policy-based finance, infrastructure development, and introduction of industrial policy; and (4) stable food supply through the

expansion of agricultural production, accumulation of domestic assets, expansion of domestic market, and redistribution of wealth.

Japan has input about 60% of the bilateral ODA that has gone into Asia, and most of it was directed at development of economic infrastructure, thus contributing to the development of investment environment in recipient countries and drawing out the vitality of the private sector. The following Japanese efforts have also been highly praised: (1) timely implementation of assistance in areas suitable for direct investment and trade promotion; (2) provision of large-scale assistance towards improvement of agricultural productivity; (3) contribution to human resources development, which is regarded as one of the basic factors to bolster the economic development of Asia, through active cooperation in the education sector, such as technical training.

In the light of active approaches to Africa from China in recent years and the rapid economic growth of India, with which Africa has had traditionally strong economic relations, African countries are more inclined to accelerate their growth

and advocate the importance of applying the Asian experience to Africa. For example, at the Davos Forum in January 2007, President Kaberuka of the African Development Bank talked about "turning the Asian miracle into an African miracle." Zenawi Meles, prime minister of Ethiopia, wrote a paper on the revitalization of Africa based on Asia's experience, too.

Needless to say, Asia and Africa have different histories as well as natural, social, and economic environments, and the Asian experience cannot be transferred to Africa directly. However, JICA thinks it is effective to review the Asian experience and devise specific development projects, while paying attention to the differences, in the area of African development, which has previously focused on the application of Western experience and theory.

\*1 Great Lakes Region: The region lies across Rwanda, Brundi, and Uganda in the center, including the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the western part of Kenya, and the north-western part of Tanzania. This name has been given to the region because it includes a series of large lakes, such as Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, and Lake Tanganyika.

## Efforts towards TICAD IV

At the TICAD IV scheduled for May 2008, discussions will be held on future measures for support for Africa in the contexts of acceleration of growth, human security, and environment and climate change. The sustainability and acceleration of growth in Africa, which has just exhibited signs of incipient improvement, is the major task of Africa and it is important to learn from the Asian experience to that end. Providing support to protect people from threats such as poverty and conflict and empower them to be independent—in other words, providing support for human security—is indispensable for the development of Africa. Furthermore, environmental issues such as preventing climate change and desertification need to be addressed by the entire international community. JICA is actively committed to these issues through the following efforts.

## Support for Accelerating Growth .....

Given the recent trends surrounding

Africa described thus far, JICA is determined to address agricultural and rural village development, development of the trade and investment environment, and basic infrastructure development and support for human resources development, as part of its support for accelerating growth, in preparation for TICAD IV in 2008 (see p.53-54).

### Promotion of agricultural and rural development

It is said that about 80% of the population of Africa live in rural areas, and agricultural and rural development is essential to ensure the sustainability of development in Africa. Thus, it is necessary to actively provide support for improving agricultural productivity and developing a distribution system for agricultural products.

JICA provides support to develop and disseminate NERICA\*<sup>2</sup> rice mainly in Uganda and Guinea, as the eastern and western centers, respectively, aiming to ensure food security in Africa, and plans

to extend these achievements to neighboring countries.



Guidance on cultivation of NERICA rice by a JICA expert (Uganda)

### Development of trade/investment environment as an engine for growth

Sustainable development in Africa requires revitalization of the private sector through promotion of trade and investment, and resulting economic growth. African countries experiencing favorable economic growth are required to create an environment to vitalize economic activities by means of private capital, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to make the growth sustainable.

JICA works on system-building necessary for developing an investment environment in Africa, while utilizing its experience supporting Asian countries. Support will be provided for the expansion of the One Village One Product Movement throughout Africa to vitalize communities, which are the foundation of economic activities (see p.134).

### Development of basic infrastructure

Since many countries in Africa are inland countries, underdevelopment of cross-border infrastructure and the delay in streamlining customs procedures impede the integration of regional economies, the expansion of market size, and economic vitalization of rural areas. Under such circumstances, the development of basic social infrastructure is indispensable as a premise for ensuring economic growth. With this recognition in mind, JICA will strengthen the development assistance in Africa by implementing infrastructure development plans (transportation, electricity, etc.) set forth by the NEPAD.

### Support for human resources development for growth

In today's society, advances in technological innovation are centered on information and communication technology (ICT). In Africa, which needs enhancement of basic education, in order to achieve economic growth in today's world, it is also necessary to develop human resources focusing on secondary science and mathematics and higher technological education, in addition to basic education. To meet these diversified needs for human resources development, JICA is actively committed to the capacity development of each individual, recognizing that human resources is one of the most important factors in proceeding with the development of a country.

### Support for Achieving Human Security .....

Approximately 40% of the people in Africa live in absolute poverty on less than US\$1 a day. The concept of human security, which comprehensively addresses the issues of "freedom from want of basic living needs (education and health services and access to safe water,

etc.)" and "freedom from fear (conflict and terrorism, etc.)" is extremely important for Africa in pursuing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

### Health and medical care

Infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and polio continue to threaten the lives of people living in Africa. The high mortality rate of pregnant women and infants is another serious issue. To address these issues, JICA will continue with cooperation for the prevention of infectious diseases and the health maintenance of pregnant women and infants, in partnership with local medical institutions. The cooperation in this area is based on the Action Plan in Combating Infectious Diseases in Africa introduced by then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in May 2006.

### Education

Human resources development is central to a country's development, and enhancing education is therefore essential. Universal education is spelled out as one of the MDGs, but primary enrollment is still low in many of African countries. JICA will implement and strengthen various types of educational support, including support that combines the construction of primary and secondary school buildings with know-how of school management.



Support for participatory primary school management is provided for the purpose of eliminating lack of understanding about schools among local communities and parents and increasing enrollment. (Niger)

### Safe water

Many people in Africa are forced to use unsanitary water. Unsanitary water carries hazardous implications with regard to health, and can be potentially fatal in some cases. In order to improve the situation, JICA provides support for securing safe water through the construction of water supply facilities. Support is also provided for maintenance

and management of water supply facilities by organizing community groups, thus contributing to capacity development of the community.

### Consolidation of peace

The issue of how to consolidate peace and link peace to reconstruction assistance carries significant weight in Africa. JICA has pledged to enhance support for peacebuilding and is actively involved in reconstruction assistance in the immediate post-conflict countries; for instance, community support for refugee camps (Sudan) and social reintegration of children (Sierra Leone).

### Efforts for Environment and Climate Change .....

Since the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012, active talks are being held regarding the post-Kyoto Protocol framework in the international arena. Climate change was the main theme of the discussions at the AU General Assembly in January 2007. At the TICAD ministerial-level meeting in March 2007, it was emphasized that the African continent was particularly vulnerable to global-scale climate change and methods for addressing climate change were important for sustainable development in Africa.

In the past, then Minister of Foreign Affairs Shinzo Abe announced a Green Revolution in Africa in the 1980s, and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers played a leading role in implementing Green Promotion Cooperation Projects in Senegal, Tanzania, Niger, and Ethiopia. In May 2007, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced his own initiative, "Invitation to Cool Earth 50," and enhanced projects for environmental conservation in Africa are expected.

Based on the recognition that global-scale efforts are necessary for long-term measures against global warming, JICA will support the dissemination of clean energy in Africa, such as solar power generation, and at the same time will proactively address green issues (global environment issues) such as prevention of desertification.

\*2 NERICA (New Rice for Africa): an upland rice variety developed by crossbreeding a high-yielding Asian rice variety with a cold- and disease-resistant African rice variety.