

## **【Side event of TICAD7】**

### **TICAD7 Kick-off Event~BON for AFRICA~**

On August 27, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a kick-off event for TICAD7 called “BON for AFRICA” at the Zou-no-hana Park in Yokohama. The event was co-organized by the Africa Bon Odori Project Committee. Nearly 2,200 people attended the event, including diplomatic corps for TICAD7, representatives of African embassies, and local residents from Yokohama and neighboring cities, including African people.

This event was established in line with TICAD7 to demonstrate how “cool” Africa really is. A Japanese festival stage was erected at the center of Zou-no-hana Park where DJ KOO and Mr. Ukon Takafuji, a master of Japanese dancer, and a representative of the Africa Bon Odori Project Committee, played music and showed the audience the “BON for Africa” dance to enable visitors to perform the special choreographed dance around the stage (the “BON for Africa” dance was created by Mr. Ukon Takafuji as an accompaniment to Hibari Misora’s famous song “Kawano Nagareno Yoni” – Like the Flow of the River). With participants dancing around the festival stage, the dance party fused Japanese and African influences to enable participants to have a fun, lively time.

Ahead of the dance party, the event held several other performances, including a live performance by a band from Africa led by Mr. Oswald Kouame of Côte d'Ivoire and a fashion show by the Tokyo Africa Collection, showcasing “unorthodox African fashion.” The program also included performances by Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games host towns for African countries and a talk show hosted by popular manga artists Mr. Rene Hoshino from Cameroon and Mr. Mansour Diagne from Senegal.

At the commencement of the Africa Bon Odori dance party, Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, the President of JICA greeted the audience, saying, “We are glad that this event will be an opportunity for everyone to engage with the diverse and profound cultures of Africa.”

At the conclusion of the event, Mr. Takafuji addressed the visitors and expressed:

“I hope that this event and the Africa Bon Odori dance movement can help more Japanese people to think about Africa and its future.”

■Participants

[Live Performance] Oswald Kouame & N’zassa Music

[Fashion Show] Tokyo Africa Collection

[Talk Show] Rene Hoshino, Mansour Diagne

[Japanese and African Traditional Music and Dance] Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games host towns

[“Bon for Africa” Dance] UKOON (Unit by DJ KOO and Ukon Takafuji)

■Related SDGs



●Related links

- TICAD7 promotion video “BON for AFRICA”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3r4P1S8i1yM&feature=youtu.be>