

【Side event of TICAD7】

Realizing Rule of Law and Human Security -Lessons from the Fight against Child Labor-

On August 28, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a side event of TICAD7 at JICA Yokohama that discussed efforts being made to eliminate child labor in Ghana's cocoa industry, in order to reaffirm the principle of rule of law.

Dr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President of JICA, opened up the session, followed by presentations from Mr. Kizito Ballans, Ghana's Chief Director at the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, and Mr. Minoru Ogasawara, the Chief Technical Advisor of the ILO Regional Office for Africa.

Dr. Kitaoka's opening remarks emphasized that it is particularly important to protect and empower those most disadvantaged, including women and children, in order to realize the rule of law in Africa from a Human Security perspective. For their part, Mr. Ogasawara spoke about international efforts aimed at eliminating child labor, and Mr. Ballans summarized current barriers that Ghana faces in eliminating child labor.

The session then moved on to a panel discussion with remarks delivered by Mr. Nana Antwi Boasiako Brempong, the Executive Secretary of CRADA; Ms. Tomoko Shiroki, the Managing Director of ACE; Mr. Wataru Ikuta, the Managing Director of Tachibana International PTE Ltd.; and Ms. Miwa Yamada, Director of the Law and Institution Studies Group at IDE-JETRO.

During the discussion, the panelists conversed about Ghana's cocoa industry, which Japan is also closely involved with. Here, lively discussions took place regarding how NGOs and the cocoa industry are working to eliminate child labor and seeking to protect people's human rights throughout business practices.

These discussions concluded with a vision to develop a platform in Japan that would serve as the foundation for establishing collective actions among a wide array of stakeholders, including governments, industries, non-profit organizations, and citizens.



President Kitaoka kickstarts the rule of law event with opening remarks



Participants engage in a lively panel discussion about child labor in the cocoa industry

■ Participants

[Opening Remarks]

- Shinichi Kitaoka, President of JICA

[Presenters]

- Minoru Ogasawara, Chief Technical Advisor, Regional Office for Africa, ILO
- Kizito Ballans, Chief Director, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ghana

[Panelists]

- Nana Antwi Boasiako Brempong, Executive Secretary, CRADA
- Tomoko Shiroki, Managing Director, ACE
- Wataru Ikuta, Managing Director, Tachibana International PTE Ltd.
- Miwa Yamada, Director, Law and Institution Studies Group, Inter-disciplinary Studies Center, IDE-JETRO

[Moderator]

- Yosuke Kobayashi, Senior Director, Governance Group, Industrial Development and Public Policy Department, JICA

■ Related SDGs

