

【Side event of TICAD7】

Forests Can Change the world
- Innovative Technologies and Approaches, Key Elements for Better Forest Governance in Africa-

On Aug. 29, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) co-sponsored by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) held a TICAD 7 side event on the theme of forest governance in Africa, titled "Forests can change the world," at InterContinental Yokohama Grand. A total of 100 participants attended, with government officials from African countries and private sector personnel, including Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, of Kenya, and General Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Between 1990 and 2015, 82 million hectares of forest have been lost in Africa. There are a variety of factors, such as farmland development, fuelwood gathering, deforestation including illegal logging, and infrastructure development, and countermeasures need to be taken at a global level. JICA and JAXA launched the "Forest Governance Initiative" based on the cooperation agreement in the forest sector signed in 2016. Under this initiative, the "JICA-JAXA Forest Early Warning System in the Tropics (JJ-FAST)" which contributes to early detection and warning of deforestation, was developed and released, and human resource development and seminars were conducted for its utilization.

At this event, we reaffirmed the importance of forest (including peatland) management both for regional economic and environmental perspective, and for global perspective such as climate change and extreme weather occurrence. In order to improve forest governance in Africa, we confirmed the necessity of further technical development (remote sensing, etc) as well as policy, regulation, institution and human resource capacity development and reinforcement of coordination among stakeholders including the private sector. Private sector participants expressed their expectation to reduce information risk, which is a hindrance to private investment by improving the accuracy and access of forest data. JAXA mentioned their further efforts for development of satellite and its

utilization technology.

As Africa is expected to have huge population increase in future, we are facing urgent need of capacity development for the sustainable forest management in this continent. JICA, together with JAXA, will continue to promote collaboration among industry-government-academia-related parties through this 'Forest Governance Initiative'.

■ Participants

[Opening Remarks]

Yusuke Amano, Senior Vice President, JICA

Kazuo Tachi, Associate Director-General, Space Technology Directorate I, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

[Keynote Speech]

Benjamin Toirambe, General Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ibrahim Mohamed, CBS, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya

Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director, ITTO

Shigeru Sasabe, Representative Director, Executive Vice President and Executive Officer, Sumitomo Forest Co., LTD

[Panelists]

Benjamin Toirambe, General Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ibrahim Mohamed, CBS, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya

Tomonobu Kumahira, Corporate Finance Director, KOMAZA

Yasuko Inoue, Senior Researcher, REDD Research and Development Center, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute of Japan

Takeo Tadono, Associate Senior Researcher, Earth Observation Research Center (EORC), Space Technology Directorate I, JAXA

[Moderator]

Takahiro Morita, JICA

[Closing Remarks]

Koji Hongou, Director-General, Forestry Agency of Japan

■ Photo



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