

【Side event of TICAD7】

**From Idea to Action: Harnessing the Potential of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Africa Development**

On Aug. 29, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized an event on the theme of STI, at PACIFICO Yokohama.

In order to raise “leapfrogging (skipping the fixed-line development)” in Africa, various actors need to bring social innovations through STI. In this event, over 400 people actively participated in discussions about the roles played by each actor, such as government and development organizations.

In the first part, a panel discussion entitled “The Role of Government and Development Organizations in Harnessing the Potential of STI in Africa Development” was held with the participation of the Minister of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda, Ms. Paula Ingabire, Rakuten, Inc. Executive Officer, Mr. Fernando Paulo, and board members from the World Bank, UNDP, and JICA.

In the second part, after a case study about building a start-up ecosystem in Ethiopia and co-creation for solving social issues by African start-up companies and Japanese technical colleges, six representatives of start-up companies active in Africa discussed “the factors for success for the start-ups in Africa,” together with the participants at the venue.

In the first part, the importance of STI in African development and the need for co-creation by various actors such as private companies and academic institutions, as well as the development of human resources and systems that contribute to the co-creation system, were described. In the second part, human capital, financing access, trust, and personal connections were cited as the factors for a successful start-up.

During the event, JICA announced the launching of an open innovation platform and collaboration with various actors to solve social issues in Africa.

## ■ Participants

### [Part I: Panelists]

- Paula Ingabire , Minister, Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda
- Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union
- Fernando Paulo, Executive Officer, General Manager of Sustainability Department, Corporate Culture Division, Rakuten, Inc.
- Hafez Ghanem, Vice President Africa Region, World Bank
- Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP
- Kazuhiko Koshikawa, Executive Senior Vice President, JICA

### [Part II: Panelists]

- Alex Ntale, CEO, Rwanda ICT Chamber
- Kohei Muto, CEO/Founding Partner, Double Feather Partners, Inc.
- Rebecca Enonchong, Board Chair, AfriLabs
- Yoshikazu Takasaki, CEO, Doreming Pte.Ltd
- Masayuki Kurihara, General Manager, Economic Cooperation Team, Regional Coordination & Administration Dept, Marubeni Corporation
- Clement Uwajeneza, Country Director, Andela

### [Part II: Moderator]

- Steven Kenneth Mbabazi Shalita, Manager, Africa Communications and Partnerships, World Bank

### [Keynote Speakers]

- Naonobu Fuwa, Expert in Innovation, Competition and Incubation, JICA
- Satoru Sakurai, Team leader for JICA Survey on Open Innovation through utilizing Disruptive Digital Technologies in Africa



JICA Executive Senior Vice President Koshikawa explains an open innovation platform.



Second part panel discussion



Participants listen to the first part panel discussion

■ Related SDGs

