

【Side event of TICAD7】

-Can Innovation Change Health in Africa?-

On Aug. 30, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a seminar at the Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel on the theme of possibilities in private collaboration in the fields of health and medicine. More than 140 people participated in the seminar.

During the event “Can Innovation Change Health in Africa?,” a bi-directional discussion between participants tried to answer the question by discovering what innovative elements are needed to solve health challenges in Africa, based on three examples of private collaboration. The particular discussion focused on what kind of private collaboration should be promoted in order to maintain fairness in medicine, an area where market forces do not come into effect. A summary of the discussion follows.

- Innovation in the fields of health and medicine are not limited to high-cost equipment in cutting-edge medicine, rather, it can take various shapes which can be applied across a wide range of situations that are suited to African health care and financial circumstances. Open-minded ideas are important.
- Introducing new equipment and products requires us to put ourselves in local people’s shoes and build trust with them. This can be possible with on-site educational initiatives to train people to manage and use the equipment and gain an understanding of consumer product effects. Innovation can be introduced when public institutions support such efforts through public-private partnerships.
- Everyone, from large and medium to small sized corporations, can participate in bringing about innovation. Also, a single corporation that develops a public-private partnership could be expanded and collaborate with corporations active in multiple other fields (without competition) in order to promote further private collaboration.

We look forward to utilizing the points in this discussion in future JICA projects.

■ Participants

[Speakers]

Samantha Giangregorio, Managing Director, Essential Health Care, EMEA
Region, Sysmex South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Kuniyuki Furuta, COO, Lequio Power Technology Corp.

Yusuke Takahashi, Manager, Ajinomoto Foundation

Esi Foriwa, Deputy Director, Nutrition, Family Health, Ghana Health Service

[Moderator]

Naoyuki Kobayashi, Senior Assistant Director, Human Development Department,
JICA

■ SDGs Goals

