

RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS

ON

THE PROJECT ON THE CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT
FOR WEST AFRICA GROWTH RING MASTER PLAN

AGREED UPON BETWEEN

THE COMMISSION DE L'UNION ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE OUEST
AFRICAIN (UEMOA) REPRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT DE
L'AMENAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ET DES
TRANSPORTS(DATC)

AND

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)

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In the framework of the Detailed Planning Survey on the Project on the Corridor Development for West Africa Growth Ring Master Plan (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"), a mission of Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as "JICA") stayed to the Commission de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") in Ouagadougou from 21st to 25th September 2014.

During the mission, the Commission represented by Département de l'Aménagement du Territoire Communautaire et des Transports of Commission de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (hereinafter referred to as "DATC") and JICA had a series of discussions, for which relevant departments took part, for the elaboration of a detailed plan of the Project.

As a result of the discussions, the two parties agreed to sign on the 25th of September 2014 the Minutes of Meeting describing the principal points of discussions mentioned in this draft of the Record of Discussions enabling to proceed to the implementation of the Project.

The two parties agreed on the details of the Project and the principal points of discussion mentioned in the Appendix 1 and the Appendix 2 annexed to this R/D.

The two parties also agreed that DATC, the main counterpart to JICA, will be responsible for the implementation of the Project in cooperation with JICA. The DATC will assume the coordination of the Project with the participation of other relevant organizations to ensure the self-reliant operation of the Project during and after the implementation period. In this way, the Project contributes toward social and economic development of the region along the corridors concerned by the Project.

The Project will be implemented in conformity with the framework of the Note Verbales to be exchanged between the Government of Japan (hereinafter referred to as "GOJ") and the Commission.

The effectiveness of the record of discussions is subject to the exchange of the Note Verbales.

This record of discussions is done in two examples in French and English languages, both being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Appendix 1: Project Description
Appendix 2: Main Points Discussed

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

I. BACKGROUND

The West Africa Growth Ring consists of four corridors, namely Abidjan-Ouagadougou corridor, Accra-Ouagadougou corridor, Lomé-Ouagadougou corridor and Abidjan-Lagos corridor. The Project concerns principally Abidjan-Ouagadougou corridor, Accra-Ouagadougou corridor and Lomé-Ouagadougou corridor, connecting four countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo).

These corridors concern the significant trunk roads which connect major coastal capitals in the West Africa and principal road networks for the hinterlands. The economy of this area and its surroundings, with a population of over 300 million, has constantly shown high growth in recent years. The real growth rate has been hovering around 7% since 2013. This expansion in the economy has been reflected directly on the demand for transportation.

However, taking into consideration of current situation on infrastructure and social capital, several obstacles hamper the economic development. For instance, the major constraining factors of industrial promotion and economic growth in this area are high transportation cost, low productivities of agriculture and expensive labor cost. The indirect cost on the transportation is one the most expensive compared to that in Asia or Latin America.

Aware of various development potentials along the corridors composing of the West Africa Growth Ring, the Commission considers the necessity to complement existing development plans to promote investment and to reduce the poverty among the local people in the zone of the Growth Ring.

The Project has the objectives to identify the existing obstacles in the corridors and propose the ways to overcome them. The solutions, taken account of potentials, risks and constraints of development, have to facilitate the development of this region through analyzing the probable impact of existing projects. In that context, the Commission has solicited the GOJ for the realization of the Project.

This request complies with the GOJ's cooperation policy, which aims to stimulate regional and local economies and align well with the JICA's cooperation program. In addition, the Project is based on one of the initiatives in the Yokohama Declaration as a result of the TICAD V held in Yokohama, Japan in June 2013.

II. OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

1. Title of the Project

The Project has the title: Project on the Corridor Development for West Africa Growth Ring Master Plan

2. Expected Goals which will be attained after the Project Completion

The objective of the Project is to propose the strategies and plans to promote the appropriate development and the investment.

The proposed development strategies and plans are approved and implemented by the Commission and the countries concerned by the Project.

These strategies and plans enable to improve the regional development, reinforce the economic growth and promote foreign investment by making most of development potentials and resources of the countries situated along the line of the corridors concerned by the Project including the Abidjan-Lagos corridor.

3. Outputs

- (1) Integrated development plans consistent at sub-regional development plans and national development plans are formulated
- (2) Database of various sectors attracting investment at national, regional and international level is created
- (3) Transportation data based on the Origin-Destination (OD) survey is generated

4. Principal Activities

The activities to realize in the framework of the Project are as follows;

- (1) Review of existing development plans, development projects, studies, and public and private investments
- (2) Collection of available data and information concerning the area under the direct influence of the Project and its surroundings
- (3) OD Survey for cargo transportation
- (4) Corridor diagnostic analysis of corridors
- (5) Socio-economic study
- (6) Sector survey concerning the Project
- (7) Identification and analysis of constraints, promoting factors and potential for development
- (8) Proposition of establishment of social economic framework for the Project
- (9) Analysis and proposition on the alternative development scenarios
- (10) Strategic environmental assessment of alternative development scenarios
- (11) Formulation of integrated development strategies
- (12) Recommendations of measures to complement on-going and planned development projects
- (13) Proposition of projects in selected sectors in accordance with the integrated development strategies
- (14) Prioritization of the development projects which will be proposed at national and sub-regional level
- (15) Holding of international seminars to share the progress and results of the Project

5. Input for the Project

(1) Input by JICA

JICA, on the base of its own resources, will take in charge of the activities cited below:

(a) Dispatch of Mission

During the mission, JICA dispatches the experts to assure the achievement of the objectives of the Project. These experts are in charge of the fields cited below;

- 1) Sub-regional development (Team Leader)
- 2) Industrial Development
- 3) Transportation (Road, Railway, Port, Airport)
- 4) Logistics
- 5) Private Sector Development
- 6) Natural Resource and Energy
- 7) Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery
- 8) Urban Development
- 9) Water Resources
- 10) Agro-processing
- 11) Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- 12) Economic and Financial Analysis
- 13) Environment and Social Considerations
- 14) Internal coordination (Assistant of the Team Leader)

Input other than indicated above will be determined considering the necessity through mutual consultations between JICA and the Commission during the implementation of the Project.

(b) Training in Japan

JICA will organize training courses on the Corridor Development in Japan during the Project period.

(2) Input by the Commission

The Commission, on the base of its own resources, will take in charge of the activities cited below:

- (a) To assure services of DATC's counterpart personnel and administrative personnel as referred to in II-6;
- (b) To provide suitable office space with necessary equipment;
- (c) To provide necessary information and assistance to have access on medical service;
- (d) To provide the experts with the letters of the introduction to facilitate the access to the services and the institutions of countries concerned by the Project;
- (e) To provide available data (including maps and photographs) and information related to the Project;
- (f) To assure expenses necessary for the implementation of the Project;
- (g) To assure necessary coordination between the Commission and the countries concerned by the Project; and
- (h) To facilitate the access to the information related to the transfer of the funds allocated for the implementation of the Project in conformity with the regulations of the countries concerned by the Project.

6. Implementation Structure

The Project organization chart is given in the Annex 1. The roles and assignments of DATC, the mission team of JICA and relevant organizations are as follows:

(1) DATC

(a) Project Director, the Commissioner of DATC

Project Director will be responsible for overall administration and implementation of the Project.

(b) Project Coordinator, Director of Cabinet of DATC or the person nominated by the Project Director

Project Coordinator will manage implementation of the Project.

(2) The Mission Team of JICA

The JICA missions will give principal orientation, conduct the necessary technical studies and give recommendation to DATC and the countries concerned by the Project for the elaboration of the Master Plan and its implementation.

(3) Joint Steering Committee

Joint Steering Committee (hereinafter referred to as "JSC") will be established in order to facilitate inter-organizational and international coordination and to approve the proposed sub-regional strategies and plans. A list of proposed members of JSC is shown in the Annex 2.

JSC will be assisted by Joint Technical and Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred to as "JTMC"), which reviews and validates the different reports concerning the regional strategies and plans that are provided by the JICA Mission Team. JTMC holds meetings whenever deemed it necessary.

JTMC will be composed of :

- Coordinator of the Project ;
- Directors in charge of infrastructure and transports of the DATC and the representatives of the Departments of the Commission concerned by the Project ;
- Directors of the sector institutions and ministries and members of the JSC;
- Representatives of JICA.

7. Project Site and Beneficiaries

(1) Project Site

Project site is shown in Annex 3.

(2) Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are all the habitants in the Project site.

8. Duration

The Project will be carried out for approximately 18 months.

9. Reports

JICA will prepare and submit the following reports to the Commission in French and English.

- (1) 50 copies (40 copies in French and 10 in English) of Inception Report at the commencement of the first work period of the study
- (2) 50 copies (40 copies in French and 10 in English) of Interim Report at the time about 7 months after the commencement of the first work period of the study
- (3) 50 copies (40 copies in French and 10 in English) of Draft Final Report at the end of the last work period of the study
- (4) 50 copies (40 copies in French and 10 in English) of Final Report within two (2) months after the receipt of the comments on the Draft Final Report

10. Environmental and Social Considerations

- (1) DATC agreed to abide by 'JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Considerations' in order to ensure that appropriate considerations will be made for the environmental and social impacts of the Project. This provision shall be valid only if the level of quality required in the guideline is not less than those applied in the area of the Union and / or the member states.

III. UNDERTAKINGS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The Commission will take necessary measures to :

- (1) Ensure that the technologies and knowledge acquired as a result of Japanese technical cooperation contributes to the economic and social development of the member countries of UEMOA
- (2) share the knowledge and experience acquired by the personnel of the Commission from technical training
- (3) ensure the equipment provided in the framework of the Project for the effective implementation of the Project;
- (4) Facilitate the countries concerned by the Project to grant privileges, exemptions and benefits to the members of the JICA missions referred to in II-5 (1) above, which are no less favorable than those granted to experts and members of the missions of third countries or international organizations performing similar missions in the Commission;
- (5) Facilitate the countries concerned by the Project to provide security-related information as well as measures to ensure the safety of the members of the JICA missions; and
- (6) Facilitate the countries concerned by the Project to permit the members of the JICA missions to enter, leave and sojourn in the countries mentioned above for the duration of their assignments therein and exempt them from foreign registration requirements and consular fees.
- (7) Other privileges, exemptions and benefits will be provided in accordance with the Note Verbales to be exchanged between GOJ and the Commission.

IV. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

JICA will conduct the following evaluations and surveys to mainly verify sustainability and impact of the Project and draw lessons.

1. Ex-post evaluation three (3) years after the project completion, in principle
2. Follow-up surveys on necessity basis

DATC is required to provide necessary support for them.

V. PROMOTION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT

For the purpose of promoting support for the Project, DATC will take appropriate measures to make the Project widely known to the people of the regions along the corridors and the zone under the influence of the Project.

VI. Misconduct

If JICA receives information related to suspected corrupt or fraudulent practices in the implementation of the Project, DATC and relevant organizations shall provide JICA with such information as JICA may reasonably request, including information related to any concerned official of the Commission and/or public organizations of relevant countries.

The Commission and relevant organizations shall not, unfairly or unfavorably treat the person and/or company which provided the information related to suspected corrupt or fraudulent practices in the implementation of the Project.

VII. MUTUAL CONSULTATION

JICA and the Commission will consult each other whenever any major issues arise in the course of Project implementation. DATC will play a role of facilitator for the UEMOA member countries along the corridors, in the event any consultation with JICA is required.

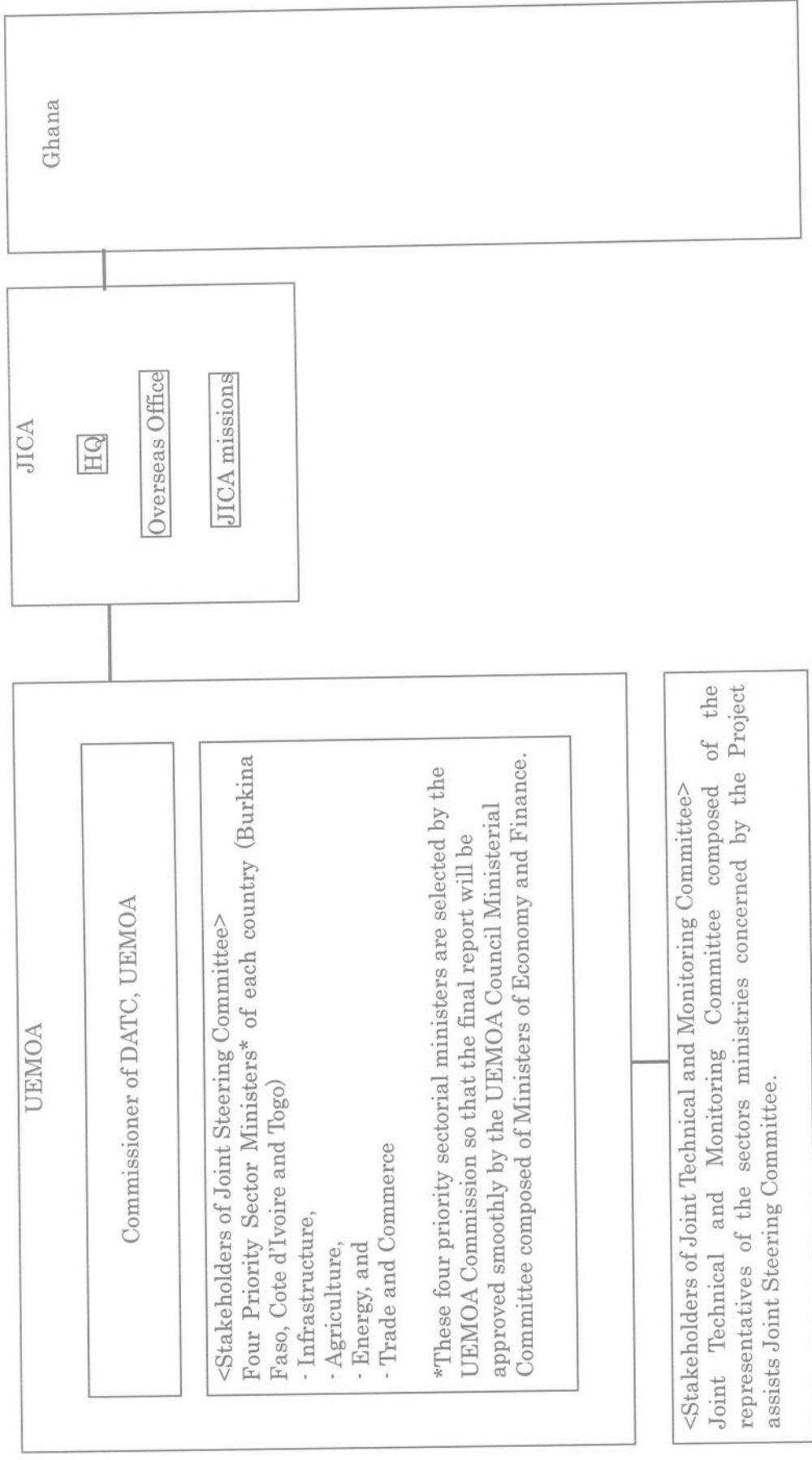
VIII. AMENDMENTS

The record of discussions may be amended by the Minutes of Meeting between JICA and DATC.

The Minutes of Meeting will be signed by authorized persons of each side who may be different from the signers of the Record of Discussions.

- Annex 1 Project Organization Chart
- Annex 2 A List of Proposed Members of Joint Steering Committee
- Annex 3 Project site

Project Organization Chart



Handwritten signature or initials

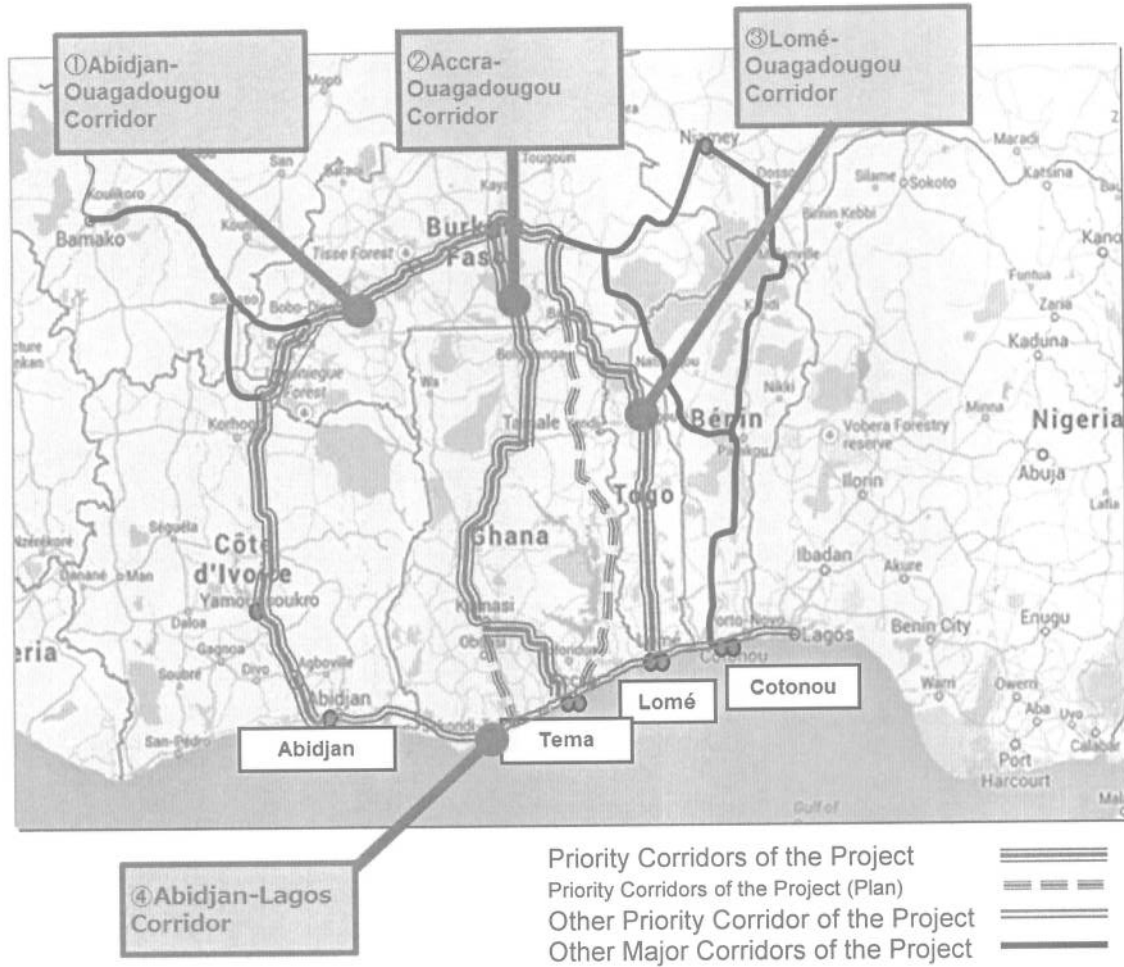
A List of Proposed Members of Joint Steering Committee

- a. Chair : Commissioner of DATC, UEMOA
- b. Members : (1) UEMOA member countries
Four Priority Sector Ministers of each country
(Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo)
- Infrastructure,
 - Agriculture,
 - Energy, and
 - Trade and Commerce

JICA representatives

- c. Functions
- 1) To facilitate inter-organizational and international coordination
 - 2) To approve the proposed sub-regional strategies and plans

Project site



MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED

1. Report Language

Report will be done in two examples in French and English languages, both equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English report shall prevail.

2. Expenses necessary for the implementation of the Project

DATC is in charge of expenses below;

- provision of office space, information and data to the JICA missions; assignment of counterpart staff for the Project; and
- preparation to hold meetings and workshops for the validation of the reports provided by the JICA mission.

3. TOR of Environmental and Social Considerations

The project should include Terms of Reference (TOR) for Environmental and Social Considerations in line with the JICA Guidelines as follows;

- 1) Consideration of alternatives for achieving the goals of the Project,
- 2) Consideration of contents of the developed policy and plans,
- 3) Definition of the field of the impact study or framework of the Project (scoping),
- 4) Confirmation of environment and social situation,
- 5) Confirmation of system and regulation for environment and social consideration,
- 6) Identification of the environmental impact,
- 7) Evaluation of the environmental impact and examination of alternatives,
- 8) Proposition of mitigation measures ,
- 9) Establishment of monitoring method, and
- 10) Assistance of stakeholder meetings.

4. Functions of Committees and their Timing and Style of Meetings

To achieve the Expected Goals, functions of JSC and JTMC and their timing and style of meetings are elaborated as shown in Table-1.

5. Implementation Structure of the Project

The Commission and the Government of Ghana submitted the request separately to the Government of Japan, but at the same time. JICA, therefore, designed an institutional mechanism including Ghana and the Commission to lead the overall project.

However, because of certain difficulties raised in the modalities of the institutional framework, it proved the necessity to reconsider how the project will be implemented. The project will be, therefore, separated between UEMOA and Ghana maintaining the logic of the West Africa Growth Ring linking Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and neighboring countries listed in Annex 3.

Although the current implementation structure separates the UEMOA and Ghana sides, JICA emphasizes that it is desirable to create opportunities for the best coordination of plans between them from the view point of harmonized development among the countries aiming for regional integration promotion. The UEMOA and concerned countries will strengthen its efforts to achieve an appropriate institutional framework for the implementation of the project.

Table-1: Functions of Committees and their Timing and Style of Meetings

	Functions	Member	Timing and Style of Meetings
JSC	Facilitate inter-organizational and international coordination Approve the proposed sub-regional strategies and plans	<p>UEMOA <Chair> Commissioner of DATC, UEMOA <Member> Four Priority Sector Ministers* of each country (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo) - Infrastructure, - Agriculture, - Energy, - Trade & Commerce</p>	<p>To be held 2 times; ICR: TV conference ITR: TV conference, if necessary DFR: Conference during International Seminar hosted by JICA (location tbc)</p>
JTMC Regional	For International Discussions on Regional Development Plans	Representatives from priority sector ministries of each country and UEMOA	<p>To be held 3 times; ICR: in Japan / 4 participants from each country and UEMOA ITR: hosted by UEMOA the No. of participants will be determined depending on budget DFR: meet at International Seminar hosted by JICA/ Around 6 participants from each country and UEMOA will be invited</p>
JTMC National	For Discussions to provide technical input and inter-ministerial coordination in each country	JICA missions at each country will hold meetings inviting relevant ministries/ departments for the Project.	<p>To be held at least 3 times; ICR: To be held in each country respectively, inviting relevant ministries ITR: To be held in each country respectively, inviting relevant ministries DFR: To be held in each country respectively, inviting relevant ministries</p>

*These four priority sectoral ministers are selected by the UEMOA Commission so that the final report will be approved smoothly by the UEMOA Council Ministerial Committee composed of Ministers of Economy and Finance