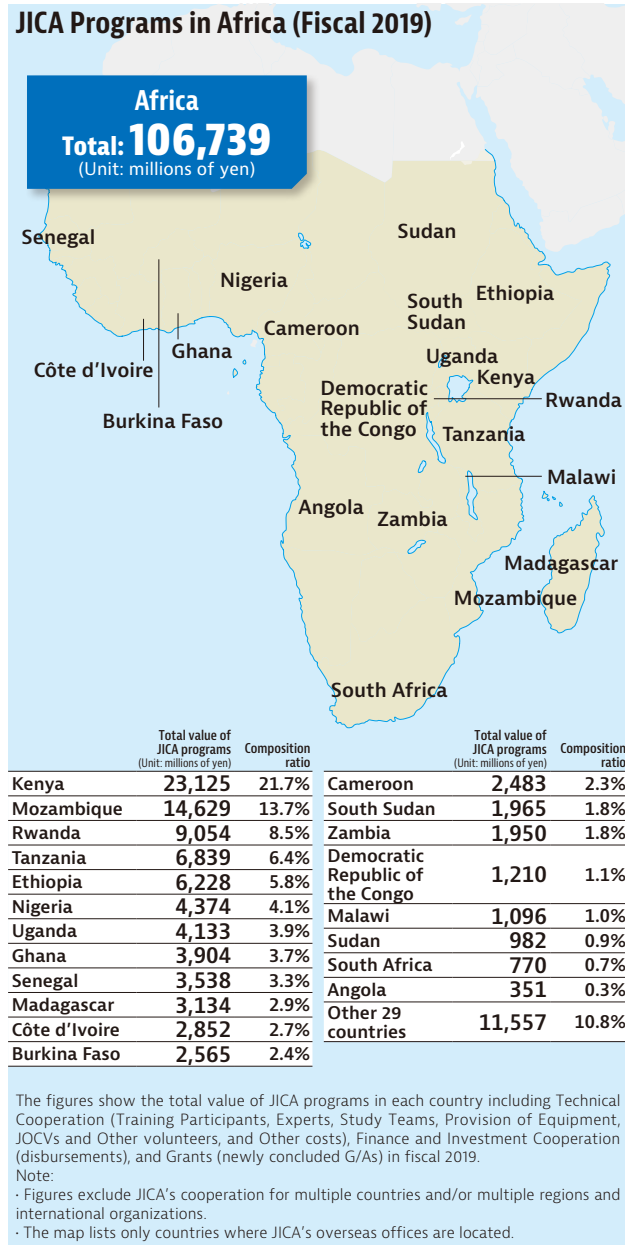


Africa

TICAD7 and Supporting “Japan’s Contributions for Africa”



Regional Issues

In late August 2019, delegations from 53 African countries, including 42 African leaders, came together in Yokohama, Japan, to attend the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) under the theme of “Advancing Africa’s development through people, technology and innovation.” TICAD7 adopted the Yokohama Declaration [→ see page 8]. At TICAD7, the Japanese government announced a list of public-private actions for the next three years to contribute to African development, titled “TICAD7: Japan’s Contributions for Africa.”

The Yokohama Declaration identified three priority areas:



A participant of the ABE initiative program producing a documentary on Japanese culture at the company he is working as an intern

(1) accelerating economic transformation and improving business environment through innovation and private-sector engagement; (2) deepening sustainable and resilient society; and (3) strengthening peace and stability. It then called on African countries and the international community to take actions necessary to address these challenges.

“TICAD7: Japan’s Contributions for Africa” is a list of actions to be taken by Japan’s public and private sectors in this regard. Special focus is placed on (1) developing industrial human resources; (2) promoting innovation and investment; (3) promoting UHC¹ and the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative; and (4) building institutions and enhancing governance.

JICA Initiatives

“TICAD7: Japan’s Contributions for Africa” includes 48 actions. JICA is involved in about 40 actions among them. JICA will continue working to put them into solid practice, as in three typical activities described below:

1. Developing industrial human resources to promote business between Africa and Japan under the ABE Initiative 3.0

Announced at TICAD V held in 2013 in Yokohama, the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative) invites participants from African countries to Japan for master’s course study at Japanese universities and internships at Japanese businesses. The initiative expects these participants, after they return home, to serve as “navigators” who assist Japanese companies in doing business in Africa. By fiscal 2019,

1. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is defined as “ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.”

1,285 participants have been invited under the initiative. Among them, some 1,000 are now working hard in their homelands after completing their studies in Japan (as of the end of March 2020).

ABE Initiative 3.0 is a more strategic version of the initiative, which involves an improved process for selecting participants, business programs in Japan, the JICA Development Studies Program [→ see page 65], and enhanced follow-ups after they return home. It aims to assist Japanese enterprises in doing business in Africa more effectively, as well as to allow African young leaders to understand Japan better and more deeply.

2. Matching African start-ups with Japanese companies through pitch events²; collaborating with private funds for African entrepreneurs

In the margin of TICAD7, JICA signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The three parties agreed to coordinate and collaborate in working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the success of African business. As the first action after the signing of the memorandum, the three parties co-organized a TICAD7 side event called “Africa/Japan Startups Pitch: Innovation & New Partnerships for SDGs.”

Recent years have seen a rise of start-up businesses in Africa that capitalize on innovative technologies and business models to provide innovative solutions to broad development challenges the continent is now facing. This new development is attracting more and more attention in Japan, as Japan has seen growing numbers of venture funds that invest in African

entrepreneurs, as well as Japanese young entrepreneurs who set up businesses in Africa.

JICA will assist the development of African start-ups and work together with young entrepreneurs and venture funds in Japan to support innovative solutions to Africa’s development challenges.

3. Improving access to primary health care and hygiene and expanding insurance coverage for three million people

How to improve health care remains a major challenge for Africa. In particular, extensive primary health care services; improved sanitation with clean water supply, sewerage, and toilets; nutrition improvement; and the enhancement of the health insurance system can save many lives of African people.

TICAD7 reconfirmed the commitment to (1) maintaining and scaling up such initiatives as Universal Health Coverage (UHC)¹ and the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) [→ see the case study on page 47]; (2) delivering primary health and sanitation services to all; and (3) supporting the healthy lives of African people.

COVID-19 is taking its toll in Africa as well. JICA will analyze its infection in the continent from new and diverse perspectives and assist African countries in combating the pandemic, as part of efforts to create a society where no one will be left behind.

2. A pitch event is an occasion in which venture and start-up businesses come together and brief investors on their products and services.

Kenya: The Mombasa Port Development Project, the Mombasa Special Economic Zone Development Project, etc.

Promoting the comprehensive development of East Africa with the international trading port as a hub



The sites of the Mombasa Port Development Project (center), the Mombasa Port Area Road Development Project (front), and the Mombasa Port Development Project (Phase 2) (behind) (Photo: Toyo Construction Co., Ltd.)

Mombasa is the second most populous city in Kenya. Facing the Indian Ocean and having the largest international trade port in East Africa, this port city serves a gateway to the neighboring land-locked countries.

At TICAD V, held in Yokohama in 2013, the Japanese government announced that it will support the development of the Northern Corridor, which extends from Mombasa to the capital city of Nairobi and farther to such neighboring countries as Uganda and Rwanda. By fiscal 2017, JICA provided a total of some ¥128.5 billion in nine ODA Loan projects for the port and related facilities, including roads and bridges, the first of which

was the Mombasa Airport Project in 1973.

In fiscal 2019, JICA signed two loan agreements totaling about ¥85 billion for the Mombasa Special Economic Zone Development Project (I) and the Mombasa Gate Bridge Construction Project (I).

Infrastructure development focusing on the port of Mombasa and investment environment improvement in the special economic zone are expected to function systematically as a regional network and drive the economic development of Kenya and East Africa as a whole.