

Ambassador Yoshizawa's opening remarks at the TICADV seminar on 10 May 2013

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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this seminar. Let me first thank the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the South African Institute for International Affairs and the University of Pretoria for co-organizing this event.

Today I have the honour of having with us Dr Akihiko Tanaka, President of JICA, and Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency. They play a key role in the fifth meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICADV) to be held in Yokohama on 1-3 June.

In my remarks, I would like to present a brief history of TICAD and Japan's cooperation in Southern Africa.

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It was in 1993 that Japan initiated the TICAD process. Since then Japan has hosted TICAD summit meetings every five years. It was successful in its achieving its original aims, namely, raising global awareness of Africa when international interest in the continent was declining after the end of the Cold War. TICAD is a multilateral forum co-organized by Japan, the United Nations, UNDP, the World Bank, and recently joined by the African Union Commission (AUC). It is an open and inclusive process with a follow-up mechanism of annual ministerial meetings and other meetings.

Japan has consistently been a true friend of Africa. Despite the global financial crisis and damages of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Japan is set to achieve all the pledges it made at TICAD IV in 2008, namely, to double its ODA to Africa by 2012 annually, to provide ODA loan up to US\$4 billion in five years, and to double direct investment to Africa to US\$3.4 billion.

TICAD has contributed in promoting a particular set of development policies . From the outset it has been instrumental in promoting the twin principle of “ownership” by the African countries and “partnership” between African and developed countries. It has also emphasized private sector development, human capacity development and infrastructure to achieve economic growth. It has promoted the concept of “human security” and South-South cooperation. It is no coincidence that these are policies which Japan also attaches importance.

TICAD attaches importance to peace and stability as the foundations of development. As the consolidation of peace requires seamless and continuous support to make it irreversible, Japan’s assistance covers conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction assistance, restoration and maintenance of security, and promotion of good governance. During the TICAD V Ministerial Preparatory Meeting held in Addis Ababa on March 16-17, Mr. Fumio Kishida, Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, announced Japan’s additional commitment to provide assistance in these areas to the amount of about US\$550 million. Included in this package is US\$120 million for humanitarian assistance, support in the areas of security and governance in the Sub-Saharan region, as well as emergency grant aid of US\$ 6 million extended to the UN trust fund for AFISMA (African-led International Support Mission to Mali). Japan’s other contributions include the dispatch of Japan Self Defence Force to UNMISS (United Nations Mission to South Sudan) and the deployment of Maritime-Self Defense Force for Anti-Piracy Operations off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

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As for TICADV, the basic theme that has emanated from discussions with the African countries is to improve the “quality of growth”. That is to say, work towards economic growth that is transformative, resilient and inclusive so that benefits can be more widely, equitably and sustainably shared. It is quite fitting that this is the main theme of TICADV since Africa is now beginning to follow a path towards rapid growth. To achieve quality growth,

more investments in such areas as education, health, infrastructure and agriculture are required. At TICADV, the Yokohama Action Plan is expected to feature concrete actions in all these areas.

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At TICADV, JICA plans to announce several regional initiatives in the Southern African region. Very importantly, JICA is partnering with South Africa to provide support to other countries in the region. Let me explain.

One feature of Japan's approach in education is the emphasis on providing human resources to meet the needs of its industries. JICA's new initiative in Southern Africa will build upon the existing cooperation with the Department of Higher Education of South Africa, namely, to set up a regional training centre at Tshwane University of Technology to train graduates to improve their employability for businesses. Among others, it will promote KAIZEN, which is a bottom-up quality and productivity improvement movement started in Japan, using input from Japanese companies based in South Africa. The project will contribute in supplying skilled labour to the industries.

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Second, Japan is the largest bilateral donor in infrastructure in Africa, providing assistance of 41.6 billion yen (equivalent to about 4.16 billion rands) in 2008-2011 for transport, energy, and water. Japan works closely with NEPAD in this regard. To promote industrialization and employment, JICA is completing a study on economic corridor development. The study will identify potential locations for development of industrial zones and logistics along the main corridors in Southern Africa. The North-South Corridor is a candidate for follow-up activities. There is a potential for Japan to cooperate with South Africa in this regard.

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Third, JICA is working to raise the capacity of development finance

institutions (DFIs) in Southern Africa in cooperation with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA). In the future, this project has the potential to enable funding from Japan and elsewhere to be channeled through the DFIs for regional development.

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In terms of Japan-South Africa economic relations, in 2012 Japan was South Africa's third largest export destination and the fifth largest source of imports. Japanese direct investment to South Africa has been steadily increasing in recent years, amounting to nearly 20 billion rands (stock) in 2010. Japanese companies generate about 150,000 jobs in the country. What is more, companies such as Toyota and Nissan contribute significantly to raising the capacity of local industries. Japanese companies are also involved in mining beneficiation. With the biennial Japan-South Africa Business Forum planned to take place during TICADV, it will be an important occasion to further promote Japanese business activities in South Africa.

President Zuma is expected to attend TICADV along with other leaders from the continent. We hope that the visit will contribute to further enhancing the already close cooperation between the two countries.