

Date and hours: Tuesday 27th August from 13:00 to 15:00

Location: Silk Room at the InterContinental Hotel Yokohama Grand



Co-organizers : African Union Development Agency (AUDA) - NEPAD

Africa's Socio-economic Transformation through Innovation

Background

Innovation is a key driver to socio-economic transformation, and an aspiration of Agenda 2063. This seminar will discuss two kinds of innovation that are taking place in Africa: incremental innovation and radical/disruptive innovation. Incremental innovation is a series of small improvements (Kaizen) which enhance the productivity and competitiveness of existing products. Radical/disruptive innovation takes place when a new product, service, process or business model is developed and replaces existing business or creates new markets. Successful companies promote both kinds of innovation. With a hypothesis that incremental innovation is essential for radical innovation, JICA together with AUDA - NEPAD has been promoting incremental innovation through the Africa Kaizen Initiative.

Objectives

This seminar aims to discuss 1) the role of incremental innovation (Kaizen) in socio-and economic transformation of Africa and 2) how African governments and development partners promote both types of innovation in enterprises.

Key Questions

- ▶ How can incremental innovation (Kaizen) contribute to the growth and economic transformation of Africa?
- ▶ What are the capabilities needed for entrepreneurs and firms to promote radical/disruptive innovation in Africa?
- ▶ Can incremental innovation promote radical/disruptive innovation?

Speakers

Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD
Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (TBC)
Bezabeh Gebereyes, Commissioner of Civil Service Commission of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Célestin Monga, Vice President, African Development Bank
Takuma Terakubo, CEO of Samurai Incubate Africa Inc.
Two Awardee companies of Africa Kaizen Award
Izumi Ohno, Director, JICA Research Institute
Toshiyuki Nakamura, Industrial Policy and Public Policy Department, JICA