

Date and hours: Wednesday 28th August from 14:00 to 17:00

Location: Exhibition Hall B02 at Pacifico Yokohama



Co-organizers : City of Yokohama / Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)

Unleashing the Power of Women and Girls in Africa

- Social Business and Social Entrepreneurship to Achieve Transformative Change -

Background

Gender equality and women's empowerment is key to achieving sustainable, equitable and people-centered development. While women in Africa actively contribute to their economies and societies, however, they face various barriers that prevent them from exerting their full potential. Given these challenges, there have been many discussions for the need for governments, donors, civil society groups, and the private sector to come together to accelerate actions and innovations, as well as mobilize available resources to implement solutions to address social, cultural and environmental hurdles that can transform the lives of marginalized women and girls.

Objectives

This symposium explores the roles that social business and social entrepreneurship can play in tackling gender issues and challenges. Based on the knowledge and experiences of social entrepreneurs working on the ground in Africa and Japan, the event will discuss how social business and social entrepreneurship can unlock women and girls' full potential.

Key Questions

- ▶ What challenges do your businesses and entrepreneurships face on the ground when you are trying to tackle gender-related challenges? And how did you overcome them?
- ▶ What are the roles and potentials of social business and social entrepreneurship in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment?
- ▶ What actions are needed by the international community, including governments, civil society organizations and donor agencies?

Speakers

Opening Speech

Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor, City of Yokohama

Keynote Speech

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Chair of the Board, Gavi Alliance

Panelists

Regina Honu, CEO, Soronko Solutions

Olanrewaju Adedoye, CEO, Babymigo

Noel Aryanyijuka, CEO, EcoSmart Uganda

Tsuyoshi Mori, CEO, Polaris, inc.

Vanessa Mounzar, Director of Gender, Women and Civil Society, African Development Bank

*Commentator: Susanna Moorehead, Chair, OECD/DAC

*Moderator: Yumiko Tanaka, Senior Gender Advisor, JICA