

Date and hours: Wednesday 28th August from 16:30 to 18:15

Location: La Vela at the InterContinental Hotel Yokohama Grand

Bridging Africa and Japan through ABE Initiative

- Promoting Japanese Companies' Business in Africa

Background

The Japanese government launched the "African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative)" at TICADV in 2013. The program provides opportunities for African youth to study at Japanese graduate schools and to intern at Japanese companies. It aims at developing industrial human resources and "Navigators" who support Japanese companies to expand business in Africa.

So far, 1,219 youths from all the 54 participating countries have joined the program. This results in establishing a wide ranged ABE Initiative participant network in Africa. Furthermore, many Japanese companies and ABE participants have collaborated in various ways to promote the private sector in Africa.

Objectives

To appeal for further utilization of ABE Initiative for African countries and Japanese companies through share success cases of ABE Initiative and to discuss how Japanese companies and ABE participants can collaborate and expand the human resource network.

Key Questions

- ▶ How can ABE Initiative program further bridge Africa and Japan?
- ▶ How can ABE Initiative program contribute to private sector development in Africa?
- ▶ How can the human resource network between ABE Initiative participants and Japanese companies be expanded?

Speakers

Opening Speech

Hiroshi Kato, Senior Vice President, JICA

Greetings from honorable guest

Asahiko Mihara, Member of the House of Representatives

Introduction of Case Studies

ABE Initiative participants (1 participant from each of the following countries: Kenya, Somalia, Togo, Uganda, Egypt)

Panel discussion

Kaori Fujita, Director, Hinode Sangyo Co. Ltd

Yusuke Ueno, Manager, Marketing Section, International Sales & Marketing Department, TOA Corporation

Nico De Wet, CEO, Kakehashi Africa

ABE Initiative participants (2)

Seiichiro Yonekura, Professor, Graduate School of Innovation Management, Hosei University (Moderator)

Closing Speech

Khaled Abd El Ghaffar, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt