NEPAD-OECD-SADC-IFC-JICA Seminar on Overcoming Challenges to Private Sector Participation in Africa's Infrastructure

Discussion about Infrastructure Development in Africa Carried out by Public-Private Partnerships



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a seminar at the JICA Yokohama International Center at 14:00 on May 31 with the theme "development of infrastructure investment in Africa" cosponsored by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Southern African Development

Community (SADC), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). From Africa, Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, Paulo Zucula, Minister of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Mozambique, Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD, and Rintaro Tamaki, Deputy Secretary-General of OECD, João Samuel Caholo, Deputy Executive Secretary of SADC and Jean Philippe Prosper, regional VP of IFC took the stage. In addition, Hideaki Domichi, Senior VP and Ichikawa, VP of JICA joined them on the stage, and the participants discussed the challenges of infrastructure investment through Public-Private Partnerships.

This side event was held to discuss policy bottlenecks in attracting private investment in Africa's infrastructure and to highlight priorities for reform in Africa and other SADC regions. In addition to sharing measures and good practices to overcome these problems, this meeting was held to discuss different methods of infrastructure investment in the future, while introducing key projects for Five-Year Action Plans, which were started in 2012. An overview of the SADC Regional Infrastructure Master Plan in Africa was proposed to Japanese corporations, other investors, and African government officials.

His Excellency Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal stressed the importance of developing regional infrastructure projects to facilitate economies of scale for both the public and private sectors. Each speaker emphasized the vast infrastructure financing gap faced by Africa: a little less than half of the expenditure needed for infrastructure investment is invested each year and almost exclusively through public financing and ODA. They also discussed the need for further expansion of private sector investment in the future infrastructure.

This occasion brought together the leaders of Africa, international organizations, and JICA to

share information on previous experiences, challenges, and business opportunities in infrastructure investment. Additionally, it was reconfirmed that leveraging infrastructure investment is a pivotal vector in accelerating regional integration, competitiveness, and development in Africa and, they expressed the hope that an increasing number of Japanese corporations will begin to invest in Africa. JICA will continue to contribute to the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships in a variety of ways in the future.

■ Speakers at this Event:

- ·Macky Sall, President, the Republic of Senegal,
- ·Paulo Zucula, Minister of Transport and Communication, the Republic of Mozambique
- ·Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD
- •Rintaro Tamaki, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
- ·João Samuel Caholo, Deputy Executive Secretary, SADC
- Jean Philippe Prosper, Vice President, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean of IFC
- ·Hideaki Domichi, Senior Vice President, JICA
- •Masakazu Ichikawa, Vice president, JICA
- ·Karim Dahou, Executive Manager of the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative, OECD
- •Remigious Makumbe, Director Infrastructure and Services, SADC Secretariat
- ·Vipul Bhagat, Global Leader, Public-Private Partnerships, IFC

Moderator:

·Toshiyuki Nakamura, Chief Representative, JICA South Africa Office