Towards Expanding and Deepening Partnerships through Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) by Global and Regional Cooperation

1. Background
Under the current economic, industrial, and social conditions, emphasis has been placed on the role of development finance institutions (DFIs) by each African government and their Regional Economic Community (REC) in achieving sustainable development. Therefore, it will be discussed in this seminar how these DFIs can contribute to sustainable development in African countries through expanding and deepening partnerships within each REC, amongst RECs, and between Africa and Asia.

2. Objectives
This seminar will focus on the financial aspects of two major constraints for sustainable development in African countries: infrastructure development and development of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Firstly, requirement of capital for infrastructure development in African countries is considered to be continuously increasing and will continue to increase. Given the inability of traditional financial arrangements such as government funding to meet these requirements, PPP has become mainstreamed, and especially in Africa. In the midst of these trends, the DFIs have become more important because they have to play a central role in infrastructure development through PPPs. Secondly, rapid growth rate of the total population, especially the working-age population, is estimated to be high in African countries. This is why each country’s government has set MSME development as one of the most important policies from the viewpoint of job creation. It is clearly understood that the role of DFIs has become more important because DFIs have the function to provide the required capital to MSMEs.

3. Key Questions
- What kinds of cooperation can be introduced within each REC, amongst RECs, and between Africa and Asia?
- What kinds of partnerships should be required to take advantage of DFI’s roles?
- What kinds of best practices in development infrastructure and promotion of MSMEs can be shared among stakeholders?

4. Speakers
- Jabu Moleketi, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)
- Admassu Tadesse, PTA Bank
- Patrick Dlamini, DBSA
- Stuart Kufeni, SADC Development Finance Resource Center (SADC-DFRC)
- TBD, Representative of SME Corporation, Malaysia
- Octavio B. Peralta, Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP)
- Mitsuhiro Maeda, Advanced Institute of Industrial Technology (AIIT)
- TBD, Representative of Japan Association of Corporate Executives
- TBD, Representative of Japanese Bankers Association
- Hiroyuki Kinomoto, JICA South Africa Office
- Tetsuya Fukunaga, SADC Development Finance Resource Center (SADC-DFRC)