Friday, August 26   13:00–15:40 | Sarova Panafric Hotel "Simba"

Roles and Challenges of Science and Technology Cooperation in Africa : From Research to Development

Cohosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED), African Union (AU), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)

1. Background

The Japanese government promotes international joint research projects between scientists from Japan and developing countries. These projects not only provide an avenue for universities and research institutes in developing countries to boost their technical capacities (including R&D), but also to apply this knowledge to a host of universal, real-world challenges like global warming, infectious diseases, and natural disasters.

   The joint research program called "SATREPS (Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development)" started in 2008 and as of August 2016, 115 research projects have been implemented in 46 countries around the world. In Africa, there are 30 projects in 17 countries in the fields of infectious diseases, biological resources, climate change and natural disasters.

   One of the objectives of SATREPS is the human resource development that is necessary for sustainable research activities. Applying the outcome of the research in the real world is another objective of SATREPS. During the symposium a few cases of SATREPS projects are introduced for enhancing collaboration with African countries. Other international agencies also show their interests in science and technology and these cases are also introduced. The NEPAD Agency of the African Union has been advocating the importance of science and technology development in Africa and coordinating the harmonization of country and regional-level policies. The African Development Bank acknowledges the fact that science and technology in Africa are one of the key elements for African development.

2. Objectives

This symposium will provide an opportunity to rethink the importance and potential of science and technology in Africa, and will discuss how to tackle challenges like human resource development and building human resource network, application of research results for social and economic development, and utilization of the research outcomes in African markets and businesses.

3. Key Questions

■ How can science and technology contribute to the social and economic development in Africa and how can science and technology benefit people in Africa?
■ What are the advantages and challenges of Africa to attract research activities? How can we enhance research network in Africa for 'Brain Circulation' instead of 'Brain Drain'?
■ How can the challenges of science and technology development in Africa be solved? What is the role of African researchers?
■ How can research outcomes be applied to social and economic development that is necessary to realize the SDGs?

4. Speakers

■ Prof. Teruo Kishi, Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
■ Mr. Sotaro Ito, Deputy Executive Director, Japan Science and Technology Agency
■ Dr. Takashi Nishigaki, Program Officer, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)/Japan Science and Technology Agency
■ Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo, Acting Director, Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union
■ Prof. Aggrey Ambali, Head of Industrialization, Science, Technology and Innovation, New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency
■ Ms. Sunita Pitamber, Director of Human Development, African Development Bank
■ Dr. Matilu Mwau, Principal Research Officer, Centre for Infectious & Parasitic Diseases Control Research, Kenya Medical Research Institute
■ Prof. Swadhin Behera, Group Leader, CVPARG, Application Laboratory, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology
■ Prof. Aaron Mweene, Immediate Past Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zambia