

Empowering Young Africans to Live Their Dreams

Discussion about African Youth Employment Promotion



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a side event on Youth Employment in Africa on Sunday June 2 starting at 15:30 at the Yokohama Grand Intercontinental Hotel, "Silk" Conference Hall with participants from the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and Kobe University. On the stage were President of Gabonese Republic, Ali Bongo Ondimba, the President of the Republic of

South Africa, Jacob Zuma, and the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete from Africa, President Kim of the World Bank, President Kaberuka of the African Development Bank, and Executive Director Glennerster of the MIT J-PAL, Akihiko Tanaka, resident of JICA also took the stage to discuss youth employment in Africa.

We held this side event to discuss how to understand employment problem in increasing young generation in Africa, and how to transform the power of young Africans into an engine of economic growth and development.

At the beginning, Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana made presentation about Joint Recommendation by the World Bank, African Development Bank, and JICA, and thus panel discussion flowed. The presidents from three African countries highlighted youth unemployment as a critical policy agenda and overviewed the problems in each country. Tanaka, president of JICA, referred to JICA's experiences in Africa, more specifically of KAIZEN, small horticultural agricultural farmers, and math and science education. Furthermore, he emphasized the necessity of scaling up the policy measures with strictly proven effectiveness by evaluation. A participant asked question about mismatch between job training contents and demanded skill of employees by firms, then panelists discussed this matter.

Finally, African heads of state and donors, research institutes, and JICA reconfirmed that young Africans are vibrant, talented, and have strong entrepreneurship. They also reconfirmed that increasing young Africans rapidly, which will last for the time being, is an asset of the African economy in a global economy. The JICA-WB-AfDB Joint Recommendation and the results of discussion are expected to contribute to designing policy actions in each country. As well, JICA will address the youth employment challenges continuously, which African countries

The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development Side Events

face, in a various manner from grassroots level cooperation to policy options in the future.

■ Speakers at this Event

Panelists:

- Ali Bongo Ondimba, President, Gabonese Republic
- Jacob Zuma, President, Republic of South Africa
- Jakaya Kikwete, President, United Republic of Tanzania
- Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank
- Donald Kaberuka, President, African Development Bank
- Rachel Glennerster, Executive Director, J-PAL, MIT
- Akihiko Tanaka, President, JICA

Moderators:

- Aiko Doden, Senior commentator, NHK