

## **New Vision of Africa in 2050**

### Can Africa Achieve Inclusive and Dynamic Development?



The event brought experts from international organizations, universities and aid groups together in a single forum.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a side event on the long-term prospects and challenges in Africa's development beginning at 14:00 on June 3 in the Intercontinental Yokohama Grand Hotel. The event started with a presentation from Theodore Ahlers, Senior Associate of the Centennial Group, on long-term scenarios towards the year 2050, followed by a panel discussion. The panel included Abdoulie Janneh, Former Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic

Commission for Africa, Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of International Fund for Agricultural Development and Shigeo Katsu, President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev University. From JICA, Hiroshi Kato, Director of JICA Research Institute participated in the panel, and Hiroto Arakawa, Vice President served as moderator.

JICA has worked in concert with US policy advisory firm the Centennial Group to create a flagship report "Development Challenges in Africa Towards 2050", based on long term social and economic visions. The report is intended to act as a springboard for discussion of policies that the governments of African countries and partners in development should adopt to target better social and economic outcomes in the future. The report uses quantitative models to predict long-term social and economic levels such as economy, population and poverty, and based on these predictions, posits three different outcome scenarios. This event functioned as an interim presentation of report findings, and as a venue to collect comments and views to be considered in the finalized version of the report.

Arakawa and Ahlers kicked off discussions by saying, "the average per capita income will have potentially reached 17,000 US\$ by 2050. This is however not a 'prediction' but a possible 'vision'. To achieve the goal, African countries need to put right policies in place now." In the following panel discussion, there were lively debates amongst the panelists. To realize the vision, Janneh emphasized the importance of governance and regional integration. Nwanze argued to promote agricultural development and related processing industry. Kato added the development of infrastructure and human resources as essential drivers for the sustainable growth. Also, Katsu addressed the challenge of translations from such regional visions to an individual country vision.

Heading for 2050, Africa is expected to face accelerating population growth and urbanization. As a consequence, future social and economic stability are very contingent upon continuing to create

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enough jobs to absorb these numbers and significant labor surpluses. Economic Transformation in particular, is expected to be vital to the maintenance of sustainable growth, and the private sector will play the key role. Looking toward the future, JICA will continue to provide support in the region to fuel the economic transformation of African countries, drive the creation of markets and investing environments where the private sector can flourish, and promote the development of human resources through improved education and public health service systems.

The “Development Challenges in Africa Towards 2050” report will be presented at the Africa Emerging Market Forum in Cote D’Ivoire, running from June 21 to 22, and will incorporate some of the findings and ideas gained from this side event.

### ■ Event Speakers

#### Presenter:

- Theodore Ahlers, Senior Associate, Centennial Group USA

#### Panelists:

- Abdoulie Janneh, Former Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Kanayo F. Nwanze, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Shigeo Katsu, President, Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan (Former World Bank Vice president)
- Hiroshi Kato, Director, JICA Research Institute
- Mohamed Bevogui, Director of Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Office, IFAD

#### Moderator:

- Hiroto Arakawa, Vice President, JICA