

Women's Leadership and Economic Growth

Grow together with Women's Activities

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) together with the City of Yokohama, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry organized a symposium at the Pacifico Yokohama on 31 May, with a theme on "Women's Leadership and Economic Growth".



The Panel Discussion on the topic of women entrepreneurs

The side event was held to discuss women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship development in Africa and Japan, "growing partners hand in hand", with the keyword. The keynote speech was delivered by President Banda of Malawi, followed by a panel discussion with women entrepreneurs from Rwanda and Ethiopia.

In the opening session, Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor, City of Yokohama, Toshiko Abe, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, World Food Programme(WFP), and Hideaki Domichi, Senior Vice President of JICA, made opening speeches. Domichi stated that the JICA would continue to provide support with an emphasis on partnership with African women and that the leadership of women are the key to the economic and social development for Africa.

Joyce Hilda Mtila Banda, President of Malawi emphasized, at her commemorative keynote speech, that there is a strong correlation between economic growth and economic empowerment of women, and women's participation in decision-making processes is needed for sustainable economic growth in Africa.

In the panel discussion, Yumiko Tanaka, JICA Senior Advisor on Gender and Development, served as coordinator, and together with two female African entrepreneurs, Kifleyesus-Matschie from Ethiopia and Odile Gakire Katese from Rwanda, as well as Ginette-Ursule Yoman, Division Manager of Gender and Social Development Monitoring Division, African Development Bank, and Mayor Hayashi, discussed how to involve women in business activities and find ways for women to contribute to the promotion of the local products as well as how the promotion of economic activity can lead to happiness in the family. In addition, they discussed and exchanged views about main obstacles and new challenges for

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economic empowerment of women throughout Africa and Japan.

Mayor Hayashi made a summary paper on the major outcome of the symposium and reported to the thematic session on gender and development in TICAD V. The paper included a proposal to support capacity building and the creation of a network for women entrepreneurs in Africa in cooperation with City of Yokohama and JICA. Based on the results of the symposium, JICA will continue to further support women's empowerment in Africa

■ Speakers at this Event:

Opening Message:

- Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor, City of Yokohama
- Toshiko Abe, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
- Hideaki Domichi, Senior Vice President, JICA
- Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, World Food Programme

Commemorative Keynote Speech:

- Joyce Hilda Mtila Banda, President, Republic of Malawi

Panelists:

- Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor, City of Yokohama
- Odile Gakire Katese, representative of women's group "Inzozu Nziza", Rwanda
- Mitslall Kifleyesus-Matschie, CEO, Ecopia PLC Ethiopia
- Ginette-Ursule Yoman, Division Manager, Gender and Social Development Monitoring Division, African Development Bank

Coordinator:

- Yumiko Tanaka, Senior Advisor on Gender and Development, JICA