

ITTO-JICA Joint Side Event for TICAD V

Efforts to advance sustainable management of African forests



Closing remarks by Mr. Arakawa,
Vice-president of JICA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) together with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) held a side event at the PACIFICO YOKOHAMA on 1st June 17:30 themed "Efforts to advance sustainable management of African Forests". From Africa, Emmanuel, Ze Meka, Executive Director, ITTO, Olivier Ahimin, Project Coordinator, ITTO, Sebastien Luc Kamga Kamdem, Central Africa Protected Areas Network(RAPAC), Collins Ahadome, Officer in Charge of the Division of Operations, ITTO, and Ben E.N.Chikamai, Director,

Kenya Forestry Research Institute took the stage. From JICA, Hiroto Arakawa, Vice-President joined them on stage, and delivered a concluding remarks about today's discussion.

This side event introduced a variety of efforts to promote sustainable management of African forests and examined the challenges and solutions with JICA, ITTO, the countries of Africa, and regional organizations. It was held to discuss future policies and share the experience of countries concerning the "TREES" initiative (integrated approach towards natural resources management, REDD+, eco system conservation, and sustainable development) as a way to solve problems.

After the keynote speech from Meka, Executive Director, ITTO, Ahimin, Project Coordinator, ITTO gave a report and evaluation on the monitoring of African forests using principles, criteria, and indicators of ATO/ITTO. Following that RAPAC Protected Forest Management Personnel, Kamdem explained efforts to improve the protection of forest management in the Congo basin, then Ahadome, Officer in Charge of the Division of Operations, ITTO discussed efforts to promote the trade of tropical timber and wood products in African regions. Subsequently Chikamai, Director, Kenya Forestry Research Institute gave a report on the efforts to promote sustainable forest management through the development and diffusion of community forestry in eastern and southern Africa. From JICA, senior advisor of JICA, Hiroki Miyazono, with support from past achievements, expanded the discussions among the panellists after introducing the "TREES Initiative" about sustainable management and conservation of forests in the southern African region.

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The result of JICA and ITTO coming together was elevating the importance of a holistic approach to the promotion of sustainable management of African forests. In the future, these discussions are expected to be reflected in national policies. In addition, JICA will continue to contribute in a variety of ways to solutions for the challenges faced by the countries in the future depending on the needs of each country from the grassroots level of cooperation to policy recommendations.

■ Speakers at this Event:

Keynote Lecture:

- Emmanuel, Ze Meka, Executive Director, ITTO

Presentations:

- Olivier Ahimin, Project Coordinator, ITTO
- Sebastien Luc Kamga Kamdem, Protected Forest Management Personnel, RAPAC
- Collins Ahadome, Officer in Charge of the Division of Operations, ITTO
- Ben E.N. Chikamai, Director, Kenya Forestry Research Institute
- Hiroki Miyazono, Senior Advisor, JICA

Closing Remarks:

- Hiroto Arakawa, Vice-President, JICA