

### Corridor Development in Africa



Armando Emílio Guebuza, President, the Republic of Mozambique

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a seminar focusing on corridor development in Africa at InterContinental Yokohama Grand Hotel at 9:30 on June 2. Panelists from Africa including President Armando Emílio Guebuza and Agriculture Minister José Pacheco from the Republic of Mozambique; Ralph Jooma, Minister of Economic Planning and Development from the Republic of Malawi; Chief Executive Officer Ibrahim Assane

Mayaki from the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and others. The panel was also joined by JICA representatives: Hideaki Domichi, Senior Vice President; Eiji Inui, Director General of Africa Department; and Kazunori Miura, Director General of Economic Infrastructure Development Department. The panel discussed how corridor development should be promoted.

In Africa, which holds 16 landlocked countries in itself, a far larger number of people live in its interior than in the other continents, as well as its infrastructure has yet to be fully developed. Against this backdrop, Corridor Development Approach can play a significant role to help increase connectivity inside and outside of the region, promote economic exchange, and optimize Africa's development potentials, by taking strategic actions toward infrastructure development including ports and roads, and industrial development around newly developed infrastructure. Focusing on Corridor Development Approach, this seminar was organized with the aim of sharing different efforts and experiences by individual countries and development partners, and exchanging opinions on corridor development in Africa among a wider range of actors.

In Part 1 of the seminar, there were presentations made by NEPAD, the African Development Bank and JICA, with regard to the necessity and current situation of corridor development across Africa. In Part 2, the "Nacala Development Corridor" located across the northern part of Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia, one of the high priority efforts for corridor development, was introduced by representatives from the both governments of Mozambique and Malawi, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, the World Economic Forum and JICA, as an example of comprehensive corridor development. Agriculture Minister José Pacheco from the Republic of Mozambique explained about specific possibilities and issues of the Tropical Savannah Agriculture Development Program (ProSAVANA), which has been implemented with the support of the both governments of Japan and Brazil along the Nacala Corridor in the northern part of Mozambique. In the light of its previous achievements, JICA suggested that corridor development

support be provided as support for promoting regional integration, by gradually expanding the support to a wider area, in order to optimize its effects. In this way, the panel had a lively discussion throughout the event.

In a question-and-answer session, there were some questions from the floor, particularly asking how the ProSAVANA program would benefit the people in Mozambique. In response to these questions, Mozambican President Guebuza, Agriculture Minister Pacheco and Paulo Zucula, Minister of Transportation and Communication, told that like other corridor development programs in the country, this program was implemented as part of the Government of Mozambique's agricultural development strategic plan. They said that the program would allow local farmers to secure more stable food supply, improve their nourishment, and access to market-oriented agriculture, by enhancing agricultural productivity, and developing infrastructure. Furthermore, they also answered a question on concern over land issues expressed by the Mozambican civil society. They said that the civil society's concern was their concern, too. They made it clear that nobody would deprive local farmers of their land, welcoming such concern expressed in an early stage of the program. In order to promote corridor development, one of the major approaches to Africa's growth, the panel reiterated in the discussion how important it was to develop not only infrastructure but also market-oriented industry, as well as ensure transparency of development, and involve a wider range of stakeholders including local people. It is expected that the discussion at this event will be reflected in future efforts for corridor development. JICA will continue to play an instrumental role, working with other development partners, in order to help international corridors in Africa become more mutually beneficial to individual countries with those corridors.

■ Speakers for this event

Opening remark:

- Armando Emílio Guebuza, President, the Republic of Mozambique
- Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Agency

Presentation:

- José Pacheco, Minister of Agriculture, the Republic of Mozambique
- João Tabajara, Deputy Director, Brazilian Cooperation Agency
- Arne Catrige, Director of Grow Africa, World Economic Forum
- Mohamed H. Hassan, Coordinator, Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA), African Development Bank
- Eiji Inui, Director General of Africa Department, JICA

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•Kazunori Miura, Director General of Economic Infrastructure Development Department, JICA

Comment:

•Ralph Jooma MP, Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Republic of Malawi

Closing remark:

•Hideaki Domichi, Senior Vice President, JICA