

TICAD VI: The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development  
Official Side Event

### **Launching of the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa: IFNA**

On August 27, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) held a TICADV I official side event titled "Action on Nutrition: Launching of IFNA, Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa" at the Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

During the event, the launching of IFNA was declared in the presence of leaders from 12 African countries and various international organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the prevalence of undernourishment has been reduced from about 33 percent (1990–1992) to 23 percent (2014–2016) through the efforts of governments and development assistance organizations. Despite this improvement in terms of percentage, however, the number of undernourished people has increased by 42 million people during the same period, reaching 220 million (2014–2016), due to rapid population growth. Moreover, the stunting rate is still as high as about 40 percent and the underweight rate is about 21 percent in a number of Sub-Saharan African countries. Since the nourishment conditions during the first thousand days after birth are believed to have a life-long effect, improving nourishment conditions is a priority. In 2014, the African Union announced its intention to eradicate hunger and improve the nourishment conditions in Africa by 2050 in what is known as the Malabo Declaration. The eradication of hunger and malnutrition by 2030 is also one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations in 2015. Furthermore, UN Decade of Action on Nutrition has commenced from 2016.

Given these malnutrition and hunger conditions, JICA decided to launch this new initiative, IFNA, to provide support toward achieving food security and better nutrition, and to accelerate concrete actions by encouraging a higher level of collaboration among various organizations and African countries. JICA will support the establishment of a strategy for improving malnutrition, encouraging practical actions for better nourishment

with multi-sectoral approaches and disseminating positive outcomes of these actions in around 10 African countries for 10 years through 2025.

This event started with opening remarks by Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President of JICA, and Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD Agency. Next were a keynote speech by Mr. William Ruto, Deputy President of Kenya, and a presentation on the concept of IFNA from Mr. Masahito Enomoto, Senior Special Advisor to JICA President. Executive officers from various international institutions also made speeches on the topic of “Food and Nutrition Security, Creating Synergistic Impacts” in which they discussed their future contributions to IFNA. After these speeches, Mr. Kazunori Tanaka, a Member of the House of Representatives of Japan and the Vice-President of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship Association, made congratulatory remarks to express his support for IFNA. Mr. Hiroshi Kato, Vice-President of JICA, declared the launch of IFNA at the end of the first part of the event in his closing remarks.

During the second part of the event, various partners including SUN(Scale Up Nutrition), which is an international framework for improving malnutrition, made presentations on the topic of “Accelerating Action on Nutrition” and shared good practices with the participants.

JICA will set up the IFNA Secretariat in the NEPAD in order to accelerate and up-scale action on nutrition in African countries. Also, JICA will implement several technical corporation projects and dispatch volunteers to improve nutrition in Africa in such sectors as agriculture, health and education, utilizing Japan’s experiences with Seikatsu Kaizen (livelihood improvement), school lunch programs and dietary education.

## Participants

### Part One

- Abdi, Omar, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
- Baker, Shawn, Director, Nutrition, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Branca, Francesco, Director Nutrition, World Health Organization
- Da Silva, José Graziano, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Enomoto, Masahito, Senior Special Advisor to the JICA President
- Jatta, Sana, Regional Director (East and Southern Africa), International Fund for Agricultural Development

- Ka, Abdoulaye, National Coordinator, Cellule de Lutte contre Malnutrition, Senegal
- Kato, Hiroshi, Vice-President, JICA
- Kitaoka, Shinichi, President, JICA
- Mayaki, Ibrahim, CEO, NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) Agency
- Rasmusson, Elisabeth, Assistant Executive Director, World Food Programme
- Arap Ruto, William Samoei, Deputy President, Kenya
- Tanaka, Kazunori, Member of House of Representatives, Japan, and Vice-President of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League

## Part Two

### National and International Organizations

- Freeman, Karen, Mission Director, Kenya and East Africa Office, USAID
- Lasbennes, Florence, Director, SUN Movement Secretariat
- Maziya-Dixon, Busie, Crop utilization specialist, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
- Murakami, Hidenori, Nutrition Japan Public-Private Platform, and President, Japan Food Industry Association

### African Countries

- Ghana: Mpereh, Mary, Deputy Director (Gender, Population and Social Policy), National Development Planning Commission
- Madagascar: Ambinintsoa, Raveloharison, Director General, National Office of Nutrition

### Japanese Private Sector

- Hara, George, Ambassador and Chairman of the Board, Alliance Forum Foundation
- Tsuji, Ryohei, Corporate Officer, General Manager, Product Development Division, Kikkoman Corporation

### Volunteers and CSOs

- Shirasu, Noriko, Executive Director, Japan Results
- Aradono, Mika, former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer
- Kinoti, Mette Kjaer, Vice President for Africa, Helen Keller International

## Moderator

- Jallow, Isatou, Senior Nutrition and Partnership Advisor, New Partnership for Africa's Development

