



Senegal: People gather around a faucet in a village where solar power and water purification facilities were installed. [Photo by Shinichi Kuno]



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Director General's Message

Africa

Towards Further Acceleration of Economic Growth in the Next Five Years

There were two major themes in the fiscal year 2012. First was assessing the achievements gained after the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) that took place in 2008. Second was making preparations for TICAD V, which was held in June 2013. Building upon the past accomplishments, JICA will continue to provide assistance for the development of Africa, with a set of clear goals for the next five years .

At TICAD IV, in addition to doubling ODA to Africa by 2012, the Government of Japan promised to extend up to \$4 billion of ODA loans, primarily for infrastructure and agriculture projects, and to expand assistance for health and sanitation, education and other fields. Almost all of these promises were achieved. In 2012, TICAD IV Ministerial Follow-up Meeting was held in Morocco. At this gathering, participants expressed their appreciation to Japan for continuing to provide support as promised, even after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In the preparatory process towards TICAD V, JICA participated in the sector working groups of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We made proposals on targets and programs for each sector and established a wide variety of specific projects.

There are two main aspects that characterize TICAD V. First is that the leading role of the African Union is brought to the fore. Second is an even greater response to the changing world situation.

Along with these activities, JICA has been assisting the regional integration within Africa. One example is measures to promote trade and other economic activities in the continent, where there are many land locked country. JICA is also supporting the establishment and improvement of economic corridors, one-stop border posts (OSBP), and value chains for

agricultural products.

JICA has been working on fostering the private sector development of Africa. For example, we have been assisting the utilization of outstanding Japanese production technologies such as KAIZEN for the African private sectors, and conducting industry-related human resources development. In addition, we support Japanese companies that are considering becoming a partner for projects in Africa. We are also promoting South-South cooperation with the participation of Brazil and other Asian countries; rice production to increase food production; and nation-building efforts in order to consolidate peace and stability in Somalia, South Sudan and other countries. These examples demonstrate the breadth of our activities in Africa.

In the fiscal year 2013, we are concentrating on making progress to reach the goals of TICAD V. For example, taking Africa's diversity into consideration, we will further promote cooperation among and within the regional blocs and public-private partnerships. Furthermore, for the next five years, we will endeavor to provide wide range of supports towards growth that does not create disparities, transformation of industrial structure, enriching the social sector, and global environment conservation in Africa.