



Tanzania: a fish market in Dar es Salaam that was built by Japan's Grant Aid program, conducted in 1999 and 2000. (Photo by Shinichi Kuno)

Director General's Message

Looking Ahead to the Next Five Years to Achieve TICAD V Commitments



Eiji Inui Director General Africa Department

The Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), held in Yokohama in 2013, received delegations from 51 African countries. The Yokohama Action Plan 2013–2017, adopted by the conference, comprises three pillars — robust and sustainable economy, inclusive and resilient society, and peace and stability — and six action plans, which will lead African development for the next five years. To achieve these commitments, JICA is working on materializing effective projects responding to differentiated development needs of each African country and region.

The centerpiece of the first pillar of TICAD V commitments, — robust and sustainable economy — is to develop growth corridors. As many African countries are land-locked, the transportation costs are relatively high. In order to heighten their competitiveness in the global market, it is essential to promote harmonization of various trade regulations, as well as regional infrastructure development, within the region. In response to such demands, JICA is promoting comprehensive corridor development to create conducive environment for more effective transport and logistics.

As part of such efforts, JICA is working on developing strategic master plans on development of infrastructure, systems, and human resources that are necessary to attract foreign investment in 10 areas with distribution network development potentials along the corridors. For this purpose, some concrete projects have already started in East and Southern Africa. From fiscal 2014, JICA will launch 10 human resource development centers as a core initiative for building capacity of 30,000 people for business and industry. As part of this initiative, JICA will also carry out the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), aimed at developing capacity of 1,000 people to strengthen partnership between African and Japanese businesses.

In the African region, agriculture is an important part

of the economy and also a base for building an inclusive society. At TICAD V, JICA re-launched the following agricultural development initiatives which were broadly welcomed to be further extended in the next five years; the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD), which is attempting to double the production of rice in a decade, and the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP), which aims at increasing earnings of small-scale farmers by practicing market-oriented agriculture.

In the field of education, JICA will move forward by focusing on the two types of projects: the School for All approach designed to improve the educational environment by facilitating communities' participation in school management, and the Project on Strengthening Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education (SMASE), which aims to provide quality science and mathematics education in secondary and high school classrooms in Africa.

The key challenge for African development is to maintain the economic growth that has been sustained on an upward trend since the late 2000s. Furthermore, it will be important to achieve a more balanced social and economic development through building an inclusive society, where more benefits from extractive industries would be invested to social development as well as to boosting economic growth.