Activities and Initiatives by Region

Africa

Responding to the Trust from Africa to Japan: Delivering on the Commitment Japan Made at TICAD VI

The Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in August 2016 reviewed the emerging challenges and developments in Africa and identified three priority areas to be addressed: (1) promoting structural economic transformation through economic diversification and industrialization; (2) promoting resilient health systems for quality of life; and (3) promoting social stability for shared prosperity. Japan announced it would invest a total of some $30 billion (about ¥3 trillion) in Africa over a three-year period beginning in 2016 under public-private partnerships. Along with these three areas, Japan committed itself to (1) making quality infrastructure investment, (2) implementing the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), (3) promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and (4) achieving food security and social stability.

Fiscal 2017 Initiatives

For the first priority area, promoting structural economic transformation through economic diversification and industrialization, JICA focused on three priority regions: (1) the Northern Corridor in East Africa, (2) the Nacala Corridor, and (3) the West Africa Growth Ring. JICA’s assistance for these regions covered (1) the formulation of strategic master plans for urban planning, transportation networks, and infrastructure development; and (2) infrastructure development designed to improve the business climate with stable power supply, traffic-jam alleviation, and logistics improvement [see the map and picture below]. For the Northern Corridor in East Africa, JICA assisted in (1) formulating a logistics master plan for the corridor, which connects Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi; and (2) developing the Port of Mombasa—from which the corridor originates—which involves a special economic zone development project.

Regional Issues

The figures show the total value of JICA programs in each country including Technical Cooperation (Training Participants, Experts, Study Teams, Provision of Equipment, JOCV and Other volunteers, and Other costs), Finance and Investment Cooperation (Disbursements), and Grants (Newly concluded G/As) in fiscal 2017.

Note:
- Figures exclude JICA’s cooperation for multiple countries and/or multiple regions and international organizations.
- The map lists only countries where JICA’s overseas offices are located.

Three priority regions for integrated cross-border development that were identified at TICAD VI

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to study in Japan in order to support human resources development in Africa’s private sector. In fiscal 2017, JICA invited 280 students; earlier, JICA had invited a total of 821 students from the region. For the students already studying in Japan, JICA offered internship programs and networking programs with Japanese businesses. The ABE Initiative produced positive outcomes. Notably, some of the first group of students, who came to Japan in fiscal 2014 and had already returned home, are now employed by Japanese businesses or working with them to do business in Africa.

As part of its efforts to promote UHC, JICA co-organized the UHC Forum in Tokyo in December 2017. At the forum, JICA, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO) discussed how to better deliver UHC, based on case studies on development assistance in Senegal [see page 10]. Also, JICA and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) signed a letter of intent for closer mutual cooperation aimed at addressing health crises and preventing the spread of infectious diseases in Africa. In Ghana, JICA launched a technical cooperation project designed to support the introduction of the Maternal and Child Health Handbook across the country. For social stability, JICA reviewed the Coalition for African Maternal and Child Health Handbook across the country.

Future Cooperation

JICA will reward the trust placed in Japan by African countries in the TICAD process. To this end, JICA will steadily provide various kinds of assistance to deliver on the commitments the Japanese government made at TICAD VI. JICA will also work otherwise to strengthen such bonds of trust between Japan and Africa.

For TICAD 7 to be held in Yokohama in 2019, JICA will explore ways for future cooperation with African countries, stakeholder organizations, and the private sector in view of the outcomes of TICAD cooperation to date.


Private-Sector Technology That Turns Human Waste into Resources Supports Self-Sufficiency for Refugees

LIXIL Corporation, a Japanese manufacturer of water and housing products, took advantage of JICA’s Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology to conduct a two-year study (2014–2016) on the possible use of its ecological sanitation waterless toilet system in Kenya, where many people live in poor sanitary conditions. This product is a recycling-based system by which human waste is separated into liquid and solid wastes, which are stored in separate tanks, collected, and turned into fertilizer and utility water.

The two-year study found that the use of flush toilets in a water-scarce country situated in an arid or semi-arid zone polluted water sources in the absence of sewage treatment equipment. With focus on material recycling, this Japanese company redefined the product as a “safe, comfortable, and eco-friendly recycling toilet system” and made a series of improvements to the system.

In February 2018, the company signed a contract with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to provide ecological sanitation waterless toilets, which are safe and sanitary to use, for the Kalobeyei refugee settlement in Kenya. The system that turns human waste into fertilizer for crop planting is now helping the refugees to become more economically independent.