Strong economic growth continued in Africa in 2011 as this region posted an economic growth rate second only to Asia. The 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) will take place in Yokohama in June 2013. This conference is expected to discuss a number of new themes, such as the increasing role of the private sector in African development, collaboration between the private sector and ODA, and strengthening partnerships with emerging countries.

**Progress and Issues Concerning the Development of Africa**

In 2011, the average real GDP growth rate was 5.3% in Sub-Saharan Africa (estimate)*1 and the 2012 forecast calls for growth of 5.5%*2 to 5.8%*3. Furthermore, foreign direct investments in this region in 2010 were higher than in India*4. In particular, there has been rapid growth in African investments and aid by China, India, Brazil and other emerging countries. Overall, this region is attracting much attention on a global scale.

Four African countries, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and Cape Verde, are expected to achieve the MDGs by about 2015*5. These countries have made significant progress with improving the child and maternal mortality rates and stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria.

However, about half of Africa’s population lives on a daily income of less than $1.25. Furthermore, the Horn of Africa in eastern Africa is struggling with the worst drought in 60 years. Approximately 12.4 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia require assistance. The central issue in Africa is how to use strong economic growth to overcome these weaknesses, reduce poverty and create jobs.

**Looking Ahead to TICAD V**

JICA has been providing support for economic and social development in Africa based on the Yokohama Action Plan that was adopted at the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV). The plan has four main components: boosting economic growth, achieving the MDGs, addressing environmental and climate change issues, and consolidation of peace.

TICAD V, which will take place in June 2013, will be held by the Government of Japan, United Nations, World Bank and African Union Commission. Governments of African countries, 

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The figure shows 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), ODA Loans (Disbursements) and Grant Aid (Newly concluded G/A Agreements).

Note: Figures in parentheses denote the percentage share of overall JICA programs in the region.

Note: Figures exclude JICA’s cooperation for multiple countries and international organizations.

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*1 World Bank Group, Africa Regional Brief 2012
*2 World Bank Group, Africa Regional Brief 2012
*3 IMF, World Economic Outlook, September 2011
*4 World Bank Group, Africa Regional Brief 2012
*5 World Bank Group, Africa Regional Brief 2012