

**ODI Lecture: Speech by Mr. Nobutake Odano,
Ambassador in charge of TICAD IV**

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Mr. Simon Maxwell, HE Madam Maajar, Professor Wickstead, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Thank you for the kind introduction. My name is Nobutake Odano, Ambassador in charge of TICAD IV based in Tokyo. It is a pleasure for me to attend this symposium today and discuss with you on TICAD or Tokyo International Conference on African Development. I am on my way back to Tokyo from the TICAD IV Ministerial Preparatory Conference in Liberville, Gabon from 20th to 21st last week. Mr. Simon Maxwell asked me to stop in London to share my thoughts with you all. EU had a Summit with African leaders in Lisbon last December and I discussed in a symposium on Road from Lisbon to Yokohama in Brussels with Commissioner Michel in the first week of March. Of course, Africa has much relevance to almost every spectrum of UK life and business.

2. Japan started the TICAD process in 1993 when Africa was marginalized and the international attention was waning. Today there are many conferences and discussion fora on Africa. Japan is pleased that TICAD has reactivated international attention to Africa. In the fifteen-year history of TICAD, the concept of “ownership” and “partnership” has been well established and well-understood by Africans and development partners. TICAD has attained non-numerical and significant achievements.

3. Generally speaking, there are more positive signs in Africa than a decade ago. More countries exercise good governance. Many countries enjoy economic growth. Africa needs to seize a golden opportunity to establish sustainable socio-political-economic development. TICAD Yokohama Conference is to help Africa in this way, and the main theme of TICAD is “Toward a Vibrant Africa: A Continent of Hope and Oppurtunity.”

4. At the Gabon conference, participating Ministers and delegates from African

states recognized these TICAD spirits and expressed high expectations to TICAD IV Yokohama meeting. The heat and steam of Gabon Conference still lingers in my mind. Let me try to take advantage of this timeliness, and focus on the outcome of the Ministerial Preparatory Conference and the subsequent TICAD IV Summit meeting to be held at the end of May.

5. The Conference received attendance of 51 African countries with 30 Ministerial level participants, including Foreign Minister Dlamini-Zuma from South Africa, Foreign Minister Kutesa from Uganda and others, which I believe is a clear indication of high expectation toward the TICAD process on the part of African states. Special Advisor on Africa to United Nations Secretary-General, Ambassador Diarra, representing the UN, at the Joint Press Conference in Gabon commented that he was impressed by the fact that the discussion conducted at the Conference abounded in substance with high quality. Discussions continued without coffee breaks.
6. As a result of this Preparatory Conference, significant progress has been made to substantiate TICAD IV outcomes. Of course, there will be some more paper works to be done for refinement and crystallization. In response to the high expectations from African countries, the Government of Japan sent a high-level delegation with Mr. Masahiko Koumura, Foreign Minister, and his deputy Mr. Itsunori Onodera, Senior-Vice Minister. Foreign Minister spent about 50 hours in order to attend the Conference from Tokyo and return. The African side welcomed this Japan's strong commitment and repeatedly expressed gratitude for the achievement made through the TICAD process which Japan promotes.
7. On the occasion of this Conference, Foreign Minister Koumura announced 7 new initiatives of Japan's cooperation for Africa towards TICAD IV. The content is the following:
 - (1) Assisting the establishment of a regional infrastructure in road and power networks
 - (2) Utilizing ODA to trigger private investment
 - (3) Promoting assistance for agriculture and rural village development
 - (4) Comprehensively working on measures against infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, promotion of maternal, new-born and child health, as well as human resource development of health-related workers

- (5) Achieving the goal of Education for All (EFA) and promoting education linked to growth and self-sustainability
- (6) Improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- (7) Supporting consolidation of peace

I quoted that the “high quality” discussion was conducted at the Conference, and I believe that this discussion shared a sense of direction with these Japan’s new proposals. In fact, this is no coincidence since Japan has consistently listened to voices from African countries through channels such as close consultations with African Diplomatic Corps in Tokyo and holding of regional preparatory meetings.

8. Salient points that deserve special attention at the Conference include the fact that there were a number of statements made by African delegates that ownership of African countries needs to be reconfirmed, identifying the importance of regional cooperation in Africa and intra-regional trade expansion. The significance of Asia-Africa cooperation was also recognized and appreciation was expressed for Japan’s efforts in encouraging other Asian countries to work together on African development. Today they witness specific examples of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. There is much room for Japan and UK to work together in this regard.
9. In this connection, participants paid special attention to the relevance of Asian developmental experience to Africa, more specifically the fact that the establishment of infrastructure in Asia brought about active foreign direct investment. Japan, for its part, intends to strengthen its assistance for Africa on infrastructure, particularly on road and power networks, in collaboration with the World Bank, African Development Bank, AU, NEPAD and others. Tokyo hosted the fourth meeting of Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, just ten days ago, and then emerged majority views to give priority to transportation and power networks with a regional approach. I am glad to touch upon ICA because it started from Gleneagles Summit then Prime Minister Tony Blair hosted.
10. In the context of importance of investment by the private sector, Japan has achieved concrete results by holding a series of Africa-Asia Business Forum, through which private companies from Asia and Africa reach business deals. A meeting of Public-Private Partnership was held in Gabon at the margin of the Conference, and TICAD IV in Yokohama will also get much involvement

of the private sector.

11. Regarding the Consolidation of Peace, the government of Gabon was very serious against the backdrop of H.E. President Bongo's efforts on the issue of Chad and Foreign Minister Gondjout of Gabon took the chair seat on Peace Consolidation agenda at the Ministerial Conference. In this way, the importance of efforts made by Africans themselves to achieve peace and stability was very much emphasized as well as the partnership of the international community extended for these African initiatives. In this context, Japan has started its new assistance for Africa's PKO centers to help African own peace building efforts.

12. Another salient point is the issue of climate change, which quite a number of participating Ministers referred to. As you are all aware, Africa is said to be the continent most vulnerable to the effects of climate change while African countries are the least emitters of carbon dioxide. A sense of urgency that was expressed by African delegates concerning the frequent droughts and floods, and exacerbation of desertification was, to be frank, much more than I had expected.

13. In this connection, I would like to turn your attention to "Cool Earth Partnership" promoted by the Government of Japan. With a view to striking a balance between reduction of greenhouse gas and economic growth, Japan and developing countries that aim for the establishment of effective framework for climate change beyond 2012 will have policy consultations. Japan is going to support developing countries with which Japan reach an agreement in such consultations. This is "Cool Earth Partnership" and Japan is ready to prepare US\$ 10 billion over the five years. This year, with respect to African countries, Japan agreed with Madagascar, Senegal and Nigeria through consultations to balance environmental protection and development. Japan has already started implementing cooperation based on "Cool Earth Partnership" to Madagascar and Senegal. Also, Japan and Gabon have just decided to hold such policy consultations.

14. This was the summary of the Ministerial Preparatory Conference. Lastly, let me touch upon the significance of the year 2008. This year started with Foreign Minister Komura's visit to Tanzania in January when he articulated Japan's policy towards Africa in his policy speech. Prime Minister Fukuda made a presentation as a guest speaker in Davos to emphasize the importance

of the issues of Development and Africa and climate change in Japan's foreign policy this year. In addition, former Prime Minister Mori went to Addis Ababa to give a speech at the opening ceremony of AU Summit. Then came this March Ministerial Preparatory Conference. All of these took place in the first quarter of this year. It has already been quite an Africa-intensive year for Japan. At the TICAD Yokohama conference, there is an award presentation ceremony of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize, a prize for medical research and practices for Africa and Africans. Looking ahead, 2008 will further give Japan a prime opportunity to focus on Africa since one month after the TICAD IV, the G8 Summit will be held beside Lake Toyako in northern part of Japan.

15. We must utilize this sequence to make a "Vibrant Africa" even more vibrant by having the world confront the challenges that are topics not only for Africa but also for all humankind, including the eradication of poverty, post-conflict peace building, and the prevention of desertification and conservation of forests. This year also marks the halfway point to the target achievement date of 2015 set for the Millennium Development Goals. For this reason it is important that we once again urge further efforts to achieve all the 18 targets. The mission of TICAD IV and the Hokkaido Toyako Summit should be to enhance various such types of momentum.

16. Now, the TICAD IV Summit meeting is just two months ahead of us. The government of Japan will accelerate the preparation based upon the outcome of the Ministerial Conference. This process, however, is not something meant to involve Japan only. Japan would like to broaden and consolidate partnership among a number of stakeholders. This is the very unique character of the TICAD process. It is an open policy forum and its door is kept open to donor community members, emerging donors, international organizations and regional organizations as well as the private sector and civil society. Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand, for example spoke out at the Gabon Conference. There was also a civil society meeting held in parallel and its report was presented to the plenary meeting in Gabon. TICAD IV will be the Conference to highlight such broadened partnership. In this regard, I would also like to solicit cooperation from people present here today so that the coming TICAD IV will be able to make a real success.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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