

Country Development Cooperation Policy for the Republic of Botswana

September, 2017

1. Purpose of Development Cooperation

Since the independence in 1966, democratic elections have been held in Botswana without any form of civil war or coup d'état. As to the economy, Botswana has achieved steady growth owing to the development of mineral resources such as diamonds. Botswana is classified as an upper middle-income country with its per capita GNI of US\$6,610 (World Bank, 2016).

However, in the industrial structure, Botswana is heavily dependent especially on the diamond industry. Due to the low employment absorption rate in the diamond industry, industrial diversification and creation of job opportunities are challenges. As a result of the rapid economic growth, income disparity has expanded. Domestic poverty problems still remain and the poverty reduction and improvement of quality of life are also challenges.

Based on "Vision 2036"¹ and "National Development Plan 11 (NDP11)"², the Botswana Government is making efforts in priority areas such as developing diversified source of economic growth, human capital development, social development, sustainable use of natural resources and implementation of an effective monitoring and evaluation system.

The Japanese Government has been supporting the efforts of the Botswana Government to solve social challenges. Japan continues to support the efforts by the Botswana government in its priority sectors. Through these support, Japan contributes to the stable economic growth, creation of employment and also the expansion of investment by Japanese companies in Botswana. Japan tries to further enhance friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

2. Basic Policy of Japanese ODA : Assistance for Industrial Diversification and Poverty Reduction

Based on "Vision 2036" and "NDP11" of the Botswana Government, in order to help Botswana's aim for departure from mining dependence and improvement of high unemployment rate and eradicate poverty, Japan supports the environment for industrial diversification as well as poverty reduction and the enhancement of quality of life.

¹ VISION2036: VISION2036 is a national transformational agenda from 2016 to 2036 that defines an ultimate goal, "Achieving Prosperity for All." It has the following four pillars: Sustainable Economic Development, Human and Social Development, Sustainable Environment and Governance, Peace and Security.

² NDP11 (the eleventh National Development Plan): NDP11 has been prepared to guide the medium term development path for the economy from 2017 to 2023. The theme for NDP11 is "Inclusive Growth for the Realisation of Sustainable Employment Creation and Poverty Eradication" and the target average rate of growth in NDP11 is 4.4% per annum. NDP11 also defines priority areas for development.

3. Priority Areas

(1) Improvement of Environment for Industrial Diversification

Japan supports to promote infrastructure development indispensable for industrial diversification, especially in the field of transportation, information and communication, energy and water resources. Japan also supports the creation of the environment that enables sustainable development. Furthermore, Japan supports the improvement of efficiency, policy implementation and management capacity in the public service in order to foster personnel in the private sector directly responsible for economic diversification and to develop policies necessary for diversification of industry.

(2) Poverty Reduction and Betterment of Quality of Life

To resolve the economic disparity and inequality of basic social services caused by rapid economic growth and geographical factors, Japan supports the reduction of poverty and the betterment of quality of life through community development, enhancement of medical system, providing educational opportunities, empowerment of vulnerable people, cultural and sports promotion.

4. Points to be considered

(1) Botswana adopted Japanese standard for its terrestrial broadcasting standard (ISDB-T standard) and has started the broadcasting services. Japan facilitates technology transfer and capacity building for smooth diffusion of the standard.

(2) Japan formulates development cooperation projects in line with the TICAD³ process, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁴ and with considering the aspect of the regional development of the SADC⁵.

Annex: Rolling Plan

³ TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development): TICAD is a Japan led policy forum with theme of African development. It is led by Japan and co-organized by UN, UNDP, World Bank and AUC. Until TICAD V, the summit-level meetings were held every five years in Japan. From 2016 onwards, TICAD is held every three years, hosted alternately in Africa and Japan. In 2016, TICAD was held in Africa (Kenya) for the first time as TICAD6.

⁴ SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals): The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) is a set of international development goals from 2016 to 2030, which was adopted by the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in September 2015. The 2030 Agenda listed SDGs consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets in order to eradicate poverty and realize a sustainable world.

⁵ SADC (Southern African Development Community): The SADC is a regional organization with 16 member states of southern Africa, established in August 1992 to promote intraregional economic growth, eliminate poverty, and strengthen coordination. Member states of the SADC are Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Mauritius, DRC, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros.