

**Opening Statement by Ambassador Kozo Takeda  
at the Botswana-Japan Stakeholder Seminar on the TICAD Process  
on 7th August 2019 at GICC, Gaborone**

It is a great honour for me to be with you today at this Stakeholder Seminar on the Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD) process jointly hosted by the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation of Botswana and the Embassy of Japan. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our honourable guests from Botswana Government and private companies, especially Mr. Gaeimelwe Goitseman, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation of Botswana for taking the time out of the busy schedules to participate in this important event.

TICAD is an initiative of Japan that began in 1993 and co-hosted by United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and African Union Commission (AUC). I would like to appreciate that since TICAD was founded, the Botswana Government has never missed a single opportunity for this important event and participated in all six TICAD summits with the attendance from the former Presidents for three times.

TICAD is an open forum that is created by all stakeholders, including co-organizers, countries from not only Africa but also other regions, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. One of the unique characteristics of TICAD is its adherence to the importance of “ownership” of African countries and “partnership” of international society for the African development, which has consistently been the underlying philosophy of Japan’s cooperation with Africa. I would like to assure Japan’s determination to maintain and further develop this unique, transparent, and inclusive TICAD framework in close collaboration with all the participating parties.

Through TICAD process, Japan and Botswana have deepened discussions for the betterment of the development strategy and built strong cooperative relations with various channels, such as the international organizations and NGOs.

On the economic front particularly, we focus on economic transformation of Botswana with an emphasis on infrastructure development, human resource development and technological transfer. Up to March 2018, the total official development assistance (ODA), including loan, grant and technical assistance, provided from the Japanese Government to Botswana accumulated to approximately 318 million US dollars, equivalent of approximately 3.4 billion Pula.

Reflecting our belief in empowering people, every year, the Japanese Government through JICA invites trainees from Botswana to Japan for a variety of subjects, such as investment promotion, rural development and industrial technology education. At least 800 Botswana have been trained in Japan. In addition, Japan offers various types of scholarship programmes, such as “ABE Initiative”, “Shigen no Kizuna” and Japanese government MEXT scholarship. There are also 15 JICA volunteers currently working all over Botswana, addressing a wide range of issues and promoting friendship and cooperation between Botswana and Japan. Japan also addresses grass-roots issues through Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) in Botswana in various fields including education and vocational training, which have a direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities. Over 50 projects have been implemented in Botswana so far.

Japan, together with TICAD co-organizers, will hold TICAD from 28th to 30th this month in Yokohama, neighbouring Tokyo, Japan. The three major themes TICAD7 advocates are (1) to promote economic transformation and improve business environment and institution through innovation and private sector involvement; (2) to promote resilient and sustainable society for human security and (3) the peace and stability.

As the first theme suggests, Africa is no longer regarded as a target for development assistance. Business and innovation will be the overriding theme. Recognizing the dynamism and huge economic potential of Africa, both Japan and Botswana need to take advantage of it.

Japan intends to take the lead in further promoting public-private partnership for African development. There are also various business-related side-events of TICAD7, including those organized by JETRO, or Japan External Trade Organization, in which effective public-private partnership is explored and business relationship between Japan and Africa is strengthened and facilitated.

I truly hope that this joint seminar will contribute to enhancing participant’s understanding on the importance and goal of TICAD and encourage more participation from Botswana from various sectors, particularly private sector. I am very confident that TICAD will further strengthen our tie with Botswana and contribute to Botswana to realize its balanced and stable economic growth and transformation that benefits a vast majority of society including the poor.

I welcome you all to the upcoming TICAD7 in Yokohama.  
Thank you.