

28 March 2022

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)
Ministerial Meeting
(26-27 March 2022)

The TICAD Ministerial Meeting was held virtually on March 26 and March 27, 2022. Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, chaired the meeting whilst Ms. SUZUKI Takako, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, took the role of Acting Chair. Representatives from 50 African countries participated in the meeting, with 43 ministerial level participants, including Hon. Dr. Lemogang Kwape, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation. Other participants included representatives from the other TICAD co-organizers (the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the African Union Commission (AUC)) with a representative from an organisation representing the Japanese private sector.

During the two-day meeting, the participants held intensive discussions under three themes: “Achieving sustainable and inclusive growth with reduced economic inequalities”, “Realizing a sustainable and resilient society based on human security” and “Building sustainable peace and stability through supporting Africa’s own efforts”. The participants acknowledged that the international community needs to work together to address the economic and social impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about in Africa, and encourage a robust, sustainable and inclusive development to achieve “build back better”. They reaffirmed that the TICAD process has been playing a significant role to this end, aligned with the African vision stated in the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape emphasized that Botswana is fully committed to providing a secure, attractive, and sustainable environment for private sector investment and that it subscribed to the TICAD ideals of promoting sustainable development. The Minister underscored the need to scale up the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and identified it as one of the areas to be discussed and assisted under the TICAD Framework. The Minister shared at the Meeting some of the steps that Botswana has taken to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, which include economic recovery efforts that are in line with the country’s Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (ERTP) and further reaffirmed Botswana’s commitment and support to the TICAD Process and Japan as an invaluable development partner.

Minister HAYASHI, during the meeting, emphasized Japan’s continued support for African-led development in cooperation with the international community, with a view to addressing the evolving threats of the era. The participants welcomed the steady progress observed under the TICAD process and the implementation of a wide range of measures, which consequently paved the way to build back better. They renewed their determination to continue collaborating to overcome not only imminent challenges but also longer-term issues made more apparent by the pandemic.

The participants of the meeting confirmed that they would continue to work closely toward the successful TICAD 8.

Commenting on the successful Ministerial meeting, H.E. Mr. HOSHIYAMA Takashi, Ambassador of Japan to Botswana, noted that “TICAD is the flagship of Japan’s diplomacy towards Africa and is relevant to Botswana’s development as well”. He further expressed his delight that Honourable Minister Lemogang Kwape had taken part in the meeting stating that “Botswana has been actively participating in the past TICADs and the Honourable Minister’s participation confirmed the continued commitment by Botswana to the TICAD process. I look forward to cooperating with Botswana to make TICAD 8 a fruitful and successful Summit for Japan and Botswana”

TICAD 8 Summit meeting is scheduled to take place in Tunisia on 27th and 28th of August this year, co-hosted by United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, and African Union Commission (AUC).



Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,



Honourable Dr. Lemogang Kwape

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

- TICAD was held at a time when the Cold War ended and the international community was losing interest in Africa. The Forum created an opportunity to revive interest in Africa. Since 1993, TICAD has been a pioneering international forum for Africa with history lasting over a quarter of a century (**Pioneer forum**).
- It is a multilateral open forum co-hosted by the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, and the African Union commission (AUC), where not only African countries, but international organizations, partner countries, private companies and civil society organizations involved in development also participate (**Multilateral open forum**).
- It has advocated the importance of African ownership and international partnership from the very beginning. Today, the development philosophy based on these two principles is shared globally (**Ownership and partnership**).
- The TICAD process puts emphasis on follow-up mechanisms to ensure the fulfillment of promises. For example, pledges announced at the summit-level meetings will be followed up and the status of their implementations is reported and confirmed at the ministerial meetings. African countries have highly appreciated the steady assistance extended by Japan and TICAD partners (**Steady fulfilment of promises**).

Botswana and TICAD

(Participation)

- Botswana is actively participating in the TICAD process. His Excellency Sir Ketumile Masire was one of the five heads of states to attend the First TICAD and since then Botswana has been represented by high level dignitaries during TICAD. Moreover, Botswana hosted the first ever TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting in Gaborone in 2009. We are grateful for Botswana's commitment to TICAD.

(Africa as a business partner: Supporting Connectivity)

- As TICAD evolved, its focus has shifted from assistance to private sector-led activities, such as trade and investment. In Botswana, with the aim of steering the interest of the business sectors, Botswana-Japan Stakeholder Seminar on TICAD Process was held on 7th August 2019, just before TICAD 7. As a result, Botswana companies participated in TICAD 7 held in Yokohama, Japan, where they took part in various events and had the opportunity to network with Japanese business sectors and relevant organizations. TICAD 8 is also expected to encourage the Japanese business sector to expand into Africa.
- To enhance trade and strengthen connectivity of the Southern African region, Japan supported the Kazungula Bridge Project by providing a Yen Loan (2012). The bridge was officially opened in May 2021. With the completion of the bridge, transport time is expected to be shortened drastically and the regional economy is expected to prosper.

(Promoting Human Security)

- The importance of "Human security" – the concept to advance the nation and community building through empowerment and protection of individuals to live happily and in dignity, free from fear and want – was affirmed during TICAD 4 (September, 2003). The Embassy of Japan has been supporting people-centred, relatively small development projects, which have a direct and immediate impact on the well-being of disadvantaged communities at grass-roots level under the scheme "Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP)". The Embassy has approved 63 GGP projects in Botswana from 1997 to date.

- As an important part of “Human Security”, TICAD places emphasis on promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC). In 2020, Japan provided health and medical equipment to support Botswana in its fight against COVID-19. This year, Japan also decided to provide, through UNICEF as the implementing agency, assistance to strengthen the vaccine cold chain system in Botswana and assistance to enable the continuity of essential nutrition and child protection services to vulnerable children during COVID-19.

(Promoting digital society in Botswana)

- Japan has been contributing to the development of digital infrastructure in Botswana. During the TICAD 5 summit meeting (June, 2013), the Government of Japan expressed Japan’s support for Botswana’s efforts in introducing digital terrestrial broadcasting to Botswana. Since then, the Botswana Government has been making efforts to shift from analogue broadcasting to DTV, and Japan has been assisting Botswana’s digital TV transition. After analogue switch-off, frequency band will be released which can then be used for 4G, 5G, IoT (Internet of things) etc. contributing to shaping Botswana as a knowledge-based economy.
- Additionally, in April 2020, the Government of Japan decided to provide a grant assistance amounting to 17 million Pula for the distribution of 15,000 set top boxes to be aligned with deployment of DTV and analogue switch off in Botswana.

(Promoting Food security and supporting Agriculture in Botswana)

- At TICAD 7 (August, 2019), Hon. Dr. Unity Dow, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation, during a bilateral meeting held with the Japan’s Foreign Minister Mr. KONO Taro, touched upon the importance of modernizing agriculture in Botswana due to its heavy reliance on food imports. Following this meeting, an Exchange of Notes was signed in January 2021 between the two Governments for the “Economic and Social Development Programme”, a grant aid amounting to approximately 53 million Pula for the provision of agricultural machineries and materials. In addition, the Japanese Government funded approximately 3.6 million Pula towards the emergency assistance project “Emergency response to food and nutrition insecurity of vulnerable populations caused by COVID-19 in Botswana” implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), in order to ensure that the most vulnerable are supported in meeting their basic food and nutritional needs caused by COVID-19.