

PRESS RELEASE

15th July 2022

Embassy of Japan in Botswana

The Embassy of Japan in Botswana hosts a Seminar on TICAD 8

On the 14th July, the Embassy of Japan hosted a Seminar on Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) titled “Development in Africa: Toward TICAD 8” at the Official Residence of the Ambassador of Japan. The purpose of the seminar was to raise awareness on the upcoming TICAD 8 Summit meeting, which is scheduled to be held on the 27th and 28th August, 2022, and to give an overview of TICAD and its relevance to Botswana.

The Government of Japan has been leading this conference since 1993 to promote Africa’s development, peace and security, in partnership with co-organizers, the United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank (WB), and African Union Commission (AUC).

As the opening remark, Ms. FUJINO Yuka, Chargé d’affaires of the Embassy of Japan, expressed her delight to have hosted the event and noted that TICAD is the flagship of Japan’s diplomacy towards Africa. She also revealed that the Government of Botswana has been actively participating in the TICAD process since the very beginning and that His Excellency Sir Ketumile Masire was one of the five heads of states to attend the First TICAD in 1993. Ms. Fujino expressed her hope that Japan would be able to welcome His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi at TICAD 8 this August.

Mr. YOSHIDA Kunihiro, First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan, gave an overview of TICAD, its beginnings and the cooperation that Japan has with

Botswana, such as Grant Assistance for Grass-roots projects to promote human security, a concept which was affirmed during TICAD 4. Digital society, where Japan is contributing to the development of Botswana's digital infrastructure. Assistance in human resource development in the form of scholarships and training, and Grant aid to the agricultural sector.

JICA Acting Resident Representative, Mr. Hiroyuki Takada, delivered a presentation on JICA's approach to TICAD 8 and beyond, owing to the 3 main approaches namely: Society, Economy and Peace, which contributes to the attainment of Africa's continental agenda towards a resilient, inclusive and prosperous continent.

The UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Balazs Horvath made a presentation on the role of TICAD in advancing African Economic Integration and building Forward Better following the twin crises. He spoke of 3 key areas of action to strengthen economic resilience and foster economic transformation in Africa: eexpanding fiscal space and stabilizing economies, strengthening Africa's resilience to global shocks, and fostering structural transformation. Mr. Horvath said that TICAD and UNDP goals are aligned and are working towards a common goal.

The civil society represented by the Civic Commission for Africa (CCfA) Continental President Ms. Maungo Mooki appreciated the inclusion of the civil society and thanked the Government of Japan and the TICAD co-organizers for setting an example to other international and regional organizations. She introduced the role and involvement of Africa's CSOs in the TICAD process and shared their evaluation of the past TICAD conferences.

During the closing remarks, Ambassador Nkoloi Nkoloi, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressed his sincere gratitude to the

Embassy of Japan for hosting the seminar in preparation for the upcoming TICAD 8 conference. He said that he believes that all the participants greatly benefited from the information shared, and from the interaction. Ambassador Nkoloji further expressed his sincere condolences to the People of Japan on the passing of former Prime Minister Abe.



Ms. FUJINO Yuka, Chargé d'affaires,
Embassy of Japan



Mr. YOSHIDA Kunihiro, Embassy of Japan



Mr. Hiroyuki Takada, JICA Botswana Office



Mr. Balázs Horváth,
UNDP Resident Representative



Ms. Maungo Mooki, Civic Commission for Africa



Ambassador. Noloi Nkoloji, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

