

**TALKING POINTS OF H.E. AMB. LUVANDA DURING A COURTESY VISIT OF MS. SUZUKI TAKAKO, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES & DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF LDP AT THE CHANCERY REGARDING EVALUATION OF THE TICAD INITIATIVE**

**A very good morning to you, Excellency and welcome to Tanzania House.**

When I was told on Friday that you wanted to visit with us, I simply said yes. Because I wanted to meet you once more after a very brief encounter with you last year during the First Ladies Summit.

We are very honored and privileged to have you today.

I will let my colleagues to introduce themselves so that you know who you are talking to;

Now, in terms of the discussion, we received two open-ended questions. I am going to focus my attention on these questions without any further ado.

Question number one was:

**QN 1: How do you evaluate the significance of TICAD, as well as its process and initiatives?**

- So far, we see TICAD as a forum that promotes high level policy dialogue between African leaders and Japan as well as development partners and its significance lie in its ability to promote partnership between African countries and their development partners, including Japan, which is one amongst the major partners to development in Africa.
- Through TICAD, African countries have accessed and continue to access funding, expertise, and technology to support their development priorities. TICAD has played an important role in promoting development in Africa by fostering partnerships and collaboration between African countries and their development partners.
- Generally, the TICAD initiatives have helped African countries to identify key priorities for development and provide a framework for action while, in terms of the process, TICAD has been successful in bringing together stakeholders from various sectors, including government, business, and civil society. This allows for a more comprehensive approach to development that considers the diverse needs and perspectives of African countries, through its Action Plans.
- By and large, TICAD Action Plans, provide a roadmap for achieving key priorities for African development, including economic growth, poverty reduction, and social development. It helps to coordinate efforts, prioritize resources, and promote accountability among all stakeholders involved in African development.

That said, in evaluating the significance of TICAD in specific terms, I will share my own country's experience with TICAD:

The Government of Japan through JICA has been providing its official development assistance to Tanzania through technical cooperation, concessional loans, and grant aid with the aim of implementing various development projects, to mention just a few:

- i) Japanese Government through Programme of the African Business for the Youth under JICA (ABE Initiative) and other 9 programmes provide higher-learning education opportunities for the Tanzanian youth to study in Japan in the fields of agriculture, water, administration, finance, mining, and transport sectors. Not only students but also Government officials come to Japan as JICA training participants through the Osaka Special Training Programme for Supporting Local Government Reforms in the United Republic of Tanzania that commencing in 2000. Up-to-date approximately 22,064 Tanzanian students and government officials have studied or trained in Japan;
- ii) Japan has provided technical cooperation in the areas of industrial technology development, SME promotion, and trade and investment promotion to Tanzania. This includes improvement of institutional systems and human resource development, and industrial promotion in line with the focus of the Tanzania's industrialization policy at the time. KAIZEN Project has been conducted in Tanzania for

improving the quality and productivity of local industries and services as a joint project with the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade (MIIT) and JICA since 2013;

iii) Another key project for improving industrial, trade and investment development technology is known as Next Innovation with Japan (NINJA) Project. Whereby, in 2020, JICA organized the regional business plan competition in Africa, “NINJA”, to discover the innovative business models and technologies that not only provide prescriptive solutions to the global pandemic of COVID 19 but also respond to the expected radical changes in post-pandemic socio-economic reality. In Tanzania, three startups were selected as winners of the competition.

- In 2022, the second NINJA competition (NINJA2) was organized in Tanzania to support further startups for those who are trying to overcome Tanzanian social challenges.

iv) The multi - layered human resource exchange has also supported Japanese companies in their investment and expansion into Tanzania. There are several active Japanese companies in Tanzania on which some companies have already established their business relations with local companies. For example, Sumitomo Chemical has a joint venture with a local company A to Z in Arusha, which produces mosquito nets, a vital tool to protect people from malaria. Tanzania Cigarette Company Ltd (TCC), one of the largest contributions in tax payment and employment generation in Tanzania, is a member of the Japan Tobacco International (JTI) Group of Companies.

- v) JICA as well initiated the "Project for Supporting Rice Industry Development in Tanzania (Tanrice 1 in 2007 – 2012; Tanrice 2 in 2012- 2019). The project aimed at further dissemination of rice farming technologies nationwide in partnership with 7 agricultural training institutes to increase the volume of rice production in Tanzania. Tanzania now is among the top five rice producers on the entire African continent and the largest rice producer in East Africa. For instance, in the 2020/21 season, Tanzania produced 1.85 million tonnes of rice, while the country's annual demand is around 1 million tonnes. This means that there was an excess of 850,000 tonnes of rice (BOT Data: 2022).
- vi) The Government of Japan through JICA also, enabled Tanzania to undertake various infrastructure projects, to name just a few, the recent completed projects include;
- Arusha - Namanga Road and One Stop Boarder Post at Namanga (Tanzania/Kenya);
  - Rusumo International Bridge and One Stop Border Bost at Rusumo birder (Tanzania/Rwanda);
  - Kenya-Tanzania Power Interconnection Project;
  - Kinyerezi I&II Power Plant Project;
  - TAZARA intersection Improvement Project (Mfugale Flyover Construction Project);
  - New Bagamoyo Road Widening Project (from Morocco to Mwenge);
  - The Improvement of Transport Capacity in Dar es Salaam Project (Gerezani Road Bridge); and
  - the Malindi Fish Landing and Marketing Facilities in Zanzibar, which were formally inaugurated on January

10, 2023, by His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President and Chairman of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

In addition, using the most recent TICAD 8 Summit as an example, Tanzania, along with other African nations, anticipates benefiting in a number of ways, including:

- Infrastructure development: for instance, Tanzania, during the TICAD 8 Summit presented eight (8) projects to be considered by the Japanese Government;
- trainings for 300,000 youth across wide-ranging professions in industries that will support the future of Africa in the field of health, education, agriculture, justice and administration;
- grant food aid worth about \$130 million to African countries, and support food production as well as train 200,000 people in the agricultural sector (\$300 million), through joint programmes with the AfDB;
- support in the public and private sectors investment under the Green Growth Initiative (\$4 billions) as well as boost African start - ups in investment and entrepreneurship (\$5 billions);
- support in combating AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria and to strengthen health systems, particularly in Africa (\$1.8 billion).

**QN 2: In comparison to other countries and regional initiatives in Africa, what distinguishes Japan's efforts in TICAD, what aspects of Japan's approach do you find admirable or exemplary? Moreover, what can Japan learn from other countries?**

Japan's efforts in TICAD stand out in several ways compared to other countries and regional initiatives in Africa. Some of the distinguishing features of Japan's approach that I find admirable or exemplary may include:

- i) Long-term commitment: Japan has been a consistent partner in African development for over 30 years, demonstrating a long-term commitment to the continent's growth and prosperity;
- ii) Focus on human security: Japan's approach to development in Africa prioritizes the well-being of individuals and communities, with a particular emphasis on health, education, and social development;
- iii) Public-private partnerships: Japan has leveraged partnerships between government and the private sector to support African development, fostering innovation and creating sustainable solutions, as well as, mobilizing private sector resources for African development; and
- iv) Respect for local ownership: Japan recognizes the importance of local ownership in African development, and its approach emphasizes the involvement of African governments and communities in decision-making processes.

However, there are lessons that Japan can learn from other countries and regional initiatives, such as investing heavily in large-scale infrastructure projects in Africa (e.g., construction of Standard Gauge Railways), as well as, investing as much in Africa's private sector like the United States or the European Union. Africa needs more Japanese investors in the following fields, which I believe they can have a greater impact on African development:

- a) Infrastructure: There is a significant need for infrastructure development in Africa, including transportation, energy, water and sanitation. Japan's expertise in areas such as railway systems, energy efficiency, and clean energy could be valuable in addressing these needs.
- b) Agriculture: which is a key sector for many African countries, and there is a need for investment in areas such as irrigation systems, mechanization, and value chain development. Japan's experience in high-tech agriculture and precision farming could be valuable in improving productivity and promoting sustainable agriculture practices in Africa.
- c) Health: Africa faces a range of health challenges, including infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases. Japan's expertise in areas such as medical technology and pharmaceuticals could be valuable in addressing these challenges.
- d) Education: There is a need for investment in education infrastructure, teacher training, and curriculum development in many African countries. Japan's experience in education technology and vocational training could be

valuable in improving access to quality education and promoting workforce development.

- e) Information and Communication Technology (ICT): ICT has the potential to transform many sectors in Africa, including healthcare, education, and agriculture. Japan's expertise in areas such as robotics, artificial intelligence, and high-speed internet could be valuable in promoting digital transformation and innovation in Africa.

All in all, Japan remains one amongst the major partners to development in Africa; and Tanzania, among other nations in Africa, sees Japan as its largest stakeholder and partner because of its significant economic and technological influence in the world.

And as the African proverb goes, *“There is no better mirror than the best friend”*.

Japan for us, remains that best friend.

Thank you for your kind attention.