



## Joint Press Release

### Senior Officials convened in Addis Ababa to prepare for TICAD V Follow-up Ministerial Meeting

**Addis Ababa, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013** – Strengthening strategic partnerships for further development and prosperity of Africa is the focus of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD V), to be held from 1-3 June 2013, in the Japanese city of Yokohama, of which a preparatory meeting, at the level of senior officials, kicked off today 14th March 2013, at the African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Officially opening the meeting, AUC Chief of Staff, Ambassador Jean-Baptiste Natama said that the fruitful efforts being made for the preparations are a good sign for a successful TICAD V meeting.

“We are meeting today to prepare for the forthcoming meeting of the TICAD V which will commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TICAD process, which coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity” he added.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Shinichi Asazuma, representative of the Japanese Government and Co-Chair of the Meeting, said that the Japanese Government would continue to support development in Africa through the TICAD process. He also firmly

believed that walking together with Africa would bring about the further development and prosperity of not only Japan but also the international community as a whole.



Co-chairs and co-organizers from the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser for Africa (UNOSAA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Bank, in their opening remarks warmly welcomed the African Union Commission as a new TICAD co-organizer, and expressed their strong will to further strengthen the relations in order to achieve results on the key issues such as “robust and sustainable economy”, “Inclusive and resilient society” and “peace and stability”. They noted the progress that has been made and are looking to a much brighter future for Africa.

The senior officials’ meeting will consider “Outcome documents of TICAD V”, “Inclusive and Resilient Society-Contribution of TICAD to the MDGs process-“, “Peace and Stability in Africa-Pressing issues”, and “Trade and Investment in Africa-Opportunities and Challenges.

To be held under the theme "Hand in Hand for a More Dynamic Africa", TICAD V will discuss the “Yokohama Declaration 2013”. It will outline principles for advancing African development among TICAD stakeholders, as well as the “Yokohama Action Plan 2013” and lay out a road map for action oriented initiatives centered around six main pillars, namely achieving private sector-led growth, accelerating infrastructure development for growth, transforming farmers into main actors for growth, promoting sustainable and resilient growth, creating an inclusive society for growth, and realizing a peaceful and stable continent and generate hope for growth.

The TICAD V follow-up meeting was attended by senior officials of the African countries and TICAD co-organizers, namely the African Union Commission (AUC), Government of Japan, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Office of the Under Secretary General and Special Advisor on Africa (UNOSAA) and the World Bank, along with representatives of other partner countries, international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations.

The senior officials' meetings will conclude on the 15th of March 2013, and will submit its recommendations for approval to the Ministerial meeting which will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2013.