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Chairperson Ping and Director General Sumio Discuss Africa – Japan Cooperation



Addis Ababa, 16 November 2011 – The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping, on 15 November 2011, received in audience the Director General for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Sumio Kusaka.

Chairperson Ping expressed satisfaction with the existing good relationship between the AU and Japan. Discussion during the meeting was centered on the

upcoming Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 5) scheduled for 2013.

Reiterating his country's commitment to continue supporting Africa in different cooperation areas, Mr. Sumio underscored the need for the relationship between the two parties to be strengthened. He expressed the readiness for Japan to contribute in AU's Panafrican University project.

Worth recalling that, TICAD was launched in 1993 with the aim to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and development partners. TICAD has since evolved into a major global framework to facilitate the implementation of initiatives for promoting African development under the dual principle of African "ownership" and international "partnership". A central feature of this framework is the cooperation between Asia and Africa.

The objectives of TICAD are : to promote high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and their partners; and to mobilize support for African-owned development initiatives. These objectives are embodied in the concept of "ownership" and "partnership".