



Joint Press Release

TICAD V Follow-up Ministerial Meeting kicks off with a call for more efforts and coordination for Africa's development agenda

Addis Ababa, 16th March 2013- Ministers and high level representatives from African countries, and international and regional organizations are gathered in the framework of the 5th Follow-up Ministerial Meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD V, which kicked off today Saturday, 16th March 2013, at the African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Co-organized by Japan, African Union Commission (AUC), World Bank, United Nations, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), this two-day meeting will review the Yokohama plan of Action as well as other preparations for the TICAD V, scheduled to be held from 1-3 June, in Yokohama, Japan.

Officially opening the meeting, Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia appreciated the initiative Japan took 20 years back, to establish TICAD as a forum of policy coordination in support of Africa's development to draw the attention of the international community towards Africa.

He said "We in Africa understand the critical importance of forging international partnerships to achieve sustainable socio-economic development and prosperity, which provided an important platform for dialogue on issues of Africa's development. (See complete speech of the Prime Minister on the AU website: www.au.int)

Mr. Fumia Kishida, Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs stated in his opening remarks that TICAD has championed African ownership, honored its commitments to Africa and underlined TICAD's belief in Africa's potential. He said this meeting would enable the two parties to forge the foundation for making TICAD V a success.

Commending Japan for its commitments toward Africa, he noted that TICAD V should be an opportunity to further brighten "the dynamic continent's" rays of hope and that Japan will provide assistance worth 550 Million Dollars to ensure peace and stability in Africa, of which 6 Million will be dedicated to the African-led International Support Mission to Mali



(AFISMA).(See complete speech of the Japan Foreign Minister on the AU website: www.au.int)

Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, said the outcome of this meeting will go a long way towards enhancing Africa-Japan cooperation and recognized Japan's unwavering commitment to consistently meet their obligation under TICAD.

He added that Japan's commitment can be noticed in the areas of boosting economic growth, achieving the Millennium Development Goals, consolidating peace and security, good governance as well as tackling challenges arising from climate change. He said Japan has increased its official development assistance from \$0.9million in the period 2003-2007 to \$2.5 billion in 2010 (See complete speech of the Deputy Chairperson on the AU website: www.au.int)

Held under the theme "Hand in Hand for a More Dynamic Africa", TICAD V will discuss the "Yokohama Declaration 2013", outlining principles for advancing African development among TICAD stakeholders, as well as the "Yokohama Action Plan 2013", laying 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
- Realizing a peaceful and stable continent as well as generate hope for growth.

The TICAD V Follow-Up Ministerial Meeting was attended by Ministers and high level representatives of the African countries and TICAD co-organizers, AUC, Government of Japan, UN, UNDP, the United Nations Office of the Under Secretary General and Special Advisor on Africa (UNOSSA) and the World Bank, along with representatives of other partner countries, international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations.

TICAD V will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the TICAD process, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity.

The Meeting will end tomorrow 17th March 2013.

For further information, please visit the AU website: www.au.int

