

Review of TICAD

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) had its inaugural meeting in 1993. This was followed by a variety of activities aimed at promoting its objectives and broadening its scope. The second plenary, TICAD II, held in 1998, further concretized the TICAD framework by adopting the Tokyo Agenda for Action. It was followed by a series of activities that promoted implementation of the agenda. The co-organizers are now leading the preparatory process for a third conference, TICAD III, scheduled to take place in Tokyo, September 29 – October 1, 2003. As TICAD marks its tenth anniversary, it is appropriate and timely to undertake a broad and overall review of what has been achieved to date, as well as to consider the opportunities that exist for continuing and deepening cooperation. In this way, the review will contribute to the shaping of a strengthened and appropriately focused TICAD agenda for the future¹.

I. TICAD And Its Objectives

It was in 1992 that the Government of Japan, together with the Global Coalition for Africa and the United Nations (UNOSCAL), initiated the process of organizing a conference on African development. The co-organizers, later expanded to include the UNDP (as of 1994) and the World Bank (from 2000), have continued to oversee and lead the TICAD process.

A major motivating factor for convening the first conference was to place and maintain African development as a priority of the international community. This was an important objective in the immediate post-cold war years, when there were well-founded concerns that the attention of the major donors would increasingly shift toward Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Moreover, this was a period when trends in development assistance were beginning to indicate an erosion of support as well as a decline in available resources. On the African side, the continent was emerging from “the lost decade” of the 1980s, and the winds of political change and reform were starting to blow in a number of countries. As a consequence, the initiative to focus on and contribute to the reinvigoration of African development was welcome.

With intensive work during the second half of 1992 and 1993, including senior official-level preparatory meetings, the first Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was convened in October 1993. The basic goal of TICAD was – and continues to be – to contribute to poverty reduction through sustained and accelerated economic growth in Africa. Within the framework of this over-riding goal, the objectives that TICAD explicitly and implicitly espoused were:

¹ This review is based on detailed findings and assessments made by an independent consultant, Ambassador Rasmus Rasmusson of Sweden. In addition, another consultant, Mr. Lekoma Mothibatsela of Botswana, provided a Southern Africa perspective on Asia-Africa Cooperation and TICAD.

- i) To keep African development as a principal focus of the international community;
- ii) To promote ownership by African countries of their own development strategies and programs;
- iii) To encourage a new partnership, between Africa and its development partners, in support of African-owned development plans and programs; and
- iv) To facilitate South-South Cooperation, including in particular Asia-Africa Cooperation; promoting intra-Africa cooperation is also an objective.

II. How The Objectives Were Pursued

TICAD is essentially a process, not a program of activities or framework of specific projects. As such, various modalities and formats for exchanges of views, consensus building, sharing of experiences and know-how were used to further the aims of TICAD. These included major plenaries or conferences, high-level forums, regional meetings, seminars, study visits and training programs, networking and research collaboration.

TICAD I: Opened by the Prime Minister of Japan, the first conference captured the attention of political and civic leaders as well as a large segment of the public in Japan. It was also a widely reported and noted event in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The focus on Africa was reinforced by other accompanying events, including cultural presentations. The high-level participation, including a number of African Heads of State/Government and ministers from both African and partner countries played a significant role in drawing attention to African development issues. The Asian development experience was discussed in some detail, with a view of exploring lessons that could be drawn for African development. The Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the meeting emphasized ownership and partnership as the principles to guide African development planning and implementation; it also outlined the main features of the Asian development experience.

TICAD I was thus a major event in itself. Even prior to the conference, the preparatory process devoted considerable time and effort to identifying the main themes, and to drafting and finalizing the declaration. The process included a full preparatory meeting at the level of senior officials and a series of drafting meetings. The extensive discussions helped the participants to grasp the relevance of the major themes of the conference and led to the development of a broad consensus.

TICAD II: Building on the outcome of the first conference, and based on the achievements of the various follow-up activities that took place in the intervening years, TICAD II was organized in October 1998. As with TICAD I, the preparatory process leading to the plenary succeeded in bringing out important themes and in building consensus within the TICAD partnership on the way forward. In particular, it also contributed to the development of a more action-oriented TICAD agenda.

With the attendance of more than a dozen African Heads of State and Government as well as ministers from Africa, Asia and partner countries, participation in the second TICAD conference was even more impressive than in the first conference. Among the key events was a session with leaders of the Japanese private sector. The document adopted at the conference, the Tokyo Agenda for Action, laid out goals and targets in key areas of economic and social development, as well as the measures to be taken by both African countries and their development partners to achieve the targets.

Asia-Africa Forums: Three Asia-Africa forums have been organized – in Indonesia in 1994, Thailand in 1997, and Malaysia in 2000. The majority of participants were senior officials and experts from Asia and Africa. For the most part the forums focused on the three critical issues of capacity development, agriculture, and private sector development. In each area, there were presentations and detailed exchanges of views on the challenges facing African countries as well as on the experiences of Asian countries and the lessons that may be drawn from them. All of the forums also provided opportunities for participants to visit various development-related institutions, enterprises and projects. For African participants, these “field visits” were additional ways of becoming acquainted with the operational features and actual achievements of each entity that was visited.

Regional Meetings in Africa: As part of the follow-up to TICAD I and TICAD II, a number of regional meetings and workshops have been held in Africa. These meetings were broadly aimed at disseminating the objectives of TICAD, and at operationalizing the initiative. Some of them considered principal TICAD themes, including governance and conflict management, capacity building, private sector development and Asia-Africa cooperation. A meeting in Zambia in 1999 was specifically devoted to a review of the implementation of the Tokyo Agenda for Action, with a focus on the social development targets. The regional meetings broadened participation in the TICAD process, particularly by African NGOs and other representatives of civil society.

Other Meetings and Workshops: In addition to the foregoing, several workshops, forums and meetings have been held under the auspices of TICAD. They range from forums on desertification (Beijing, 1996), empowerment of women (Bangkok, 1997) and export promotion (Korea, 1998), to meetings on specific issues such as governance and conflict management, and aspects of debt management (Kenya and Singapore, 1999). All of these facilitated a detailed examination of the issues, exchange of experiences, and drawing of appropriate lessons.

Asia-Africa Business Forum: Based on preparatory work on private sector development, including workshops in Tunisia and Mauritius, a forum for promoting and facilitating business-to-business transactions between Asian and African business persons was organized in Kuala Lumpur in 1999. During the same forum, in addition to the direct interaction among entrepreneurs, the Asian-African Investment and Technology Center or the Hippalos Center was established. The declared objective of the center is to promote investment and technology flows from Asia to Africa. To further promote the partnership, a second Asia-Africa Business Forum was organized in Durban in 2001.

Promotion and Support of Research and other Networks: Collaboration within the framework of TICAD has also yielded promising results in other areas. New rice varieties, that combine the high yields of Asian rice with the disease resistance qualities of African rice, have successfully been developed by WARDA (the West African Rice Development Association) with the support of Japan and others. As a result, WARDA has come up with high-yielding varieties that are well adapted to West Africa. The new varieties, known as NERICA rice, are being disseminated to farmers in West Africa at a fairly rapid pace.

TICAD is also assisting the creation of an SME (small and medium enterprise) network in Africa, based on Asian experience in this area. The African network will, among other things, provide an opportunity to link with its Asian counterpart. Steps to establish networks of African and Asian research institutions are also being taken.

Training and Study Tours: JICA has had a long-established system of providing training and study tours for Africans, both in Japan and in South East Asia. During TICAD II a specific pledge was made to send up to 2000 trainees to Southeast Asian countries. Several of the Southeast Asian countries themselves also provide training and study tours to Africans. Such South-South cooperation is a notable feature of TICAD.

TICAD Ministerial-level Meeting: Held in Tokyo in December 2001, the Ministerial-level meeting reviewed TICAD's record and discussed a number of focus issues, with a view of determining the themes of the next conference. A noteworthy feature of the conference was that it offered one of the earliest opportunities for various stakeholders of the international community to discuss the newly launched NEPAD (the New Partnership for Africa's Development) initiative. The relationship between TICAD and NEPAD was thus the most significant theme of the meeting. The conference agreed that the TICAD process should support NEPAD's agenda and implementation.

III. Actual Performance and Results

To properly assess the achievements – and shortcomings – of TICAD, it is important to understand what TICAD is, and also what it is not. Right from its inception, it was made clear that TICAD was not a forum for pledging additional assistance to African countries. Despite this, recurring comments and criticisms from both Africans and others allege that TICAD has not brought about additional resource flows to Africa. Other observers query why there were no major TICAD projects or programs. These observations can only arise from a misunderstanding of the real objective and purpose of the TICAD initiative.

TICAD had, and continues to pursue, clear and well-considered goals. It has attempted to influence the behavior and focus of both African countries and their development partners. First, with respect to Africa's partners the aim of TICAD is to try to keep them fully engaged with African development. As part of this endeavor it has

proposed a new, more equitable partnership. Second, and most importantly, a central focus of TICAD has been the African countries themselves. In this regard, the TICAD process has presented its own approach to development, which is based on the concept of ownership.

In contrast to the 1990s trend toward a minimalist state, TICAD has underlined the critical role of the state in development. However, it has emphasized that the state itself must enhance its capability and vastly improve the environment for economic actors by ensuring political and macroeconomic stability, sound governance, strengthened institutions and adequate and efficient infrastructure. By presenting the development experience of Asian countries, TICAD-sponsored meetings have demonstrated the importance of action on land reform and continued and efficient delivery of rural and agricultural services for broad-based growth in general, and food security and agricultural productivity in particular. Other aspects of the Asian experience that have been highlighted include collaborative rather than adversarial relations between the government and the private sector, and a focus on and continued support for education and human development. The idea and aim of using the TICAD forum to share Asian development experiences was to provide opportunities for African participants to gain understanding and draw lessons (both positive and negative) for their own development plans and programs.

TICAD's stated objectives are considered below in order to ascertain how far they have been realized and what further potential remains to be exploited.

African Development As A Priority Global Issue: The preparation and actual convening of the first TICAD conference took place at a time when there was a real danger that Africa would be further marginalized. During the early 1990s there were questions as to the general effectiveness of aid, and particular pessimism concerning the development prospects for Africa. The convening of TICAD I contributed significantly to the goal of placing Africa back on the international agenda. The conference and the process leading to it should be seen as a deliberate initiative aimed at countering Afro-pessimism. As this was the period immediately after the end of the cold war when the primary focus of the West was on Eastern Europe, it was no small matter to promote African development as a priority issue at the global level. The fact that Japan, the second most important economic power, was the leader of the initiative added to the credibility and seriousness accompanying the launch of TICAD. This in turn helped to refocus the international community's attention on the development aspirations of Africa.

An interesting and important aspect is the opportunity TICAD provided for sensitizing and engaging Japanese political and civic leaders, as well the public at large, on Africa. Seminars, cultural and sporting events organized in Japan around the time of the conference added to the effort to have the public focus on Africa and its development aspirations. In addition to keeping Africa in the limelight, the TICAD conferences and accompanying activities must have made some contribution toward solidifying political and popular support for Japan's development cooperation program as a whole. The various follow-up activities, particularly the Asia-Africa Forums that were held in

Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, managed to expand awareness and support for African development to these and other Asian countries, as well as to the international community as a whole.

In general, although it cannot be claimed that TICAD was the only forum promoting a continuing focus on Africa, it did make a positive contribution, especially in the early 1990s. In subsequent years, other events and initiatives have added their own contribution to the effort to keep Africa as a principal focus of international development cooperation. Among them is the Japanese initiative to invite three African leaders-together with an Asian leader-to the Kyushu-Okinawa G-8 Summit in June 2000, which established a tradition and also led to the mainstreaming of African issues into the agenda of the annual meetings of G-8 leaders. Indeed by the turn of the century, there were a multiplicity of forums and international events that called for support of Africa's development needs and priorities. The Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, both held in 2002, were among the recent and more prominent events where special emphasis was placed on African development. The challenge now, for TICAD as well as for other initiatives in favor of Africa, is to find ways of ensuring that reforms and programs are effectively institutionalized and implemented to promote growth.

Ownership: The Tokyo Declaration, issued at the conclusion of the first conference in 1993, underlined that African countries have to assume the primary responsibility for the formulation and implementation of their own development strategies. This is an underlying feature of the development experiences of Asian countries, and a characteristic of all successful development experiences elsewhere. Many other development initiatives that emerged in the course of the 1990s, including in particular the World Bank's Comprehensive Development Framework, have come to accept ownership as a fundamental requirement. However, the period when TICAD was launched was characterized by ever-expanding donor conditionalities. Thus its emphasis on country ownership was one of its remarkable and pioneering features.

A number of African countries have drawn up their own long-term development visions, a clear sign of increased ownership. It is probable that increased contact with Asia – both through TICAD and through direct links with countries such as Malaysia and Singapore – influenced the formulation and adoption of these long-term development visions in the 1990s. In addition, national development strategies have been drafted or revised partly based on the practices and experiences of Asian countries, and in a few cases with the help of Asian experts dispatched to Africa. There are also indications that in the formulation of sectoral development plans a number of African countries have benefited from familiarity with the TICAD process.

Implicit in the concept of ownership is the premise of a “developmental state”. In other words, that the state has a positive, facilitating role in the economy. This indeed is the Asian experience. However, the concept of the developmental state was in sharp contrast to the dominant orthodoxy of the early 1990s, which advocated a minimal role for the state.

The TICAD process also advocated greater collaboration between state and society, on the grounds that development visions, strategies, and plans will have more solid bases if they are extensively discussed and debated by key stakeholders and the public at large. The consensus that emerges from such wide participation will also facilitate popular support during implementation. Along the same lines, not only development plans but also economic policy-making and management will benefit to the extent that governments involve and consult important stakeholders, in particular the private sector, labor, and other civil society organizations.

The *smart partnerships*², that have been established in a number of Southern African countries, follow the same approach and have considerable potential for facilitating collaboration between government, business, and labor. Within countries, smart partnerships aim at promoting and reinforcing a shared vision of development among significant national stakeholders. Between countries, such partnerships encourage cooperation for mutual benefit, in the spirit of “prosper thy neighbor”. Over the last several years a number of Smart Partnership International Dialogue Conferences have brought together political leaders, senior civil servants, academics, labor leaders and private sector and civil society representatives from Southern African countries and Malaysia. Such meetings have been held in African countries, including Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana, and Uganda, as well as in Malaysia. In addition, a number of Southern African countries have established national smart partnership forums, which in some cases overlap with national vision councils and promote the same agenda.

While Malaysia is the immediate source of the concept, similar collaborative mechanisms have been prevalent in many other East Asian countries. Where they function well, smart partnerships can be useful vehicles for consultation, consensus building, and regular feedback. They can obviously serve as venues and frameworks for debating and reconciling views of the key stakeholders that have vested interests in, and impact on, the economy. The creation of smart partnerships in some African countries is the result of high-level exchange of visits and sharing of experiences between Asia and Africa, and this is fully in line with the efforts being made under the TICAD process.

The push towards increased ownership reinforces the confidence of policy-makers and others with respect to development planning and economic management. The ultimate demonstration of ownership was the initiation and sponsorship of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, NEPAD, by a number of African leaders. Indeed, one defining attribute of NEPAD is that it is truly African-owned and initiated.

Partnership: In parallel with its advocacy of ownership, from its inception TICAD called on the international community to provide timely and adequate support for development strategies and investment programs initiated by African countries themselves. Its intent was to move away from donor-dominated paternalistic

² Inspired by the Malaysian experience, smart partnership has been adopted by some African countries as a framework for promoting collaboration and consensus among key national stakeholders (government, business, labor, etc.) towards a shared vision of development. It also facilitates cooperation between countries in Southern Africa and Southeast Asia, in particular Malaysia.

development, and encourage a new, more equitable partnership. In such a partnership, African countries assume the responsibility for their own development, taking the lead in determining priorities, and in formulating plans and investment programs. In response, Africa's external collaborators are expected to align their assistance and support with such country-determined priorities. The TICAD process was built on such thinking right from the start. Hence the 1993 Tokyo Declaration's bold call for a "new partnership" was a true reflection of TICAD's approach.

This newer form of partnership has progressively evolved over the past ten years, and now has many promoters and champions. Indeed, it is now central to the mainstream of development thinking. However, given the very different circumstances that pertained when it first promoted the concept, TICAD can rightly claim to have been a significant and pioneering player. Recent G-8 meetings and development-related global conferences (for example, the ones on Financing for Development in Monterrey, and on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg) have all reflected this new approach to development cooperation. The major international development institutions – multilateral development banks and UN agencies as well as bilateral agencies – have been in the forefront of a re-orientation toward a new partnership. This was also in response to positions taken by African countries as they assumed greater responsibility for their own development. NEPAD is of course the latest and most comprehensive initiative to originate from Africa. Indeed, NEPAD can be seen as embodying a more holistic and balanced approach, in its call for a partnership based on mutual responsibilities and mutual accountability.

The Tokyo Agenda for Action embraces the twin approaches of ownership and partnership. By articulating and endorsing "poverty reduction through economic growth and integration into the global economy" as Africa's overarching development aspiration, the Tokyo Agenda establishes goals and targets for key social and economic sectors, as well as desired milestones in the areas of governance and conflict management. It further specifies the sector-by-sector guidelines for actions to be taken by African countries as well as by development partners to achieve the stated objectives and targets. The Agenda for Action thus lays out how the new partnership should ideally work. The challenge is how to effectively implement the suggested approach in as many African countries as possible.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted at the UN General Assembly in 2000, embodies the main features of the Tokyo Agenda for Action. The current principal development challenge for the international community is to ensure that all appropriate measures are taken to enable African countries to achieve and maintain the growth levels needed to meet the MDGs. Among other things, this will require a doubling of annual official development assistance flows, if countries are to be on a path consistent with the MDGs. An earlier evaluation of the education and health targets of the Tokyo Agenda (carried out by the World Bank for the GCA) affirms the enormity of the challenge and the need to make exceptional efforts. This indicates that TICAD has rightly identified the correct development approach – ownership and partnership.

However, whether and how the other conditions that need to accompany such an approach will be in place are critical issues.

Asia-Africa Cooperation: As previously indicated, a wide range of TICAD-related activities has been carried out under the umbrella of Asia-Africa cooperation. This was also one of the innovative aspects of TICAD that has yielded positive results. The development of NERICA rice is a major achievement of Asia-Africa cooperation in the area of agriculture. The variety has been distributed to a significant number of farmers in several West African countries. The fact that many of these countries (and the headquarters and some of the field operations of WARDA) fall within a belt seriously affected by internal and cross-border conflicts may in the short term partially hinder further dissemination of NERICA. But over time, as the security issues are resolved, speedier dissemination of the varieties will resume. The breakthrough achieved through the development of NERICA rice should not be underestimated. With wider dissemination it is expected to have a significant and positive impact on both food security and foreign exchange savings. In due course, it may be possible to replicate the research breakthrough in other parts of Africa. Similar research work on sorghum has started, and there may be scope to expand work on other important crops. More generally, the scope of Japan's longstanding assistance to the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya is expected to expand in a manner that will facilitate broader and wider assistance to African agriculture.

Investment and trade cooperation remains a potential to be exploited. However, it is interesting to note that the share of African exports going to Asia has increased from around 6% in 1990 to just over 14% in 2000. In the area of private sector development, a number of opportunities for exchange of experiences were created. The two Asia-Africa Business Forums (in Malaysia in 1999, and in South Africa in 2001) attracted a significant number of businesspersons from both Asia and Africa, and several memorandums on investment and trade were agreed. However, thus far follow-up and implementation has fallen short of the expectations, and a more systematic and institutionalized framework for such cooperation is needed. The Hippalos Center has taken preparatory steps to undertake the promotion of Asian investment into Africa. Its representatives have made presentations at TICAD meetings on measures that need to be taken to create and sustain a conducive investment environment. The potential in this area remains to be tapped in the future. The African SME Network is also expected to work towards the realization of its potential of promoting and assisting African SMEs, and forming useful linkages with its Asian counterparts.

Asia-Africa cooperation in capacity building has yielded some useful results. Under TICAD sponsorship, and through other regular assistance programs of Japan, a large number of Africans have been trained in various Asian countries. In many cases, the trainees are professionals from government departments, and to the extent that the training they received has added to their experience and expertise, it has contributed to capacity development. Collaboration among research institutions from Africa and Asia has also been launched. Both sides are addressing the need to coordinate such

collaborative work to avoid duplication and to ensure that the research outputs are policy-relevant.

Within the framework of both South-South and intra-Africa cooperation, Mauritius, Egypt and Tunisia have hosted meetings and conducted trainings.

Although it has performed well with regard to its basic objectives, a review of the TICAD process suggests that some procedural issues could usefully be reexamined. These include the type and duration of the meetings, the continuity of participation, and the channels and modalities of follow up to declarations and agreed understandings. Repeated meetings, each lasting a few days, may not necessarily be the best means of ensuring the internalization of appropriate lessons, and such meetings may not impart new skills and expertise. Hence it may be useful to devote more emphasis and resources to longer-lasting study visits and training of significantly larger groups of Africans in Asian countries. At the same time, Asians with relevant expertise and experience may also be assigned to African countries for sufficiently long periods to effect help initiate changes and train counterparts.

In terms of participation, in the past, the same participants rarely participated in consecutive meetings, which meant that there was little scope for building on the output and lessons of prior meetings or developing institutional memory. Another issue concerns the means of follow-up and how to ensure smooth and uninterrupted networking. For example, an evaluation for UNDP of the Africa-Asia Business Forum clearly indicates the frustration of participating business persons with the lack of reliable mechanisms for following up on the memorandums of understanding signed during the forums. To maximize the impact of TICAD, it would be helpful if these issues were addressed during the next phase.

IV. Conclusions and Potential Areas of Focus for the Future

As indicated in the previous section, the TICAD process has yielded considerable benefits in keeping Africa's development as a focus of the international community, in pioneering the promotion of ownership, partnership and a more equitable approach to development cooperation, and in facilitating increased cooperation between Asia and Africa. However, it would be inaccurate to conclude that the potential of the TICAD relationship has been fully exploited. The broad objectives that TICAD aimed at have informed and guided the activities that have been pursued. The challenge for TICAD as it moves into its next phase is to build on what has been achieved so far, and more fully exploit its comparative advantage in key areas, as proposed below.

The development agenda has changed fundamentally over the period since the first TICAD conference in 1993. The twin objectives of ownership and partnership promoted by TICAD have now come to be accepted principles in development planning and cooperation. While TICAD cannot claim all of the credit for this significant reorientation, its pioneering role should be fully recognized. However, the broad

consensus on ownership and partnership has now to be translated to actual practice, by both African countries and their development partners. The advent of NEPAD has a number of positive implications for future cooperation within the TICAD framework, as TICAD is expected to serve as a major platform for global support for NEPAD. While both initiatives are concerned with Africa's development, their relationship would be most productive if specific areas of collaboration are carefully identified and pursued. Performance and progress could then be reviewed in TICAD meetings, and possibly within the NEPAD framework also.

In addition, taking into consideration an emerging dimension of the development agenda, the TICAD process could also focus on issues related to human security and the consolidation of peace. By using the TICAD framework, these two concepts can be widely disseminated and shared among the international community, and in due course reflected in the development strategies of African countries as well as in the assistance programs of development partners.

With regard to Asian-African cooperation, TICAD has opened some avenues for collaboration between the two regions that could now be expanded and deepened. From today's vantage point, there are a number of possible approaches, institutional arrangements, and concrete areas of collaboration that could readily be implemented. The potential for increased South-South cooperation between developing Asian countries and African countries can also be more fully exploited.

Based on past activities and the envisaged potential in this regard, the following could be fruitful areas of focus for TICAD in the context of Asia-Africa cooperation:

Agriculture: Promoting and strengthening well-structured and institutionalized networking and collaboration between regional/sub-regional Asian agricultural research institutes and their African counterparts can be a useful area of cooperation. On the African side, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) would be an appropriate partner. It is understood there is a similar body in South East Asia, and it could be the Asian counterpart. Such an arrangement would enable ad hoc, intermittent contacts to be replaced by properly established and regularly nurtured linkages. In addition to researchers, technical officials in more operational and policy-related responsibilities, and representatives of farmers associations could also participate in networking, training, and study tours under such an arrangement. Ideally, longer-term assignment (twinning) of African experts in Asian agricultural departments and institutes, and similar placement of experienced Asian experts in Africa may be aimed at. Among other things, this could facilitate greater understanding among Africans of structures, processes, policies and institutions that have been established in Asia to promote agriculture. At the same time, support for expansion and much wider dissemination of NERICA rice, and similar research and adaptation with respect to other important African crops could be provided on a systematic and sustained basis. In this regard, horticulture and biotechnology are prime candidates for specific South-South cooperation between Africa and South East Asia.

Capacity Building and Human Development: The network of Asian and African researchers that has already been formed could usefully be strengthened and more firmly anchored. While the primary focus would be on economic research and analysis, every effort should be exerted to ensure that the work is policy-relevant. The outputs of the research institutes should be helpful to African policy makers and analysts. Similar and more institutionalized relations could be encouraged among universities and higher-level research institutions, as well as between professional associations. Exchanges of academics and researchers may also help in capacity building, and TICAD should continue to support this form of cooperation. TICAD activities on education, health, and human development may be pursued in close linkage and association with the program on capacity building.

Investment and Trade Cooperation: This is a clear area of comparative advantage for TICAD, and Asian and African private sector representatives should be encouraged to establish their own mechanisms for promoting investment and trade between the two regions. With the support of the TICAD process, the private sector-led mechanisms could identify and recommend what measures African governments need to take to enhance the environment for investment, and to facilitate efficient trade exchanges. Appropriate government departments and agencies may be encouraged to help and facilitate such activities. But TICAD, in this area in particular, should encourage the leadership role of private sector associations themselves and collaborative partnership between the government and the private sector in each African country. With actual businesspersons in the forefront, the prospects for increased investment and trade cooperation between Asia and Africa should significantly improve.

To conclude, TICAD has clearly made a significant contribution in terms of maintaining international interest in Africa and in redefining the development cooperation relationship between Africa and its partners. It has also laid the basis for enhanced Asia-Africa cooperation. In the post-TICAD III period, under the continued leadership of the Government of Japan and the other co-organizers (the Global Coalition for Africa, the UN Office of the Special Advisor for Africa, the UNDP and the World Bank), and with the collaboration of other governments and international organizations, the added value of the TICAD process could be maximized by:

- Placing TICAD activities and programs within an overall framework of NEPAD-TICAD collaboration;
- Facilitating more systematic exchange of development experience and know-how between Asia and Africa, in particular by establishing and strengthening well-structured networking arrangements in agriculture, investment and trade, and human development and capacity-building; if properly set up and nurtured, such networks may evolve to become the main avenues for Asia-Africa collaboration; and
- Further institutionalizing the TICAD framework itself, while ensuring that high-level TICAD meetings focus on review of NEPAD-TICAD collaboration, and assessment of actual performance and future plans of each of the sectoral networking arrangements.