

## **2007 Africa Day Symposium**

**Welcoming Remarks by H.E Mr. Salah Hannachi,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia,  
Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps**

**Your Excellency Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Former Prime Minister, President  
of the Japan-Africa Union Parliamentary Friendship Association**

**Your Excellency Mr. Koji Omi, Minister of Finance**

**Your Excellency Ms. Midori Matsushima, Vice-Minister of Foreign  
Affairs**

**Your Excellency Dr. Hans van Ginkel, Rector of the United Nations  
University, UN Under Secretary General,**

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am Salah Hannachi, Ambassador of Tunisia and Dean of the African Diplomatic corps.

I am honored to make the following welcoming remarks on behalf of the African Diplomatic Group.

I am delighted to express my gratitude to their Excellencies Yoshiro Mori, President of the Japan-Africa Union Parliamentary Friendship Association, His Excellency Mr. Koji Omi, Minister of Finance, and Her Excellency Midori Matsushima, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs who have kindly accepted to confer on us the honor of addressing this Symposium.

I am confident that their Excellencies will offer us a perceptive insight into the complex issues related to the theme of our Symposium. We are privileged, indeed, to have them as speakers.

I would like also to thank the contributors:

-Mr. Lester Dally, Acting Special representative, World Bank Office in Japan,

-Mr. Bouna Semou Diouf, director, TICAD/UNDP Africa Bureau,

-Mr. Yoshiteru Uramoto, deputy to the Director-General, UNIDO,

-Mr. Shigeru Kiyama, resident Executive Director for Africa, JBIC

-Mr. Yoshikaki Kawamata, Managing executive Officer, Bank of Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd,

Another special word of thanks goes to Dr Hans van Ginkel, Rector of the United Nations University for his kind continuous support and commitment towards our continent. The African Diplomatic Corps has charged me to pay a great tribute to him and express our heartfelt thanks and recognition.

I am confident I speak for all in congratulating Dr. Hans van Ginkel for his achievements at the head of the United Nations University and in extending to him all our best wishes for health, happiness and further success.

***Your Excellency Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Former Prime Minister, President of the Japan-Africa Union Parliamentary Friendship Association***

***Your Excellency Mr. Koji Omi, Minister of Finance***

**Your Excellency Ms. Midori Matsushima, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs**

***Your Excellency Dr. Hans van Ginkel, Rector of the United Nations University, UN Under Secretary General,***

***Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Just a couple of words about the Symposia we have been organizing in close cooperation with the United Nations University in Tokyo. It is an idea that we embraced a few years ago with some apprehension and skepticism.

Now, it is a well established tradition that is useful as an African voice in Tokyo, as a thinking and debating forum with our Japanese and other partners from Government, academia, business and civil society. It is also a promotional tool aiming at raising awareness about African Development issues and at rallying support for African causes.

This year's symposium addresses a complex theme that summarizes key issues and challenges of great interest to our Continent and to our partners and friends. The role of Japan in this connection is of special significance because of the many and various initiatives launched by the Japanese Government in favor of our continent.

I trust that His Excellency Mr. Koji Omi, Minister of Finance, who has kindly accepted our invitation, will elaborate on these initiatives and offer us an insight into the Japanese ODA policy and financial instruments for the promotion of infrastructure, trade and investment in Africa whether within TICAD or other schemes.

We have been preparing for TICAD IV by forming a TICAD committee which has summarized its conclusions and recommendations in a report. This report was submitted to H.E. the honorable Yoshiro Mori, and all the stakeholders of TICAD IV in the Japanese government, in academia, the private sector and civil society, both here in Japan and abroad.

Last year in April, we had the opportunity to express to H.E. Yoshiro Mori our hope that academic, scientific and research cooperation for partnership in knowledge between Africa and Japan be established as an important new plank of the new TICAD process. I avail myself of the opportunity **of the presence of Minister Koji Omi, founder and current chairman of the Kyoto STS Forum** to reiterate this hope and to suggest that in the coming Kyoto STS Forum in September, a special session or workshop be dedicated to the Japan Africa partnership in knowledge, science and technology.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate on behalf of all my colleagues, our firm commitment and strong determination to make the coming TICAD IV a resounding success and a shining illustration of the partnership and friendship between Africa and Japan.

The forthcoming TICAD IV which will take place next year provides an opportunity for cementing and enhancing the partnership between Africa and Japan.

Next year also, the G8 Summit will come back to Japan, soon after TICAD IV. We hope that this timing will create additional opportunities for the adoption and implementation of good policy recommendations regarding African development.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Former Prime Minister, Member of the House of Representatives and President of the Japan Africa-Union Parliamentary Friendship Association.

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