

**TICAD AND THE WAY FORWARD -**  
**THE AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE ADDRESS BY**  
**H. E. PRESIDENT J. A. KUFUOR AT U. N. UNIVERSITY,**  
**TOKYO, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003**

Mr. Chairman,  
The Rector of the United Nations University,  
Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Distinguished Research Fellows and Staff of the University,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted, indeed honoured, to be invited to share some thoughts on TICAD and Africa with such a distinguished audience on the occasion of my visit to Tokyo to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TICAD.

I would like from the outset to express my gratitude to the Rector for the kind invitation, the excellent arrangements and the gracious welcome extended to me and my delegation. As I intimated two days ago, when I addressed the plenary session of TICAD III, our visits to this great country are always memorable and we are reminded poignantly of what a determined people, led by bold, imaginative and dedicated leaders, can achieve. We, certainly, admire the courage and dedication of Japanese leadership as well as the zeal and determination of the people of Japan in transforming this country into a paradigm of economic success. There is, indeed, a lot that we in Ghana in particular and Africa in general can and must learn from Japan and I trust that Japan through TICAD has demonstrated its preparedness to share her vast and rich experiences with us in Africa.

We have met here at the headquarters of the United Nations University, an institution dedicated through its various campuses, strategically located around the globe, to spearhead researches in various fields and programmes with a view to assisting in transforming the world into a more organic and rational whole, with better and higher quality of life for the entire humanity. I am therefore convinced, that my host does not suffer a dearth of ideas and programmes on the topical issue that I have been asked to speak on.

I believe however, that the very fact of my statement would be yet another reinforcement of the relevance and timeliness of the resolve entailed in the TICAD process, to help move Africa out of its gripping poverty into sustained development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been asked to speak on the topic "TICAD and the way forward - the African Perspective".

Historically and practically, Africa's place in the global community has tended to be defined so far, by the advanced parts of the world, especially Europe. It is perceived in terms of an inexhaustible raw material base to be exploited cheaply to service their industrial establishments outside the continent.

Sadly, the deep past imprints of colonialism, illiteracy and diseases, the continent's late start in the scientific and technological revolution, chequered post independence career of the African States of poor governance that failed to recognize the private sector's role in economic development, and the neo-colonial hook-ups between the continent and the advanced parts of the globe all combine to prolong this identification.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, the structured unfairness in this definition is exposed by the fact that, in spite of the immense exploitations of the continent for raw resources like crude oil, timber, gold, diamonds; and industrial minerals like copper, platinum, uranium, etc., Africa accounts for only about 1% of the world gross domestic product; only about 2% of world trade; and receives only about 2% of the foreign direct investment inflow in the global economy. In short, the conclusive evidence is that, Africa is gravely marginalized in the growing world economy.

The immorality of this paradox gained recognition more and more into the opening up of the world in the 2th century. Indeed, this awareness contributed to the fuelling of the liberation movements and struggles over the continent in the 1950s and 60s. This trend assumed revolutionary dimensions with the collapse of the cold war in the late 1980s.

With the acceleration of the globalisation process in the 1990s, voices of conscience have risen within the United Nations and in various spots around the world, in support of the call to assist Africa receive a fair share of the prosperity characterizing the process. Hence, the Millennium Declaration For Africa's Development. It is in this same framework that the TICAD was envisioned and launched by Japan in 1993. Similarly, the world's richest nations, comprising the G8, have now acknowledged the justness of Africa's cause and have started dialoguing seriously with the continent.

Happily, since the last decade of the 20th century, Africa itself has displayed an awakening that it showing a strengthening self-awareness and resolve for self-reliance, even as it invites partnerships, both form within and outside its territories for development. The advent of the 21st century has been marked by strong evidence of this new sense of responsibility, which has now been structured in terms of the birth of the African Union and its main vehicle for development, NEPAD - the New Partnership For Africa's Development.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and Gentlemen, the developments of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, TICAD and NEPAD, over the past decade, make for an historic and auspicious co-incidence that will provide the watershed from which Africa must develop quickly to assume a respectable position within the comity of nations and the fast emerging global village.

The guiding principles of TICAD have been OWNERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP. TICAD supports the ownership of the development process by Africa, embodied in the pursuit of priorities set by Africa itself. TICAD also enshrines a vision of African development that integrates the principle of global partnership based on equal footing among all development partners. We in Africa are particularly happy with the opportunities offered by the TICAD process to revitalize the interest of the international community in Africa's Development. TICAD I and TICAD II afforded platforms that have kept the debate on African development alive and at very high levels throughout the International Community. TICAD III has reaffirmed the fundamental importance of ownership and partnership as basic principles of development co-operation. It has been convened at a most opportune time - a time when Africa itself is poised to implement the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The conception of NEPAD came at a time when the challenge for the TICAD process was how to maintain its dual role of awareness-raising and capacity-building. By showing the strong will of ownership of our own destiny and accountability for the results of our actions, Africa and its leadership have, through NEPAD, given to TICAD the best recognition of its relevancy for the past decade. This new African initiative is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction, that there is a pressing duty to place our countries individually and collectively on a path of sustainable growth and development. We are convinced that, this opportunity, implemented faithfully, will end the scourge of underdevelopment that afflicts Africa.

It is this conviction that motivates the new crop of leaders being spawned mainly through constitutional democratic governance that is inherent in the tenets of the Millennium Development Declaration, TICAD and NEPAD.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, across the continent of Africa our people are declaring that they will no longer allow themselves to be conditioned by circumstance. They want to determine their own destinies and they are calling on the rest of the world to complement their efforts. There are already signs of progress and hope. Democratic regimes that are committed to the protection of human rights, people-centred development and market-oriented economies are on the increase backed by the African Union (AU), which has shown a new resolve to deal with conflicts and censure deviation from the norm. These efforts are reinforced by voices in civil society including associations of women, youth and independent media.

The current crops of leaders in Africa have also become more dedicated, bold and imaginative. From our experiences we have learnt that good governance, sound economic management, peace, security, democracy and human rights are conditions for sustainable development and growth.

There is also increasing recognition of the private sector as the main engine of growth that attracts foreign direct investment into economies. African nations are therefore creating the right and enabling environment for the development of their private sectors. Further, the nations acknowledge that

prevention of conflicts and the establishment of conditions for stability are necessary pre-conditions for social and economic development.

Mr. Chairman, this acknowledgement is evidenced amply throughout Africa by the quick responses of various regional groupings on the continent and the African Union itself to arrest and douse any, and all, flash-points of trouble as and when they appear on the scene.

Indeed, there is continuing comprehensive dialogue on modes of actual implementation of the principles and programmes embodied in NEPAD, TICAD and the global declaration of the United Nations so that, psychologically and practically, all the nations of the continent will become acculturated with them. A double insurance for this, is in the creation of the Peer Review Mechanism by NEPAD to which more and more African countries are subscribing.

Mr. Chairman the huge attendance of TICAD III by the large number of heads of state and government of Africa must indicate Africa's high appreciation of Japan's initiative. Africa also appreciates the continued practical assistance of Japan over the past decade.

Mr. Chairman, the TICAD initiative must be perceived as the proverbial thin end of the wedge not only for Japan in its relationship with Africa, but also for Asia, as well as all the nations of the G8 and indeed, for all the nations in the other world groupings in their relationship with Africa. It launches an ever-growing partnership between Africa and the international community for their mutual benefit.

Chairman, in the word partnership, all concerned must perceive more and fairer trade, more investments with requisite know-how and markets, more debt forgiveness to facilitate the restoration and re-launching of Africa, and indeed, more aid where justified. This is because, through NEPAD, Africa is calling for a critical combination of all positive initiatives to create the necessary mass which is needed to overcome the seemingly insurmountable challenge posed by extreme poverty and stagnancy that have bedeviled it so far. In such a partnership, ownership will not remain exclusive but will grow to be shared fairly by all, with the increasing success of the process.

I thank you.