

**THE 6<sup>TH</sup> TOKYO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT**

**A side event**

**on**

**African Diaspora Forum: Prospects, Challenges and  
Opportunities for the African-Japan Relations**

**June 2016**

**Organizers:** African Institute of Remittances, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Kenya)/National  
Diaspora Council of Kenya, Kenyans in Japan Association, African Diaspora in Japan

## **Background**

The African Union's *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want* recognizes Diaspora contribution as a major enabler towards the achievement of a globally competitive and prosperous Africa by 2063. To build a platform for the Diaspora to play this role, the African Union has developed diaspora strategy that seeks to deepen engagement and partnerships with the diaspora in order to leverage and harness their financial resources, diverse skills and expertise for the regions development. Recently, policies have been launched by different African countries empower Africans abroad to contribute to their country's development. These policies support and encourage harnessing the diaspora in support of development through the tapping into diaspora skills and expertise.

Africans in Japan constitute of individuals possessing unique experiences and qualifications including academics, engineers, IT gurus, scientists, and architects. Most of these Africans work with leading Japanese and global companies in Japan. They play the role of ambassadors of Africa in all aspects of development, working closely with the African embassies in Japan as well as the Japanese Government.

Over the years, Africans in Japan have played a major role in promoting and marketing Africa as a frontier market for Japanese investors. The diaspora possesses the understanding of the needs of Japanese investors. Their technical knowledge and understanding of the two cultures is essential in augmenting the Africa's efforts in fostering bilateral engagements, given that 1) we speak Japanese and African languages, and 2) able to articulate the needs of potential Japanese investors, based on Africa's development needs and demands.

Our next step, The TICAD 6 African Diaspora Forum will build on this momentum as well as the existing partnerships between the Africa and Japan government, the private sector and the diaspora to contribute to development.

It is against this backdrop that the African's in Japan in collaboration with the African Union, the Government of Kenya and the private sector is organizing a side event during the TICAD VI Summit. The thrust of the forum will not only focus on Africans in the diaspora's role in marketing Africa as the investment destination of choice but also as the gateway to the current global business opportunities.

## Purpose and Objectives

The principal aim of the forum will be to provide a platform for interaction among the investors from Africa and Japan, the African diaspora, and the African Union and share investment opportunities for collaboration in support of Africa and Japan.

Given this principal aim, the following are the specific objectives:

1. Deepen partnerships among the Governments, the Diaspora, and the private sector
2. Strengthen awareness and commitment of diaspora's role in Africa's development;
3. Share and prioritize areas of investment opportunities
4. Invite Japanese investors to take advantage of bankable investment opportunities that are increasingly available in Africa

## Tentative program

MC: NADICOK

Time	Activity	Comments
20 minutes	<b>Opening &amp; Welcome Remarks:</b> Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya <b>Remarks:</b> AU Diaspora Section <b>Remarks:</b> Diaspora Representative	
75 minutes	<b>The role of African Diaspora in Africa's development</b>  Keynote, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya Keynote, African Institute of Remittances/African Union Commission Keynote, Diaspora Representative  Q&A	
60 minutes	<b>Panel Discussion</b>  NADICOK African Institute of Remittances/African Union Commission Private Sector African Company Japanese Company Diaspora Representative  Q&A	
5 minutes	Synthesis	
5 minutes	Concluding remarks	

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