

The 1st JAPAN – AFRICA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTERS' MEETING

Chair's Summary

8 October, 2008, Wednesday

Mita-Kaigisho, Tokyo, Japan

Ministers responsible for Science and Technology Policy of Japan and 32 African countries and the representatives of AU Commission and NEPAD Secretariat met in Tokyo, Japan on 8 October, 2008 for the first Japan-Africa Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting. This meeting was held as a follow-up to the Yokohama Action Plan adopted at the TICAD IV in May 2008.

We highlighted that science and technology is a key driver to achieve social and economic development. Particularly for the African countries, we reaffirmed that science and technology is essential to accelerate growth and to resolve problems that African countries face today, including global warming, energy issues, and infectious diseases.

Furthermore, we acknowledged that science and technology cooperation between Japan and African countries is an important cooperative activity in promoting Japan's science and technology diplomacy. We recognized that further expansion of cooperation is necessary to resolve global issues by utilizing the excellent results of Japanese science and technology.

Based on these recognitions, we shared the view that we should expand science and technology cooperation between Japan and African countries. Moreover, we reached a consensus on promoting the following two activities as concrete measures to strengthen partnerships:

- Establish a policy dialogue mechanism to deepen mutual understanding through the following measures:
 - We continue to convene the Japan-Africa Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting (the meeting will be held every other year in principle; however, the next meeting date and venue will be decided considering the proposal by Egypt to host the Ministers' Meeting in 2009).
 - We launch a technical working group composed of officials in charge of science and technology policy or scientists from respective countries to follow up the

decisions of the ministerial dialogue, and convene the 1st meeting in 2009.

- Japan organizes an African Science and Technology Research Mission composed of representatives of Japanese ministries and research institutes involved, to survey their science and technology policies and research and development activities in African countries in the first half of 2009. African countries welcome and are committed to supporting the acceptance of the mission.
 - We strengthen cooperation between the Japanese government and the AU commission/NEAPD Secretariat to facilitate policy dialogue with the recognition that the AU commission and the NEAPD Secretariat are the principal coordinators of African countries.
- Expand Science and Technology cooperation between Japan and African countries through the following measures;
 - Japan continuously promotes various forms of ongoing science and technology cooperation between Japan and African countries implemented by ministries involved.
 - We will expand science and technology cooperation by making active use of Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development jointly implemented by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It is recognized as a highly important mechanism to promote S&T cooperation between Japan and African countries.